

## Golf Service Bureau of New England

By Evelyn C. Nickerson

The Golf Service Bureau of New England was organized in 1925. Its membership has grown from 14 clubs at the time of its organization, to 60 clubs in December, 1930. Membership is limited to golf and country clubs in the five New England states. The annual dues are \$100 for 18-hole courses and \$50 for 9-hole courses. Its purpose is to reduce, by cooperative effort, the cost of maintenance of golf clubs, to promote the interests of golf, to improve playing conditions, and generally to accomplish such ends as will improve the business administration of the clubs and lessen their costs.

Group buying of merchandise means saving in its purchase cost. The saving to an individual club through group buying depends on the use made by the club of the purchasing organization. In many instances our member clubs have saved in this manner over five times their annual dues in the Service Bureau. Today trade discounts on purchases are generally on a quantity basis; thus it is that cooperative buying effects savings to individual clubs. But greater than the saving in cost is the avoidance of loss that would follow the purchase of inferior or unsuitable goods. Our bureau saves more money for its members in the quality of the goods it buys, in its knowledge of what to buy, and in the kinds of goods that it tries to persuade clubs not to buy, than it does in prices. Particularly is this true in the purchase of seed. All seed purchased by our bureau is first submitted for analysis to one of the few seed laboratories in the country equipped to make reports on the quality of grass seeds. Our purchases of golf course merchandise include such items as seeds, fertilizer, chemicals, machinery, and auto supplies; for the club house, items such as kitchen equipment, house and locker room furniture, draperies, linen, blankets, and table silver; for the club, items such as gasoline, prizes, pipe, printing, and shrubs. I must also not overlook favorable mention of our "cat and dog" department, which has become very popular as a means of exchanging used machinery and surplus material and machinery between member clubs.

Another important feature of our activities is the bureau's service as a clearing house for information on the many problems relative to costs, methods, kinds of merchandise most suitable for a golf course, caddy welfare problems, and employment placement.

Events which are looked forward to with keen interest are our annual machinery demonstration and the meetings at the United States Golf Association Green Section demonstration turf plots which the bureau is helping to maintain at the Charles River Country Club. Our meeting at the demonstration plots on October 5, 1930, was the most enthusiastic of the year.

The officers of the bureau are as follows: Chairman, Frederic C. Hood, Kittansett Club; vice-chairman, Harry P. Hood, Tedesco Country Club; treasurer, J. L. S. Barton, Winchester Country Club; manager, Evelyn C. Nickerson. The directors are J. L. S. Barton, Winchester Country Club; E. H. Boody, Portland Country Club; Eugene H. Clapp, Tedesco Country Club; Charles H. Cross, Unicorn Country Club; Ezra Dixon, Jr., Metacomet Golf Club; Malcolm Farmer, Shuttle Meadow Club; Oscar M. Flather, Nashua Country Club; Raynor M. Gardiner, Nantucket Golf Club; Frederic C. Hood, Kittansett Club; Harry P. Hood, Tedesco Country Club; M. Fred O'Connell, Oak Hill Country

Club; E. J. Poor, Lake Sunapee Country Club; Leon B. Rogers, Brae Burn Country Club; Frank H. Wilson, Charles River Country Club; ex-officio, Herbert Jaques, The Country Club, and Alvah W. Rydstrom, Norfolk Golf Club. The offices of the Golf Service Bureau of New England are rooms 88 and 89, 50 State St., Boston, Mass.

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### Western New York District Greenkeepers' Association

By Arthur Stephen

The first meeting of our association was held at Grover Cleveland Park, in Buffalo, in March, 1928. That park is the old Buffalo Country Club. Twenty-eight members were present, and the following officers elected: President, Robert Henderson, Buffalo Country Club; vice-president, W. F. Radford, Niagara Falls Country Club; treasurer, Arthur Stephen, Grover Cleveland Park Golf Course; secretary, Al Schardt, Wanakah Country Club. The directors were: Frank Bulges, Niagara Falls Municipal Golf Course; A. W. Kroll, East Aurora Country Club; Custis Stallman, Durand Eastman Park Golf Course; James Connaughton, Monroe Country Club; William Philipson, Willowdale Country Club. Mr. Henderson remained president for three years, and is now a director; Mr. Schardt was secretary for three years and is now president. The membership has increased to 34, consisting entirely of greenkeepers, from a territory extending from Buffalo to Rochester, Jamestown, Niagara Falls, and Welland, Ontario.

Our meetings are held monthly at the different golf courses represented in the association. The meetings are purely educational, consisting mostly in exchange of opinions and narration of experiences in greenkeeping. We held one meeting in 1930 jointly with the chairmen of green committees; this meeting was of great benefit, particularly in that it afforded an opportunity for the discussion of matters pertaining to the golf course budget. Another important meeting was held July 2 on the United States Golf Association Green Section demonstration turf garden located on the grounds of the Niagara Falls Municipal Golf Course. Mr. Depew, chairman of the United States Golf Association Green Section and president of the Western New York Golf Association, which latter organization is financing the garden, spoke at the meeting and pointed out the values of the demonstration gardens in furthering cooperation between greenkeepers, green committees, and technical specialists. Mr. Welton, of the United States Golf Association Green Section, then explained the garden and pointed out results that were already apparent even though the garden was only a year old. The meeting was attended by over 40, composed mostly of greenkeepers, who showed keen interest in the results of the work on the garden.

We have not yet held a machinery demonstration but are planning on one for 1931.

The officers for 1930 were: President, Robert Henderson, Country Club of Buffalo; vice-president, Arthur Stephen, Erie Downs Country Club; treasurer, William Philipson, Willowdale Country Club; secretary, Al Schardt, Wanakah Country Club; directors, C. Stallman, Durand Eastman Park Golf Course; F. Nichols, Meadow Brook Club; W. T. Radford, Niagara Falls Country Club; James Connaughton, Monroe Golf Club.