

Greenkeeping Work as Season's Curtain Falls

AS THE windup of the season approaches the clubs north of the Mason and Dixon line and east of the Pacific slope find their greenkeeping schedule jammed with important details. Putting the course away for the winter, in the proper fashion means that a lot of expense will be avoided the following spring and that the "off season" for play may be utilized in taking advantage of Mother Nature's nursing.

Greens departments that are very much on the job have set schedules of work that must be completed before the snow flies. Some of the greenkeepers who are putting their courses in shape for the winter in accordance with teachings of their past experience have told GOLFDOM of their practices.

Trester's Work

Harry Trester, greenkeeper at the Highland Country club at Indianapolis, makes a major detail of the autumn work reseeded of his fairways, especially the bare spots. He sees that his tees are put into the best possible shape and given a good top-dressing. Trester's idea is that so much attention always is given to the greens, as a matter of course, that the tees are too frequently given just enough treatment to let them "get by" with the result that when the next season rolls around there is too much play to allow repair of the ravages to which the tees are subjected.

Each year at the same time at the end of summer he puts out a new nursery of bent. He doesn't like two year old bent stolons, and these new nurseries keep him on the safe side in case anything should happen to his greens. Giving the greens a good heavy top-dressing about the time the cold weather sets in is the best thing any greenkeeper can do, says Trester. After the season's heavy play is over is a good time for refilling the traps, he points out, as the ground is frozen and hauling involves no risk of damage to the fairways.

One of the big parts of Highland's fall work is cleaning, repairing and painting tools and equipment preparatory to putting them in safe storage for the winter. When this work is done right the green-

keeping force is all set to hop on the job without delay at the dawn of spring.

Schrader's Plan

Walter H. Schrader, greenkeeper at the Harlem Golf club, Forest Park, Ill. has one of his busiest periods around the season's closing time. Harlem is a daily fee course with heavy play, so Schrader has to get his course in shape to open early in good condition, or find any oversights sharply reflected in the cash register. He plans his work thoroughly, takes no chances, and gets the jump on the weather and the profits, on the fairways.

Schrader outlines his fall work as follows:

"Bare spots near the greens and the approaches will be lightly top dressed with a good soil and then reseeded. They will also receive their necessary fertilizers, before the snow falls. Have done this during the winter when the snow is on the ground, but tractors with heavy lugs always leave their marks, and to eliminate this I am putting the fertilizer on while the fairways are dry and a lighter tractor for the distribution of same can be used.

"All the drain tile in the fairways and traps will require attention, some needing replacing and other cleaning.

"New work, such as building top greens or adding to the formation, is done now, as it would probably delay the play in the early spring. At the present writing our No. 2 Green is being built up. As soon as the added formation is completed in the rough, the final touches, such as good pulverized topsoil mixed with sand and fertilizer will be spread on to a thickness of three or four inches, and then the bent stolons will be planted. If they get a start of about three weeks they will be fit to survive the winter months, without covering, except for a light top dressing, provided the weather is right, I do not believe in covering a green in this section if the tile and surface drainage are O. K., in order to prevent winterkill.

"The greens will all be top dressed again within the next two weeks, probably for the last time this season. At the present time the greens mowers are set down to take off a shade more of grass than during the summer. This is done to

make the grass roots go down further to establish themselves for what might be a trying winter on golf turf grasses.

"Our top dressing is also pulverized at this time, and hauled under cover, for the winter months, in order to have it on hand in the spring as soon as the weather permits the first top dressing.

"The gardener is also very busy at this period enlarging flower beds, and fertilizing old beds after redigging same, getting ready to place the tulip bulbs for the first spring flowers. These flowers are usually in bloom in May and add materially to the beauty of the clubhouse and surroundings.

"The trees are also given attention, as all dead wood is cut out, and dead stock replaced. Transplanting trees is also taken care of at the proper period.

"I might say that these are some of my fall requirements to place the course in shape for early spring play. When the snowy season starts then we are ready to overhaul all green and fairway mowers, trucks and tractors, and do other work such as accumulates around a golf course."

P. G. A. War Relief Fund Is Solid

ALEX PIRIE, president of the Professional Golfers' Association of America, in a recent address called attention to the substantial balance in the P. G. A. War Relief Fund. This fund was established during the war by the income from exhibitions in which many of the leading professionals took part.

Several thousand dollars remain in the fund for the aid of professionals who served in the allied armies and who now may be incapacitated as the result of war service. Administration of this fund was cited as evidence of the thoughtful combination of good business judgment and sentiment in the professionals' handling of their organization's affairs.

Door Man Increases Welcome

IF YOUR club makes any pretense toward the social side of club life, it is well worth while to detail some employee as door-man, particularly on the week ends. A cherry smile and a word of welcome or good-night, particularly if the door-man can call the member by name, is always appreciated and helps to make the day and evening just a little more enjoyable to the members.

How Much Money Is Spent for Golf?

CO-OPERATION of every club president in the United States is being earnestly solicited by GOLFDOM in our effort to determine how much money is being spent for golf annually in the United States, and the amount invested in golf club real estate, buildings and equipment.

Each golf club president has been mailed a return postcard asking for figures that will be as nearly accurate as convenient. From the returns, GOLFDOM will compile and publish in an early issue, the first, fairly definite financial survey of the golf field in the United States. We wish to thank the head of every golf club for his co-operation in supplying us promptly with data concerning his club.

The postcards asked for the following details:

Number of holes.

Number of members (or if fee or public course, approximate number of rounds played in 1927).

Approximate annual income (dues, initiation fees, greens fees, house accounts, etc.).

Approximate annual course maintenance expense.

Approximate amount invested in maintenance equipment.

Approximate annual expenditure for house operation.

Approximate annual business done by pro shop.

Approximate present value of club's land and clubhouse (furnished).

If you, as the president of a golf club, have failed to receive one of these postcards, write for one, or better yet, forward the information on your own letter-head. Thank you.

Arch Supporters Good Shop Item

A WELL selected stock of arch supporters, to fit the average sizes of shoes, makes a good line to carry in a pro shop. Prominent display makes the turn-over rapid, they have a good profit that is just so much "velvet" for the pro, and the product is one that is of great value to lots of the members, particularly the heavy males, and the women who suffer from the change from a high-heeled shoe to a golf shoe.