Remodel on Economic Unit Plan, Advises Egan

H. CHANDLER EGAN, who as player, architect and counsellor to countless club officials who have run to him "when a feller needs a friend," ranks as one of the country’s most helpful golf notables, has been good enough to favor GOLFDOM with some valuable advice for the guidance of clubs intending to remodel.

Mr. Egan says:

"I find it difficult to go at all into detail because of the thousand and one conditions to be met. When a mother says, 'Johnny, go wash behind your ears!' the remark is obvious, trite but nevertheless sound advice. So, because it is sound advice I am going to risk the following remarks.

"In the last analysis every golf club wants its course to be the best that can possibly be had with the given conditions. I believe that any golf course that needs it can be so remodeled that it could last for a long long time without anything in the nature of reconstruction being done to it—witness the old course at St. Andrews, Scotland, even through the great change in the game brought about by the modern ball. All golf architects agree on the two main essentials of a perfect golf course for a given piece of land. One is the scientific placement of hazards, both natural and artificial, and the other is the blending of all artificial construction so that it may appear as natural as possible and enhance rather than detract from the natural beauty of the landscape. One can see many holes that are perfectly trapped and which have a green with an ideal putting turf—and yet the hole lacks the supreme delight of beauty. A little remodeling of the edges of the hazards and a softening of the contours of the green without changing the position of anything and the ugly duckling has become the Bird of Paradise.

"Few golf courses in this country can come up to such a high standard but what the thought of reconstruction or remodeling to a greater or less degree must come before the minds of nearly every green-committee and Board of Governors. Obviously, any work that must later be done over is a waste of both time and money so that in the long run it is more economical to have the work done right the first time."

Some Notable Drainage and Watering Jobs of 1927

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New Westwood Country Club, St. Louis, Mo.
Poland Country Club, Youngstown, O.
Westmoreland Country Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Brookside Country Club, Columbus, O.
Virginia Country Club, Long Beach, Cal.
Glenview Country Club, Chicago, Ill.
Phoenix Country Club, Phoenix, Ariz.
A. D. Lasker (private course), Chicago, Ill.
Milburn Country Club, Kansas City, Mo.
Colony Club, Detroit, Mich.

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WENDELL P. MILLER
Golf Engineer
85 East Gay St. - - Columbus, Ohio
664 N. Michigan Ave. - - Chicago, Ill.
I should, therefore, suggest the following procedure.

**Economic Unit Plan**

1.—Employ a really competent golf course architect to make a complete survey of the situation and supply a map and working drawings or models of the work to be done.

2.—Let the golf architect, in cooperation with the greenkeeper and the green chairman divide the work into economic units. Very often it is cheaper and simpler to do part of the final plan on two holes that are adjacent than to do one hole as a unit. An architect usually finds plenty of opportunity to use dirt from an excavation; but it may be wanted on another hole than the one where the excavation is made, or it may be advisable to use it there because of a possible shorter haul.

3.—Let the Board of Governors with the green chairman arrange the budget if possible so that one or more of the units can be completed each succeeding year. Perhaps the first year's budget will only take care of the architect's fee. If so, it will be money well spent.

4.—Be sure that the greenkeeper not only knows his job as to soils, grasses and fertilizers but also that he is capable of satisfactorily interpreting the drawings or models of the architect so that they may be faithfully reproduced. *This is almost more than half the battle.* If he is not competent to do the work alone, *don't have it done* unless someone able to supervise it properly can be employed.

"Beyond the above-four points the rest is a mass of detail that must be worked out by the architect, the green chairman and the greenkeeper to meet local conditions."

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