

Laying the Greenkeeper Off

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IF this article brings a note of realization to some golf clubs in the good old U. S. A. it will have accomplished its purpose.

The old adage may very well suit, "Wilful waste makes woeful want."

A great many clubs lay their greenkeepers off in November, and inform them that their services will not be required until spring, going on in the belief that the club is saving money by following this method.

The laying off of a greenkeeper in the fall is one of the reasons why experts are called in to find out what can be done with the course to put it in playable condition. It usually does not require an expert to diagnose the case. Many times the greenkeeper has already told the club officials exactly what the expert did, perhaps in less flowery speech.

Innumerable Winter Duties

During the winter on a course, there is generally more work than one man can attend to. Overhauling machinery, which is no small item; painting benches, tee boxes, flag poles, tee markers, buildings and equipment.

Shrubs, too, demand attention, or they soon become unsightly. Trees can be moved and placed where they will beautify the landscape. Cutting out dead wood, and removing broken branches. Nothing is much more detrimental to trees than broken branches hanging and swaying on other branches, causing wounds that will start decay. Where a branch is torn away from the trunk, decay gets its strongest foothold. Result, the tree doctor has to be called in, and nearly everyone knows that the services of a tree surgeon are not given gratis.

During the winter, there is danger of freeze-outs in depressions on the greens. If a man were on the grounds all winter, he could break the ice over such places, letting the air penetrate and saving the grass, which otherwise would have to be re-turfed at considerable expense.

Then there is the rough. Burning this area over before the grass starts to grow destroys millions of weed seeds.

Fairways should be fertilized before the frost has left the surface. No ruts are then left by machinery, which are difficult to eradicate.

Where Haste Makes Waste

When a greenkeeper has been off the course all winter, he returns in the spring and starts getting his equipment in order, all the time realizing that the course needs his urgent attention. The result is that some "slap-stick" repair work is done, which later in the season necessitates spending many precious hours restoring machinery to some degree of day to day efficiency. Or, if the equipment is sent to a repair shop to be overhauled, nine cases out of ten it is not returned to the club until the grass is so long that it is necessary to rake it after cutting.

I could go on, but I believe these reasons are sufficient to prove why it pays to keep a greenkeeper on the job all the year around.

Think it over, and give it a trial. You will undoubtedly find that paying your greenkeeper his salary through the winter months will result in a far greater money saving than cutting him off the payroll when the first cold winds begin to blow.

Where the Big Tournaments Will be Held

February 27-March 2—Twenty-fourth Annual Spring Tournament, **Pinehurst, N. C.**

March 14-18—Second Annual Florida State Women's Golf Association Championship, **St. Andrews Course, Mt. Plymouth, Fla.**

March 19-23—Belleair Amateur Championship, **Belleair Country Club.**

March 23-24—Florida Open Championship, 36 holes over **Florida C. C.** and 36 holes over **Timuquana C. C., Jacksonville, Fla.**

March 26-30—Men's Championship, **Shore Hills Golf & Country Club, Bermuda.**

March 26-31—Gulf States Championship, **Biloxi G. C., Biloxi, Miss.**

March 29-30—Twenty-sixth Annual North and South Open Championship, **Pinehurst, N. C.**

April 4-7—Florida State Amateur Championship, **Timuquana C. C., Jacksonville, Fla.**

April 6-12—Twenty-eighth Annual North and South Amateur Championship, **Pinehurst, N. C.**

April 16-20—Eighteenth Annual Mid-April Tournament, **Pinehurst, N. C.**

May 7-12—British Open Championship, **Royal St. George's Club, Sandwich, Kent.**

May 14-19—British Ladies' Championship, **Hunstanton.**

May 21-26—British Amateur Championship, **Prestwick, Ayrshire.**

June 11—Qualifying Rounds in National Open Championship, various districts.

June 13-16—Metropolitan Amateur Championship, **Fenimore C. C., White Plains, N. Y.**

June 21-23—National Open Championship, **Olympia Fields C. C., Chicago.**

July 18-20—Metropolitan Open Championship, **Shackamaxon C. C., Westfield, N. J.**

July 31-Aug. 5—Public Links Championship, **Cobbs Creek Course, Philadelphia.**

August 30-31—Walker Cup Matches, **Chicago Golf Club, Wheaton, Ill.**

September 10-15—National Amateur Championship, **Brae Burn C. C., West Newton, Mass.**

September 24-29—Women's National Championship, **Virginia Hot Springs Golf and C. C., Virginia Hot Springs, Va.**

October 5-6—Lesley Cup Matches, **Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, N. Y.**