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William F. Brooks

By H. C. Mackall

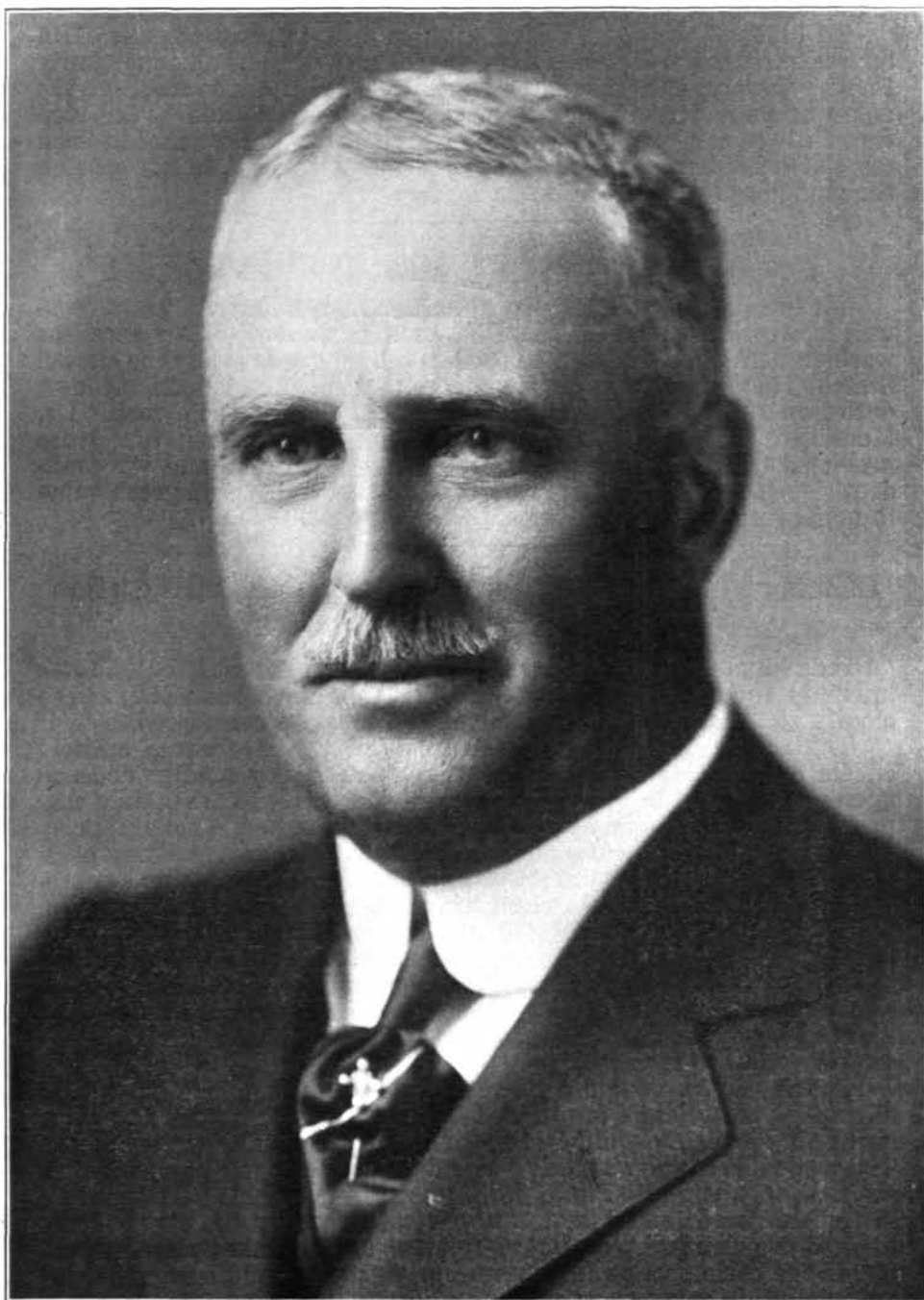
The sudden death of Senator William F. Brooks, of Minneapolis, on the 19th day of March, marked the passing of one of the most prominent and active men in golfing circles in the Northwest. For years golf in all its aspects, and particularly as to the work of the Green Section, had been the hobby of Mr. Brooks, and it was fortunate indeed for the game that he was able to indulge in this hobby as he was wont.

He had been actively identified, however, with all of the largest golf organizations of the United States at one time or another. He had been a Vice-President and Director of the Western Golf Association; he had been the President and a Director of the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association; he had been President and Director of the Minnesota State Golf Association; he had been the Chairman of the Northwest Section of the Greens Association before it had been absorbed by the United States Golf Association, and since its absorption, he had been a member of the Green Section Committee; and he was a member of the Senior Golfers' Association of the United States, being the first man from Minnesota to be so honored.

It is in connection with the Minikahda Club and the National Amateur Tournament held there last year that Senator Brooks became best known to golfers all over the United States. By reason of his personality and activity the United States Golf Association's Executive Committee had awarded this tournament as far west as Minneapolis for the first time in the history of the Association. Mr. Brooks was made General Chairman of the Tournament Committee for the Minikahda Club. If unsolicited statements of those who have attended these tournaments may be taken as a fair criterion, the success of this tournament, as reflected in the smoothness of its operation, was in some respects the most successful tournament of its kind the United States Golf Association has held, and this success is attributable to the work of Mr. Brooks.

Although a man of large affairs, Senator Brooks, in addition to his golfing activities, was interested in the political activities of his party, and at the time of his death represented his district in the State Senate and was the Minnesota member of the Republican National Committee.

For years the Minikahda Club and "Bill" Brooks were inseparably connected in thought and in fact. He was the only man for whom the club ever put aside its tradition that no one should be returned to its presidency, and honored both itself and Mr. Brooks in electing him President in 1921 when he had formerly served in that capacity in 1906. It was the greatest recognition a club could give a man, who



WILLIAM F. BROOKS

over a period of 22 years had made the club an object of his affection and devotion.

To him golf was more than a game or a fleeting pastime. He appreciated the game in its finer aspects, knew it to be an opportunity for the close comradeship of the links, realized that the spirit of the rule was more often to be observed than the letter, and he believed that the honor of the game was not limited to the first shot at each tee, but extended from the first tee to the last hole. In his passing the game has lost one of its real leaders.

Appointment of Dr. John Montieth, Jr.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. John Montieth, Jr., who is well known to readers of THE BULLETIN as a result of his excellent work on turf grass diseases, has recently been employed by the United States Golf Association Green Section. He entered upon his new duties on April 1, and is to have charge of the research work. Dr. Monteith's past training and experience and his interest in turf grass problems fit him admirably for these investigations, and we confidently look forward to accomplishments that will be of great value to golf courses.

Effects of Individual Fertilizer Materials on Soil Reaction

By O. J. Noer, Madison, Wis.

Individual fertilizer materials affect soil reaction differently, some intensify and others reduce the acidity. In any program designed to modify soil reaction these specific effects must be considered.

The soluble acids dissolved in the soil water produce marked effects on vegetation, and the development of this acidity depends upon the presence in the soil of insoluble acids. It is the minute clay particles which become acid in character. In non-acid soils the clay is saturated with calcium, but additional calcium may be present in the form of lime carbonate. Until all the lime carbonate and appreciable amounts of the calcium saturating the clay are removed, soluble acidity will not develop. In humid regions the percolating waters, as they pass down through the soil, leach out calcium and the residual clay particles eventually become acid. Fortunately those materials which cause acidity accelerate the removal of calcium and thus hasten development of insoluble acids, the reservoir from which soluble acids are formed.

The insoluble clay is a complex salt exhibiting acid properties when its basic calcium is removed. Mineral fertilizers are also salts, containing an acidic and basic portion, and are usually water soluble. Those capable of yielding soluble acids contain a basic portion which the insoluble acid clay can absorb, leaving the soluble acid dissolved in the soil water. The basic material absorbed by the clay reduces its acid producing power, but re-resolution usually takes place, especially if the basic portion is ammonia or potassium and leaves the clay unimpaired in acid properties.

The organic fertilizers have little effect on soil reaction until broken down into simpler substances by the soil micro-organisms, and any changes that do occur are therefore secondary, resulting