

Opening Address of President J. Frederick Byers

Annual Meeting of the Green Section, January 4.

The officers of the United States Golf Association are very proud of this remarkable movement which has been inaugurated by the Green Section. A little over three years ago it was a wonderful conception of Dr. Piper's, who, with Dr. Harban and Prof. Carrier and Dr. Oakley, started this movement, which was then more or less of an experiment. Little did we think then that in less than three years the Green Section would attain a membership practically as large as that of the United States Golf Association; but today this is the fact. The reasons for this are many; but I think one of the main reasons is the fact that the golfers of the country have come to realize the tremendous economic value of the information given out by the Green Section. It is difficult to estimate the saving and the economic value of its work, but its steady growth proves that the golfers of the country, the green committees, and the greenkeepers have come to realize its tremendous value. I would just like to read a section of the report of the Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association to be presented tomorrow at the main session. This is submitted by Mr. Alan D. Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on the Green Section:

"The Committee on Green Section report that during this, the third year of its existence, the membership has increased from 550 to 647 clubs and is now practically on a par with the membership of the United States Golf Association.

"The proposed cooperation with the Department of Agriculture for experimental and research work has been accomplished, the United States Golf Association contributing \$3,500 a year to the Green Section funds for that purpose.

"The hoped-for field service has been established, and has proved so popular and resulted in so many requests for special visits that it is feared it will unduly increase the expenses of the Section. In view of the fact that for geographical reasons this service can not be given to all member clubs, it is thought the fairest method will be to arrange some plan by which the clubs which demand and receive this special service will pay for it. Routine visits of inspection will, of course, be made as heretofore without charge.

"During the year 12 numbers of THE BULLETIN, of 2,000 copies each, have been issued, 162 inspections have been made of the courses of member clubs, and the number of district Green Sections shows a gratifying and constant increase.

"We would like to call the attention of the member clubs to the unselfish service of the three men in the Department of Agriculture who have made the Green Section possible, Professors C. V. Piper, R. A. Oakley, and Lyman Carrier. For three years these men have edited THE BULLETIN, made hundreds of inspections, solved many problems, given much advice, answered innumerable inquiries, and discovered and made practical the vegetative method of planting bent,—and all this without remuneration of any kind, with no hope of reward except in their opportunity to spread the doctrine of good turf and in the chance to teach the clubs of this country how fine turf may best be secured and maintained.

"The practical results accomplished in the improved condition of golf courses and the rise in the general standard of maintenance in the past three years are the best proofs we can give of the immense debt of gratitude we owe to these men."

I think Mr. Wilson has really expressed, in that short report, all that I could say. But I do wish to say, on behalf of the United States Golf Association, that I think the golfers of the country owe to these gentlemen, Prof. Piper, Dr. Oakley, and Prof. Carrier, a debt of gratitude which can not be expressed in words; and I would like to say personally that I can not tell them how much we appreciate it in our committee.

I am very glad indeed to see such a large turnout here today, and I wish all the luck in the world during the coming year to the Green Section.

The Experiences of a Green Committee Chairman

Address Delivered by H. Kendall Read, of the Country Club of Atlantic City, Before the Annual Meeting of the Green Section, January 4, 1924.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Green Section: When Dr. Piper wrote me asking me to speak on this subject, I made up my mind that they were indulging in a chuckle down there in Washington, because I felt that if any man was qualified to speak as a "green" committee chairman, I was the man, as I do not think anybody was ever any greener than I was a few years ago when I started in with this work.

I got into green committee work very unexpectedly. The Country Club of Atlantic City, I guess, is no different—no better and no worse—in the way in which it has been run than many of the other golf courses throughout the country. The green committees of the past have been recruited from the members of the club—good players, or men who had considerable to do with its management or were interested from a financial standpoint. But the green committees were just the usual green committees, and there was no particular effort made to blaze any new trails or to change any old systems; and they just simply went along.

I was put on the committee first as a member. And, by the way, I am not speaking in any boastful sense, but simply because I have been asked to give my own experiences. I shall not give you all my experiences, because that would be too funny.

We have had all sorts of stormy times, as you always have when you try to break new ground and change old methods. The chairman that year (two years ago) sent down from his office to my home in Atlantic City everything he had relating to green committee work—maps, estimates and various plans submitted by different prominent architects as to changes in the course here and there; and with this came the curt advice that I was to go ahead and run the course.

I am reminded of a story of a farmer who was working in a field, and suddenly from a road hard by, a cloud of dust flew up, and he heard the sounds of a fierce struggle going on; and he was naturally interested. He left his plow and ran over to the fence, and, looking down the road, he saw a fellow farmer holding desperately on to a very wild ram—holding on by the horns, and he was having a fierce time of it; and, being friends, the farmer said, "Do you want me to come there and help you hold that ram?" And the friend replied, "Not much; but come here and help me let him go." That was just about my experience; I had a ram by the horns, but had no way of letting it go. I started out to get some information; and there is where the fun began.

Fortunately, we had had audits of our accounts made regularly over a period of years, and I got from the auditing concern reports for the two years previous as fully itemized as I could get them, separating all