

The Annual Meeting of the delegates and permanent members of the Green Section was held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, on January 14. The meeting was successful beyond anticipations; keen interest and great enthusiasm were shown. The complete list of the new Green Committee elected at the meeting for the year 1922 is contained on the preceding page. A complete report of the proceedings at the meeting will be given in the February number; in the meantime our readers will be interested in the Annual Report of Prof. Piper, Chairman of the Green Committee, presented at the meeting.

Annual Report of the Chairman of the Green Committee

MEMBERS OF THE GREEN SECTION AND VISITORS:

At this time, when we have completed our first year's work and are holding our first annual meeting, it would seem proper to review in some detail the work which the Green Section has undertaken, the degree of success it has attained, and the prospects and problems which it confronts. It is meet that you should criticize or commend the work of your Committee and the manner in which it was done in proportion as it deserves approval or censure.

GROWTH.

The Green Section now has the support of 397 members. At different dates through the year the figures have been as follows:

April 1, 1921.....	70 members
May 1, 1921.....	144 "
June 1, 1921.....	210 "
August 1, 1921.....	294 "
November 1, 1921.....	368 "
January 1, 1922.....	387 "
January 7, 1922.....	397 "

We feel sure that our influence has been broader than our number of member-clubs would indicate. Many of THE BULLETIN articles have been widely reproduced. Every devotee of golf is always willing to give his advice to a new and struggling club, and if he has gotten any knowledge or inspiration out of the Green Section we may be sure he has passed it along. We have rarely failed to get a club to join once it understood clearly the scope and objects of the Green Section. In spite of numerous circular letters and much printed matter, it has been difficult to reach the clubs so that they could grasp what we were trying to do. Part of the trouble is due to the very poor business arrangements of many, perhaps most, clubs. As an example, each of three clubs sent in its subscription twice. We were tempted to keep the money. In many more cases we were unable to get any response whatever. This work of securing subscribers has taken far more time and money than we could wish. More and more we hope that our member-clubs will become imbued with the missionary spirit and not feel satisfied until they have induced all their neighbor clubs to join in a good thing. Four hundred clubs in the Green Section is not a large enough proportion of the approximately three thousand clubs in the United States and Canada. We ought to have many more, and I confidently believe our membership can be doubled this year if we are energetic. One unfortunate and regrettable fact at present is that few of the smaller clubs are members, and these can profit relatively far more than the richer clubs. It is little short of appalling to visit some of the small clubs and see how much they need the assistance we can give. To reach these clubs we need the cooperation of all our members. The poor we will always have with us; but in the golfing world, at least, let us not neglect them,

FINANCIAL REPORT

A clear understanding relative to our receipts and expenditures is a necessary basis for the full interpretation of the chairman's report and for comment on the same. The figures for the year ending December 31, 1921, are as follows:

<i>Receipts.</i>	
Membership-fees from 387 clubs.....	\$6,293.15
Subscriptions for THE BULLETIN other than provided for in membership fees	113.75
Interest on bank deposit.....	85.30
Total receipts	\$6,492.20
<i>Expenses</i>	
Twelve monthly BULLETINS, including printing, cuts, mailing, postage, copyright fees	\$2,037.45
One thousand binders	254.93
Routine clerical services	607.39
Office rent	85.00
Office furniture and equipment.....	129.50
Membership campaign, including special clerical services, printing, postage, etc.	1,719.73
Postage, exclusive of BULLETIN mailing list and membership campaign	39.88
Preparing and mailing out questionnaires.....	39.40
Stationery	142.05
Traveling and sundry expenses of committee members.....	411.73
Postoffice box rental	13.24
Telephone and telegrams.....	15.95
Subscriptions to golf magazines and purchases of books.....	16.00
Total expenses	\$5,512.25

COST OF MEMBERSHIP.

The price of membership was fixed at a sum that would, it was estimated, enable the Green Section to pay its bills if about 250 members were secured. For fear that we might not succeed the first year, we were backed by the United States Golf Association to the extent of \$2,500. We have a certain pride in the outcome. It was not necessary to use permanently any of the \$2,500. As appears in the financial statement, the income and expenditures of the Green Section were not widely divergent. We are definitely self-supporting on our present basis.

There has been a good deal of feeling that the Green Section dues are too high—not in the sense that the services are not worth their cost, but because of the belief that they tend to keep out many clubs that might else join. The Green Committee has considered this matter seriously and often and agrees that it is far better to have one thousand members at \$5.00 each than 250 members at \$20.00 each. In recent conferences it has been deemed wisest to continue another year on the present basis. With the two years' experience it is felt that the data will be available for the satisfactory adjustment of the problem, which, of course, is to secure the greatest good to the greatest number.

THE BULLETIN

Volume I of THE BULLETIN, now completed, contains 264 pages, to which will be added 8 pages of index to be sent out with the first number of Volume II. Every number of Volume I, after No. 4, contained 24 pages.

This number of pages will be continued unless we receive a considerable increase in the way of articles from members. THE BULLETIN will be enlarged whenever the need arrives.

How far THE BULLETIN has fulfilled the need for which it was established we can judge only by the letters of commendation received. These have been very numerous and highly complimentary. Thus far no discordant note has come to hand. If there are "kickers" we want to hear from them, because they may have a chastening effect.

THE SERVICE BUREAU.

We have been fortunate in securing the cordial cooperation of many specialists both in the Department of Agriculture and in the agricultural colleges. Without this assistance it would scarcely be possible to answer the numerous inquiries about insects, chemicals, and what not that come into the hopper of the Executive Secretary. The Service Bureau is in reality purely an agency to give information promptly on any questions that may be submitted.

There have been requests from many clubs for visits from our staff to look over club problems. Under our present financial conditions it is not possible to accede to these requests, unless the work can be done incidentally to other objects. It is hoped the time may come when the Green Section can support one or more well-equipped men to visit member-clubs.

LOCAL GREEN SECTIONS.

A gratifying and important outgrowth of the Green Section idea has been the establishment of various local or district green sections. At the present time such green sections are established in Philadelphia, Detroit, New York, St. Louis, Los Angeles, and Providence, and others are contemplated at Atlanta, Boston and elsewhere. The central idea in all of these is the same—mutual help. By meetings from time to time at the different clubs, inspection of the courses, discussions of methods, etc., much is learned by all. The Philadelphia District Green Section recently induced a large number of tractor and mower manufacturers to demonstrate their machines. The Detroit District Golf Association publishes a regular periodical, *The Detroit Golfer*.

In time we may expect such a local green section in every golf center; and there is an ample field of work for each of them.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE GREEN COMMITTEE.

The members of the present Green Committee were chosen mainly to secure men deeply interested in the progress of golf, but not overlooking the fact that it was important to have each section of the country as well as Canada, represented. The plan has worked exceptionally well. The assistance rendered by the members has been generous and ungrudging to the extreme. Each has been very active in adding members to the Green Section. Without doubt it is highly desirable to maintain this system by which each section of the country has its own representative in the Green Section. Unfortunately there is no provision in the mode of election of Green Committee members to maintain such a system. The matter is one, however, that deserves very careful consideration lest we unwittingly

destroy a source of strength to the Green Committee. As a satisfactory basis of distribution the following geographical assignments are suggested:

2 members at large (chairman and one vice-chairman).	
1	member representing Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.
1	“ “ Massachusetts.
1	“ “ Rhode and Connecticut.
3	“ “ New York and New Jersey.
2	“ “ Pennsylvania.
1	“ “ Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
1	“ “ North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.
1	“ “ Florida.
1	“ “ Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana.
1	“ “ Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia.
1	“ “ Ohio.
1	“ “ Michigan and Indiana.
1	“ “ Illinois and Wisconsin.
1	“ “ Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota.
1	“ “ Missouri and Arkansas.
1	“ “ Texas, Oklahoma, and Arizona.
1	“ “ Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, and Nevada.
1	“ “ California.
1	“ “ Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.
1	“ “ Canada.

25

SUPPORTING RESEARCH.

I need scarcely call attention to the fact that methods of growing turf that are wholly satisfactory in one region are often nearly worthless in another. At the present time we know relatively much about turf in the north, but comparatively little in the south and west. There is need of far more experimental investigation. We must get away from many of the traditional and unfounded ideas that still prevail. Some of them are quite as absurd as planting by the moon. There are many experiment stations where valuable work can be done at low cost; but even this will require some financial assistance from the Green Section. When surplus funds shall be available I know of no better way in which to utilize them.

FUNCTIONS OF THE GREEN SECTION.

When the Green Section was established the dominating idea in the minds of its originators was to help in the problems of establishing and maintaining good turf. Naturally these problems are fundamental to a good golf course. During the first year, however, questions covering a wide range of topics other than turf have been submitted. All of them are legitimate inquiries and all bear on problems that golf clubs must face. You will permit me here to make a personal statement. When I was induced to accept the chairmanship of the Green Committee it was with the clear understanding that I would be responsible for nothing outside the matter of turf. I foresaw part of this flood of other problems and so warned the Committee. Well, questions on all sorts of topics continue to come in, and we have as yet devised no satisfactory plan to answer them. The questions refer to such matters as:

1. Green-keepers' machinery and equipment.
2. Green-keepers' buildings.
3. Golf architecture.

4. Landscape plantings.
5. Costs of course construction and maintenance.
6. Budget systems.
7. How to finance a golf club.
8. The relations of the club to the professional.

These are not all, but they will suffice. To my mind they are all legitimate questions; but some of them will require diplomatic handling. Just how to secure the best information to answer these questions is not clear. You will recall that several contributions to THE BULLETIN have discussed phases of some of these problems, based on experience. An obvious way to secure information is by questionnaires. But the questionnaire method has its weaknesses. We have now a lot of answers to questionnaires on tractors and mowers. Many of the answers are absurd; perhaps they were written by a clerk. It is obvious that an answer is valuable or not in proportion to the knowledge, experience, and judgment of the writer. To make merely a compilation of good, bad, and worthless answers will result in leaving the reader "up in the air." Manifestly the compilation will require the judgment and comments of a well-qualified man to make it of much value. It is difficult to see any escape from using the questionnaire method; at least it should have some reaction on the clubs by disclosing their lack of knowledge. Apart from the experiences gathered by such means, the only other method, and the more valuable one where possible, is that of experimentation. If for example all the tractors for golf courses could be assembled in one place and tested thoroughly by capable men, the results of their findings would be dependable. As yet it is beyond the finances of the Green Section to undertake such investigations. So for some time we shall have to rely on the results of the experiences of our members. One of my friends points out that the real weakness here is the same as that involved in the question "Which is the best automobile?" Nine times out of ten a man will answer by giving the name of the car he himself owns.

It may be well to point out that in dealing with a manufactured article we can not publish the names of the manufacturers in THE BULLETIN. Such information will have to be sent out as *confidential*.

TRAINING GREEN-KEEPERS.

The need of more and better green-keepers is so notorious as to require no discussion. Various suggestions have been made as to methods to meet this need. One of these was the idea of holding schools for six months, first in one golf center and then in another. Any bright young man of high-school education, should, under capable instruction combined with practical experience on a good golf course, become a fair green-keeper after the six months. The idea is worth consideration.

As you know, Cornell University has now a course designed to train men to be superintendents of parks, of a golf course or a series of golf courses, etc. Such men would not be green-keepers in our present meaning, but rather agronomists skilled in soils, fertilizers, turf-growing, landscape gardening, etc., who would be competent to act as general superintendents. We need such men, and through them we shall get our green-keepers better trained.

As you know, two copies of THE BULLETIN are sent to each member-

club, one copy for the use of the green-keeper. I have been disappointed to find that in many clubs the green-keeper has never seen THE BULLETIN—the very man who is apt to profit most by its perusal. This again emphasizes the lack of good business management in too many golf clubs.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE GREEN SECTION.

It may seem a matter of conceit to speak of the influence of an organization only one year old, but I think there is fairly clear evidence that we are effecting changes for betterment. Many of the golf journals, for example, are giving more attention to the real problems of golf clubs, and therefore less to purely social and personal matters. Many of the men devoted to the progress of golf realize the necessity of rescuing it from the handicap of being a rich man's game. Most of our golf clubs are not well managed; many of them are extravagant. Moderate-priced golf does not necessarily imply poorer quality; but it does necessitate more intelligent and efficient management. The growth of golf has been considered phenomenal, but it can be greatly accelerated if we can reduce the cost. One of the local green sections is very actively working on this problem, and, broadly speaking, this is the end for which the Green Section must strive. The betterment of golf is not to be measured by the skill of crack players or by brilliant social functions nearly so much as it is by the ordinary golfer taking a broader interest in golf architecture, in the problems of good turf, and in efficient management. Thus far the active cooperation of Hook, Slice, Dubb and the others has not been enlisted to the extent that he takes an intelligent interest in the club and its management. Here, as in human affairs in general, education is all-important. If the Green Section fulfills even a portion of its functions it must become potent in these fundamental matters.

COOPERATION.

Before closing his remarks, the Chairman must express his grateful appreciation to the member-clubs on their cordial support and helpfulness in many other ways; to the members of the Green Committee for their continuous interest and activity; and particularly to the Executive Secretary for his unflagging zeal and efficient work. Incidentally the Executive Secretary has become, on account of his position, "the official goat." For his services as a buffer the whole Committee owes him additional thanks.

In conclusion, I am sure the whole Green Committee will feel amply rewarded for their endeavors if the results of their efforts meet with your commendation.

Parking Arrangements

E. J. MARSHALL

A great many clubs find it difficult to provide space for the automobiles of members, and it is next to impossible to arrange for the orderly parking of machines. The employment of a man to supervise parking involves more or less expense and does not always bring about a satisfactory result. It will be found that this problem can best be solved by providing a parking space with stalls which compel the orderly parking of cars, and which reduces the parking to an automatic basis, thus avoiding the necessity of