

Then, too, the design of an inside track places another burden on "guess who?" In effect, it presents the superintendent with two courses to condition . . . although the short course is not supposed to be the epitome of top-conditioned layouts. It does pose a labor problem because its greens and tees will have to be kept in playing condition at all times so as to be ready when the rains or snow come.

On the whole, however, the idea deserves further study by the country club administration. Its detail would have to be ironed out and plans made so as not to increase the superintendent's pressures. It's worth a look-see all right.

Gerry Finn

With grateful acknowledgement to the "Newsletter" of the GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND, USA.

NEWS

Problems arising from the scarcity and high cost of labour and the relative immobility of expensive specialised machinery have been discussed at a Conference organised by the National Association of Agricultural Contractors. Participants were the manufacturers of land drainage pipes, specialised machinery manufacturers and drainage contractors. All agreed on the need for more rapid adoption of mechanical handling methods.

Problems faced by contractors—in particular, unnecessarily high costs entailed by existing methods—were explained by Mr. Dick Hughes, Chairman of the National Land Drainage Contractors' Committee, and its immediate past Chairman Mr. Paul Wiles.

Systems already in use involving packaged pipes were described by

various manufacturers; machinery manufacturers indicated where certain equipment limitations exist.

Mr. Brian Trafford, Ministry of Agriculture, set out the broad guidelines within which any future developments in pipe specifications that may be considered desirable must lie. He described an experimental new type, now under investigation, which may be easier to handle.

Although no revolutionary new system is at the moment in sight, the contractors strongly urged the advantages of packaging pipes in a convenient module which can be easily divided for handling by machines ranging from the smallest to the largest.

The Conference agreed that, whilst each contractor must evolve his own on-site handling system according to conditions, the suggested module must provide the flexibility to make this possible.

"Job Well Done"

Many of our readers will have played on the splendid golf course of Ashridge, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Herts., and may therefore be interested to learn that Mr. Jack Wayman has recently retired after 42 years of service on the Green staff.

Mr. Wayman was involved in the construction of the course at Ashridge from 1928, became a member of the staff in 1932, and Head Greenkeeper in 1967. He has worked harmoniously with his successor, Mr. Bob Goodwin, who is Hon. Secretary of our Midland Section, who will no doubt, benefit from the extensive local knowledge acquired by Mr. Wayman over 46 years.

For his loyalty and capability, Mr. Wayman has received due appreciation from both the Club and his staff colleagues, and he is provided with a comfortable pension from the Club he has served so well.

We wish him a long and happy retirement.