

Responsibilities of a Greenkeeper

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IT HAS always seemed to me, that the responsibilities of a greenkeeper are often greater than he realizes. He is first responsible to the chairman of the Green committee who holds the greenkeeper responsible for everything which comes under his jurisdiction. Therefore, the greenkeeper must be on the job to see that the work of maintenance and construction is done in a creditable manner.

He is responsible for the opening of the course at the earliest possible date. As soon as the weather is permissible, he must start to get the course in condition for play and there are a great many things to be done in a short time. Cleaning up the course, burning dead grass in the rough, getting the sand traps trimmed, the sand loosened, and weeds taken out take time. The greens, tees, fairways, and rough have to be rolled, greens top dressed, the equipment gotten ready for operation, benches, tee boxes, and tee markers placed on the course and bare spots to be patched.

Low places where winter kill has occurred have to be raised and resodded, the water system has to be gone over, the water turned on, the water lines examined for any defects and drinking fountains uncovered and cleaned.

Must Keep Course in Perfect Condition

From that time until the close of the season, he must keep the course in perfect playing condition, as he is (with the exceptions of weather conditions) practically responsible for the attendance at the club, and the amount of business done at the Club. He is the hub of the wheel, the spokes, representing the different departments, radiate from him; if the hub is defective, it affects the whole wheel. The result is dissatisfaction, and a financial loss to the club, which cannot be refunded, except by assessment of the members.

The greenkeeper is responsible for the amount of money which is spent for the maintenance of the course. He must be economical, but not to the detriment of the course, and he should be able to buy the best at the most reasonable prices. He should also be able to handle men to best advantage, selecting

the men and assigning them to the duties which they are best adapted for, thereby getting his crew properly organized.

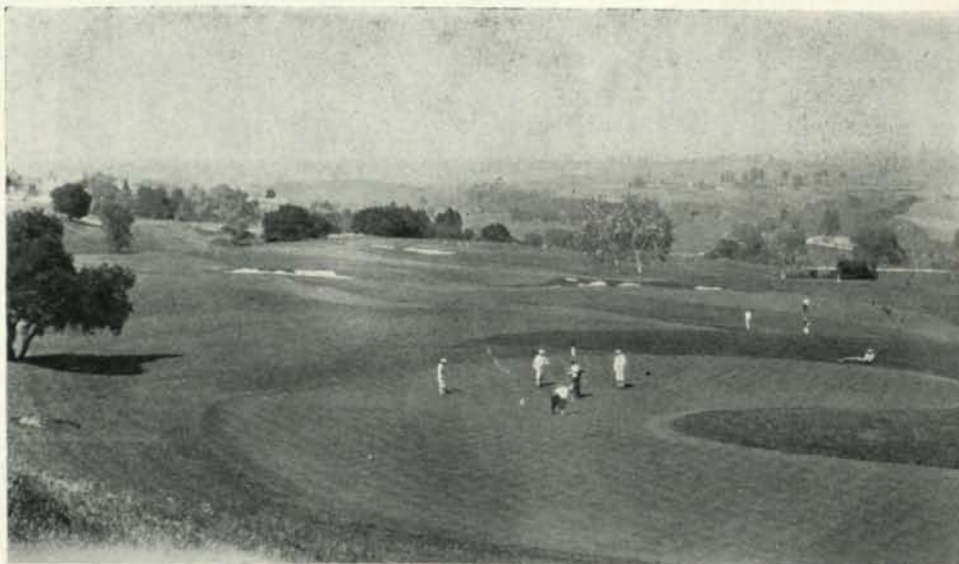
Greens Are Biggest Responsibility

The greens are the greenkeeper's biggest responsibility and are a constant care, as destruction can come in a night. The greenkeeper should ever be on the alert more especially during the hot humid weather, as this is when the brown patch is most prevalent, and he should have remedies at hand to combat this disease as soon as it is noticeable. The greatest part of his time should be spent in devising ways and means to keep his greens in the best possible condition.

He is responsible for the equipment used on the course, a department to which he must give a good deal of attention. If he is lacking in knowledge of machinery, he must make himself familiar with it as it is necessary that he keep well informed on new machinery, and whether it would benefit his club, to purchase any new machine, which has been placed on the market. Equipment in proper working order is an asset, otherwise it is an expense.

Water Systems Require Care

He is responsible for the water system which is something that is becoming more extensively used, on a larger scale than heretofore and he must be thoroughly fa-



*Sixth Green, Castlewood Country Club, Pleasanton, California
This course is located on the late Phoebe A. Hearst estate. The sand traps on the fifth fairway show in the background*

miliar with everything pertaining to it. Larger systems are being installed with the idea of watering the fairways during dry periods.