

NEWS LETTER



THERE IS A SENTIMENTALITY WHICH WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR THAT IN SOME MILLENNIAL DAY MAN WILL NOT WORK. IF SOME SUCH CALAMITY EVER BLIGHTS US, THEN MAN WILL FAIL AND FALL BACK. GOD IS WISE. HIS FIRST AND HIS GREATEST GIFT TO MAN WAS THE OBLIGATION CAST UPON HIM TO LABOR. THE MARCH OF CIVILIZATION IS THE EPIC OF MAN AS A WORKINGMAN AND THAT IS THE REASON WHY LABOR MUST BE HELD HIGH ALWAYS.

—Franklin K. Lane.



NOVEMBER

1939

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GUY C. WEST Editor
Clark Rd., Barrington, R. I.

GEORGE J. ROMMELL, JR.
Business Mgr.
54 Eddy St., West Newton, Mass.

November, 1939 Vol. 11, No. 11

Contributing Editors

Homer Darling R. A. Mitchell
Howard Farrant Charles Parker
Frank Wilson

The ideas and opinions expressed in the subject matter of this NEWSLETTER are not necessarily those of the Editor or the members of the club as a whole.

The last outdoor meeting of the season was held on October 30th at the Hoosic Whisick Country Club, Canton, Mass. The results of the 18 hole medal tournament were as follows:

- 1st net:
Henry Mitchell—93-26-67.
2nd net:
Phil Cassidy—81-12-69.
3rd net:
Nick Bruno—80-8-72.
4th net, tie:
Paul Hayden—90-17-73.
M. J. O'Grady—89-16-73.

FORMER NEW ENGLANDERS IN THE NATIONAL NEWS

From correspondence with C. K. Bradley, widely published greenkeeping author, we are informed that Robert L. Mitchell, son of our Past President, and brother to three of our members, has won the GSA Membership Qualification Questions Contest. First prize is the winner's expenses to the National Turf Conference and Equipment Show to be held in New York, February 6, 7, 8, 9, 1940.

Bradley, who is a member of the Qualifications Committee, wrote that each member of the GSA was asked to submit a set of 15 questions and answers on greenkeeping. Blanks for these were sent to the members, bore numbers, but no identity as to the names of the contestants. Judges were past presidents of the GSA who met this month in Chicago. After examining the returned forms, each chose the entry number he thought best. When the list was checked, it was found the winning number was submitted by Mitchell.

Ed. B. Cale, President of the New Jersey Affiliated Association won second prize—hotel expenses for the duration of the conference.

The GSA Nominating Committee, headed by 1938 President Joseph Ryan, selected Bob Mitchell in October, as a candidate for GSA Director. A. L. Brandon and C. K. Bradley, have for the second time been chosen for Secretary-Treasurer on the slate. Brandon won the 1939 election by unanimous vote.

Kent Bradley informs us that he doubts if he, himself will poll many votes for this important office, inasmuch as Brandon's service as National Secretary has never been equaled in the history of the profession, as a worker for greenkeeping progress.

Both Mitchell and Bradley were class and room mates when attending the regular and advanced classes of the Mass. State Winter School for Greenkeepers, in 1932-33.

Why They Were Small

A newly-married young lady in the city was shopping and was determined that the grocer should not take advantage of her.

"Don't you think these eggs are very small?" she inquired critically.

"I do," answered the grocer, "but that's the kind the farmer sends me. They are fresh from the country this morning."

"Yes," said the shopper, "that's the trouble with those farmers. They're so anxious to get their eggs sold that they take them off the nest too soon!"

—Ex.

FROM THE GROUND—UP The Road to Recognition

(Continued from October Issue)

by C. K. BRADLEY
Paterson, N. J.

When the "Florida Boom" died down, Jim brought his family north again, and got a job as greensman on this course through a contact made in the south. He spent three years doing general course labor work, and the while kept his eyes open, and his own counsel. During the day he made mental notes on job times, worked out better routines, and recorded them at night after work. A pro was serving in dual capacity,—got the itching foot, and went to another job.

Immediately after the pro left, Jimmie had a talk with some of the club officials, applied for the job, and got it on a trial basis. He proposed a few changes in course construction and maintenance routine, and soon proved his worth. Shortly after came the market debacle of '29. When the club board of directors met to retrench, Jimmie politely asked if he could be present, and had his request granted. After the directors talked figures on costs, Jim presented the operation facts as he had found them. His calm and confidential manner won the respect and approval of the officials to the extent that they gave him a bonded employment contract on a long-term programme.

Instead of buying bulky compost materials of low plant food value as previously, Jim ordered high analysis newer constituents, quality seed, and made careful selection of up-to-date equipment. As living costs dropped, his men agreed to work eight hours a week day at the same hour rate of fifty cents, instead of nine hours. Greens that had been mowed daily with old machines were then cut four times a week with the new mowers, that gave better putting conditions. Trap raking was done once a week, largely to keep the sand weed free, and up on the banks that he had stripped of turf that previously required cutting.

A rule went into effect that each player was to smooth his own foot prints, or forfeit a dime each time he was seen to neglect his part. A player that did NOT take a caddie was taxed

twenty-five cents,—and soon all players engaged caddies. The boys got into the spirit of this cooperation, and picked up litter, smoothed sand, and tended to their end.

A spring-fed swamp on the property was dredged by the workmen out of the playing season—the men working at full pay on part time, alternately. That was the source of the rich muck compost fields I saw in vegetables near the barn. There was enough material left at the time I was there, to last several years. The swamp became an attractive pond, and the storage for water supply pumped by the club's own rig installed under Jim's supervision. This greatly cut down on their irrigation costs which formerly were on the town metered water supply. In fact the entire project was almost written off at the time of my first visit. Electricity is cheap in Jim's town, as it is semi-industrial, and the current is generated by water power, so pumping costs are of minor consequence. Had things been otherwise, Jim said he would have asked for their own Deisel power plant to make the club entirely self-contained.

On Sundays and holidays, Jim got in the habit of being near the 18th green as players completed their morning round. "Neither tipping my hat, or offering to shake hands", said Jim, but "as an executive employee of the club, I would contact players and ask them how their game was, and the course in relation to it." I took a receptive but positive and polite attitude toward all comments, suggestions and complaints. "I would write down the player's name, and his opinions, and take them up with the green chairman at the next meeting, then reply by short note to those that voiced their thoughts to me, thank them for their cooperation and assure them that mine would continue." At first, this annoyed the new pro, but instead of getting nasty with him, we talked things over and I pointed out that by eliminating the players kicking to him, made it possible for the pro to talk lessons and golf supplies, which he soon got so busy handling, that he had no time for making cracks about the course and work that in the end would have reflected on him and the entire club. "I am telling you these things as facts and not bragging," he said, and I believed him.

At this point, Dave, I asked Jim the usual dumb question, "If he had much brown patch, and what he did for it?"

He looked at me thoughtfully for a moment, while I assumed the poker-pan you rib me about. Then Jim let me have both barrels. "Kid", he said, "You've been around quite a bit, and have seen a lot, swapped thoughts with me years ago, and I think we know each other well enough to speak frankly."

"Thinking in terms of brown patch, is a negative attitude," he began. "All one knows,—or thinks he does— or may do, does not amount to a puddle in the Pacific, when it comes to getting too technical with nature." I say that in a positive manner. "Basically, we are in agriculture, the same as the man growing potatoes, fruit, or any other crop. Farmers go by the summaries of agricultural bulletins, and the directions on the package of tried and proven materials for treating their crops. In the end, we all do the same, we can work WITH nature, but not CHANGE it. We can, to some extent, control outbreaks, and we do so to get a better crop—for one main reason—to SELL it," said Jim.

"It's good business strategy", continued Jim, "for those that sell chemicals to play up the dread diseases—and those that experiment with them. But they are not selling outbreaks, but to the OUTLET of their market. We have a lot to do to sell OUR product of recreation facilities—and, the sooner greenkeepers get out of the rut of thinking in terms of brown patch, the quicker they will wear UNPATCHED britches. To paraphrase a Biblical quotation, he continued, "We do not see the game and business of golf, because of the turf on the course. We can let, or aid the grass to grow under our feet—it's easier than trying to MAKE it, and run into trouble from our own fenageling. There are other things, as equal, and to us, more important to think about in greenkeeping," concluded Jim.

Jim attended a short course in turf management at one of the State Colleges. Instead of arguing with the professors and his class mates, Jim kept his mouth shut and his eyes and ears open. When he went back home he had a sizable batch of notes which he wrote up, made a cross-file of his information, and included this with what he had already amassed.

He found some rather contradicting statements on hand, and decided to try each theory on a small scale, applicable to his own course. In this way, Jim

became a turf research worker, himself. Jim's time at the State College was not entirely spent at class, so, evenings, he went to the library and read up on other things, as public speaking, mental efficiency, and other books that would guide him in getting along with his fellow humans.

When asked a question, and Jim is not certain of the answer, from personal experience, he replies to the effect that he will investigate the thing, and see what others have found. By frankly saying he does not know,—when uncertain, Jim has earned the reputation of being well informed.

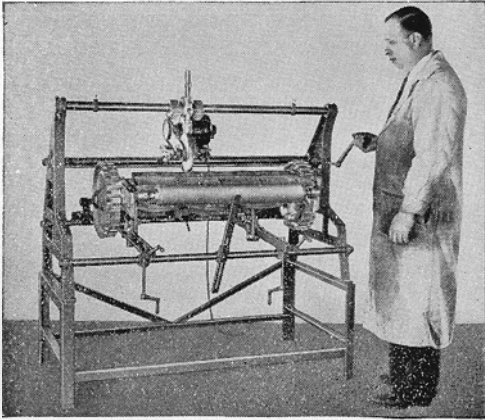
Jim is active in local civic work. Once, he substituted at his city garden club, when the scheduled speaker did not show up. He got the jitters when he stood up before all the folks in the room, but got a grip on himself, and while it was to him, a harrowing moment, he learned of a new weakness—and after the spiel, resolved to strengthen himself for more public appearances.

By talking with his players, and townsmen, they at least know him, even if he does not know all their names. Jim feels there is little use of talking about this "recognition", as long as greenkeepers duck out of sight when they see a player approaching. He expects people to make complaints at times, but the majority are satisfied. As he put it, "worry will meet us half way, but we have to PURSUE happiness, contentment, and work for recognition."

I don't see Jim very often now that I am in New Jersey, Dave. However, I expect to make the usual tour to New England soon, and enroute to Hartford and Providence, plan to turn off to see Jim and his family.

While as you say, you have not heard of Jimmie, he, like others of his calibre, is interested in association activities. We correspond regularly, and I have several letters of his in my files. I find it is good to share our thoughts with others, but at times do not mention the source of comments I receive. This often, especially of late, puts me on the spot so to speak, but it is necessary to stick to the policy.

Jim will not argue a point at local monthly meetings. His reason is that he feels some do not "talk his language", or see things ahead, from his viewpoint. Perhaps Jim's is a voice crying out in the wilderness, but he is



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not alone. We were considering a golf course labor wage scale survey recently. The project did not go through, because a few men with an apparent inferiority complex and lack of vision talked the thing down with a lot of "supposing."

One man, for instance, felt it would lead to greensmen getting more pay as skilled labor, and if this occurred, the greenkeeper would get a pay cut to compensate for it. Can you imagine a thing so silly, Dave? Like Jim, would it not be better to rate as a greenkeeping superintendent leading a staff of neat, interested, fairly paid men, than a "gang" of indifferent, sloppy-looking rough necks as labor unworthy of it's hire? Anyone in charge of the latter kind of maintenance department, automatically puts himself in the class of a straw boss, or foreman, not recognized as much of a club employee.

But the hour is getting late, Dave, and you may be tired of my gab. When I start to unreal thoughts on keeping things green, I tend to let out quite a bit of line

Moore will be here next time, and we will go over some of this year's happenings, in what my brother Charles calls the "serious comedy of greenkeeping."

(to be continued)

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GREENKEEPERS' EXAM.

Few golfers fully realise the amount the greenkeeper, if competent, contributes to his enjoyment and comfort on the course. A greenkeeper now combines the practical and scientific.

By A. W. S. Moodie

(Reprint from "Golf in Australia")

There can be no doubt that the most outstanding contribution towards the improvement of local golf links has been the courses of instruction for greenkeepers conducted conjointly by the N.S.W. Golf Council, the N.S.W. Department of Agriculture and the N.S.W. Greenkeepers' Association.

The first course of instruction commenced in 1934 and the candidates successful at the final examination were issued with certificates of competency. The second course, just concluded, commenced in 1938, and 55 metropolitan and 17 country golf greenkeepers recently presented themselves for examination.

Few golfers enjoying a round on a perfectly conditioned course realise the amount of work necessary to maintain the course in such perfect condition. Still less do they realise the amount of practical and scientific knowledge which a greenkeeper must possess to bring about such results. The course of lectures just concluded covered, amongst other subjects, fertilisers, soils, drainage, machinery, botany, course maintenance, seeds and testing, turf diseases and insect pests, trees on the golf course, weeds and their control, and elementary architecture and the construction of greens, tees, bunkers, etc. It will thus be seen that the greenkeeper is equipped with a wide range of information covering his normal activities.

Naturally, the benefits of such a course would be negative if the greenkeepers lacked the capacity to apply their knowledge in a practical way. One of the conditions governing the issue of a certificate of competency is that the candidate must have had at least two years' experience as a golf course employee actually engaged in greenkeeping.

It will be generally admitted that the condition of local golf courses has improved out of all recognition during the

past seven or eight years. Not so long ago our greens were criticised by almost every visitor from other States and from overseas. During the progress of the National Championships at Kensington in 1937 the greens were said to be probably the finest ever prepared in Australia. The condition of every course has improved in a similar way, and there is no course with greens as poor as was the general standard before the advent of the Greenkeepers' Association.

The improved standard of greenkeeping has been of immense benefit to clubs inasmuch as the improved conditions have made the game more enjoyable to members, and there is less responsibility for members of greens committees.

For the greenkeepers the benefits have been of a more material nature. Many young, enthusiastic employees have been given a new outlook on life. Where formerly their work was laborious and entirely mechanical, they now understand and appreciate the reasons for the various operations carried out. More important still, they have no difficulty in obtaining positions in charge of courses whenever vacancies occur. As a matter of fact, numerous cases could be quoted of men who were on the basic wage or a little better prior to the first course of instruction who are now in charge of courses and receiving much greater remuneration.

The improvement of golf turf and golf courses generally has been the subject of a considerable amount of research work, notably in the United States and Great Britain. Whilst we realise the value of such work in New South Wales we also realise that properly conducted research work is costly and at the present juncture beyond our means. It is also realised that without competent greenkeepers all the research work in the world will not produce good golf courses. When the course of instruction was suggested the greenkeepers reacted with enthusiasm, and this spirit persisted through 96 hours of lectures which were carried out at night after a long day's work.

Uncle—"Tell me, are you a good little girl?"

8-Year-Old—"I surely am, but nobody knows it."

—"Ex."

TALKS ON TREES

By E. Porter Felt

There are two important phases of the shade tree problem, namely planting and conserving.

It is obvious that there are numerous places, many restricted in area, where planting should be done to replace trees destroyed by the hurricane. This is highly commendable but it should not be allowed to obscure the fact that conserving trees really may be the more important and desirable part of the program.

There are throughout New England millions of highly valuable and potentially weak shade trees. The probabilities are that many trees in this area will fall victims to wind storms, probably local, possibly general, within the next half century. These trees can be given care in such a way as to greatly reduce the danger of serious storm damage.

The writer has in mind a magnificent elm with a trunk diameter of over two feet from which the recent storm wrenched an enormous limb with a diameter of over twenty inches and comprising practically one-third of the tree and exposing a strip of wood some two feet wide and eight feet long. This mishap reduced the value of the tree by fully one-half. The breakage could have been prevented by the installation of cables or wood screws. The expense would have been less than replacement with a moderate sized tree and probably less than the cost of smoothing up the wound and protecting it with a wound dressing. The cabling of such a tree, and there are millions of them in New England, is true economy in that magnificent trees are saved, whereas planting new trees, desirable though this may be, means in most cases giving such a tree an opportunity to grow for fifty or a hundred years and then, unless there is good care, it may in turn fall victim to a storm. There is much storm proofing that can and should be done in a program to conserve shade trees.

The above is only one phase of the economic possibilities in tree conservation.

"You once said I was all the world to you."

"But I've learned a lot of geography since then."
—*Ex.*"

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NEWSLETTER

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE
1940 WINTER SCHOOL
FOR GREENKEEPERS**

**Massachusetts State College
Amherst, Mass.**

January 2, 1940—March 15, 1940

Having most successfully passed through the 13th year, the Short Course Division of the Massachusetts State College will open its 14th Winter School for Greenkeepers on January 2 and close with the Golf Course Maintenance Conference and Exhibition, March 14, 15 and 16.

In addition to being the longest of the several winter schools now offered to turf growers, it is also the most complete. The work is confined entirely to golf course maintenance and allied activities that would come under the management of the course superintendent.

While growing and maintaining suitable grasses is a major part of the course, the business factors are not in the least neglected. A large size model of a golf course enables the student to work out management problems, the answers to which he can apply to his particular course.

The course is divided into two terms, the first from January 2 through February 6, and the second from February 7 through March 15. The division does not mean that there are two courses, as the second term continues the work of the first. It is made to encourage men to take the course who could not take the full ten weeks in one year. The certificate is given only at the completion of the full ten weeks' course, and no one is permitted to take the second term if he has not had the first. A man may take the first term in 1940 and the second at some later period. However, it is advisable to take the full ten weeks if possible.

Amherst is a beautiful college town, Amherst College also being located there. There is plenty of activity and excellent entertainment. Many men bring their wives and spend the week-ends visiting points of interest.

Classes are held from 8 A. M. to 4.30 P. M. daily except Friday, the last period ending then at 3.30. There are no classes Saturday. Very informal

evening sessions are held twice each week, and a daily forum hour is set aside for special lectures and class activities.

The course is under the personal direction of Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, Chief of the Section of Agrostology. He saw the opportunity for service to golf clubs and, believing that it could be best given by helping the men in charge of the work, he established the first course in 1927. He is most ably assisted by members of the college staff, and Mr. Carleton E. Treat, Superintendent, Montclair Golf Club, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, who have cooperated to make all work apply directly to golf course maintenance.

The titles of the courses studied are botany, entomology, water systems, drainage, equipment, grasses and turf culture, cost and record keeping and analysis, managerial problems, soils and fertilizers. There are no textbooks required, but the student's notes at the end of the school make a complete book.

There are no scholastic requirements for admission, and each year there are men with grammar school and college degrees. Practical experience often offsets the advanced schooling. The enrollment is limited in number and preference is given to superintendents and greenkeepers and their assistants. Except for the southern states, all districts in the United States and Canada have been represented at the school.

Applications for the 1940 course indicate there will be a splendid group of men taking the course. For information address Director R. H. Verbeck, Short Course Division, Massachusetts State College, or Professor Lawrence S. Dickinson, Section of Agrostology.

The Expense

	Tuition	Regis- tration	Health Fee
One term only	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$1.50
2 consecutive terms	10.00	5.00	1.50

Incidentals, such as notebooks, etc., \$5.00. Board and room costs are very reasonable and of high quality. \$11.00 per week is an ample allowance.

"Did you kill all the germs in baby's milk?"

"Well, I ran it twice through a meat chopper."

—*"Ex."*

NEW JERSEY NEWS

The success of any association lies in the active support given it by its membership. Is it not then the reason why the New Jersey Greenkeeping Superintendents' Association has increased its membership and can to date report an increase of twenty-two per cent in monthly meeting attendance? The New Jersey Superintendents are to be complimented, for they were all out strong again for the November meeting at Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, N. J., Monday, November 6th. Brother Totty, host and superintendent, was indeed happy to see such a large turnout at his club. As always, his course was in excellent condition. From the appearance of his greens, it would be hard to wonder how any piece of turf could be better improved upon. They were without weeds and clover and the putt certainly ran true. Some courses may have excellent greens, but fairways and tees not so good and vice versa, but not so at Echo Lake for the whole course was beyond criticism.

After a round of golf by some of the members, the meeting was called to order. As it was the last meeting before the Annual Meeting, the nominating committee reported on its choice for officers for 1940. Then to be in perfect accord with worldly conditions of doing things not according to routine, someone made a motion, that the election of officers, nominated, be held at this meeting instead of at the Annual Meeting, so that more time could be devoted to the banquet and entertainment. This was carried, and the elections of officers were as follows:

President Edward B. Cale was again elected president. Having done such a bang up job during 1939, the boys all felt he was deserving of another term. The balance of the officers elected were: 1st Vice President, Mr. Lester Moffett; 2nd Vice President, Mr. Alec Reid; Secretary, Percy Platt; and Treasurer Mr. Arthur Buxton.

The guests present at the meeting and dinner were Mr. N. L. Mattice, Manager of Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, N. J., and two distinguished Philadelphia Section Superintendents, Mr. Joseph Ryan and Mr. Bob Pollock. All gave very fine talks, and were on their feet many times during the after dinner round table discussions.

The Suburban Country Club at Union, N. J. has very kindly offered their club house again this winter for the monthly meetings of this association. The first of these will be our Annual Meeting, Banquet and Entertainment. We are all indeed grateful to Brother F. Svchla and his greens chairman for this consideration. So everyone is looking forward to be present for a good time at the banquet next month.

Percy G. Platt.

SPECIAL MEETING

Thirty-five members of the Club met at the American Agricultural Chemical Company in So. Weymouth at about 11:45 in the morning of Monday, Oct. 13. There we were met by officials of the company led by Mr. Ward, general manager. We were then conducted through the plant. First we were shown where and how acid was made which was used in treating the phosphate rock, then where the phosphate rock was treated and crushed, then on to where different materials were kept in huge piles, being shown how they were mixed and aged. We then visited the wharf where materials were received and fertilizers were shipped from. From there we visited the bagging, weighing and tying department; incidentally, all bags were made right at the plant, including stamping and sewing, the burlap is imported from Calcutta. We visited the storage room where all mixtures are stored and finally we visited the laboratory which was in the process of being moved to a fine location in the main office building.

We then left for the Cushing House in Hingham where the American Agricultural Chemical Co. were hosts and a fine dinner was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Ward then expressed his pleasure in having the club visit the plant and stated the picture to follow would give us a clearer outline of the operation of what we had witnessed at the plant.

Dr. Weyker then gave an interesting talk on soil and stated we should not be afraid of the use of lime. Dr. Weyker answered many questions from the floor.

A motion picture with Lowell Thomas as commentator showed how soil management on farms was bringing dividends from former low production soils. Points in soil deficiency was brought out. Finally the picture showed the mining of phosphate rock and the complete cycle of this material to the fertilizer plant and to other sources.

At the conclusion of the picture, a rising vote of thanks was given in appreciation of the program given by the company.

It was agreed by all that this was one of the most interesting meetings we had experienced.

Philip Cassidy,
Secretary.

ECONOMY—What Is It?

DURING the past 10 years, the Cemetery Superintendent has evolved from a mere laborer to a combined Landscape Architect, Contractor, Horticulturalist and Business Man, with a smattering of Law.

IN ORDER to function successfully in all of these capacities, he must think fast and accurately, be able to handle men and groups in sorrow, and above all this his trustees often expect beautifully designed grounds with spreading, velvety lawns, always immaculately kept and on a budget that would not maintain the roadways.

ECONOMY then is the watchword, the guiding star and general order. What is it? Wage cuts, deferring equipment purchases and neglect of grounds may be temporary money savers, but are they real economy? Preparation of the seed bed to really support turf is a lasting economy. Sowing good seed, properly selected, at a season of the year when it has a chance to mature

into lasting turf is economy. The best seed often fails when sown in the Spring for lack of time to mature before the hot Summer weather. Grasses really grow and form roots during Spring and Fall. Feed the turf then, so that ample nutrients are available at these times. Summer seeding merely induces leaf growth which means more mowing labor.

TESTING soils to determine your own needs is necessary if you are to establish an economical basis of maintenance. This information is available gratis from your State Agr. Experiment Station, or through our free consultation service.

DETERMINE your soil needs. Will it hold water and plant food? Will it permit deep root growth, so necessary to successful turf? Does it need lime or phosphorus? Practically all soils are deficient in Nitrogen in the Spring.

REAL ECONOMY MEANS MONEY SAVED. FIND YOUR OWN STARTING POINT AND USE THOSE MATERIALS AND SEEDS THAT MEET YOUR OWN REQUIREMENTS.

Prepare Right—Seed Right—Maintain Right.

This is Real Economy.
—Turf Topics.

(Printed in 1935, this is still good advice.—Ed.)

“Why are you writing to your girl so slowly?”

“Oh, you see, she can’t read so very fast.”

—“Ex.”

“I wouldn’t cry like that, my little man.”

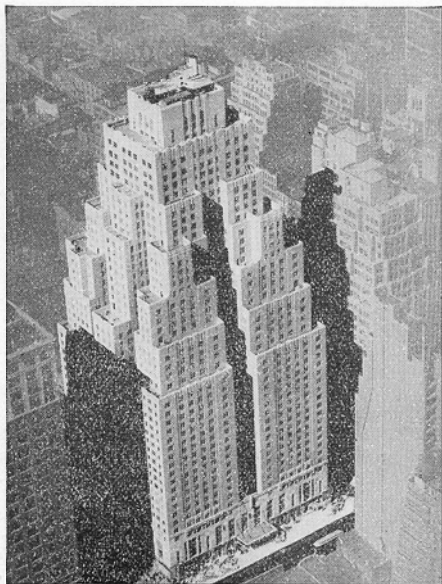
“Cry as you please, then; this is my way.”

—“Ex.”

OFFICERS' DIRECTORY

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Secretary	Philip Cassidy, 45 Grosvenor Rd., Needham, Mass.
Treasurer	Frank Wilson, Charles River C. C., Newton Centre, Mass.
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Chairman Welfare Comm.	Edwin Hansen, Concord C. C., Concord, Mass.
Chairman Employ. Comm.	Arthur Anderson, 358 Fuller St., W. Newton, Mass.
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NEWSLETTER officers, see page two.



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