

take the time and trouble to give the likely applications a thorough investigation.

If the Professional Golfers' Association of America would give their members a rating and keep on file a detailed history of the workings of its membership it would facilitate matters and be a dependable source for clubs to draw from and make for satisfaction on both sides. As this condition does not exist yet, except to a certain extent with some state P. G. A. groups, it makes it necessary to solicit applications.

There will be a flood of letters, but the business man knows which are for the discard and gives his attention to the few remaining. Before a man receives the stamp of approval the secretary should find out from the applicant's club what his ability, character and integrity amount to, the firms he does business with, and find out from them if he is in good standing financially. Then it is a matter of deduction. The selection of a professional is a serious matter. Clubs need dependable men who are always on the job. The professional's an important and responsible position to fill and should be treated accordingly by clubs that want desirable men. The better the man the greater the service and though it may cost a little more the returns warrant the expenditure.

## What Maintenance to Determine Right Cost?

By ED B. DEARIE, JR.

THE question most frequently asked is: "What should it cost to properly maintain an eighteen-hole golf course?" But so far it has been impossible to give a satisfactory answer and it is obvious an exact answer will never be possible.

No two courses are alike in construction, topography, soil and turf conditions. This is also true with regard to the attitude or demands of the members of a golf

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club, which are also very different from each other.

One course may have an elaborate system of traps and bunkers, while another may have natural hazards and ravines running through the course. One may be on a stiff clay and another on loose sand. One may require a great deal of artificial drainage and another may not require any. One course may have good top soil available for dressings and compost, while another, being on poor soil, may have difficulty in getting soil material.

There are so many uncontrollable factors that it is hard to set a standard of cost.

### Members Variable

The least uncontrollable of all factors are the members. They seem to misunderstand these conditions. First it is one whine and then another. We have one course in mind where the greenkeeper is obliged, in order to satisfy members, to rake and manicure all the traps and bunkers three times a week, though they are built in natural loose sand and would be better traps if left to take care of themselves. More or less a trap without whiskers, like a son of David's, is not a regular trap. This brings us to the point that there can be no standard set for fair cost of maintenance until the essentials of good maintenance are agreed upon in some way, nor can there be a fair comparison of cost until costs are kept on the same system of accounting.

What are the essentials of good maintenance or what is good maintenance, or when is maintenance good or what must be done to have good maintenance and what can be omitted? For the present this question has gone unanswered.

Certainly good maintenance is not the variety exhibited on a few ultra courses which are kept in championship form every minute of the season. By good maintenance we mean such as permits and requires good golf to be played.

It is just as important to have conditions such as compel good golf to be played as it is to play the game itself. The game does not contemplate absolute freedom

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from bad lies, but it is expected that they shall be unusual or uncommon.

To make a start towards an answer to our most frequently asked question we have done little in the way of working up a system of cost keeping that has proven flexible enough to apply in various parts of the country. To go further we ask what, in the opinion of our greenkeepers, constitutes a proper course allowance for good maintenance.

## Compost Characteristics and Its Preparation

(Continued from page 17.)

covered with from three to six inches of earth to prevent the escape of valuable ammonia. As to size and height of stack one must be guided by the local conditions and methods of handling. In some cases a low pile covering a large area that permits of frequent tractor cultivation is preferred, though such is wasteful both of material and of quality of resulting compost. Usually a heap ten to fifteen feet wide and five to seven feet high is the practice. This makes a very handy width to manage when screening and turning. When the materials going into the heap are dry a good wetting down should be given; in fact the heap should be kept reasonably moist at all times to encourage the most favorable bacterial action. A small amount of lime added to peat and muck is also advised. This will help the decomposition of the heap, though it is not enough to effect the character of the soil in the green.

While it is advocated that a covered compost heap is better preserved from washing rains and weathering, it is doubtful if such procedure is necessary or profitable. There are but few sections where the rainfall is so heavy that the leaching resulting therefrom is a really serious matter; actually in most cases the rains are helpful in keeping the heaps moist.



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