

"I never had time. There are more of them up and down the course."

The pro-greenkeeper, when this matter was mentioned to him by the chairman, said, "Hellfire! I must have that taken out at once," and instructed, with various commands and ejaculations, a man to remove the injurious stone at once. I might mention the pro-greenkeeper had had charge of affairs for seven years, but he had not seen that rock or any of the others. It was just an unconsidered "trifle," and there are scores of them on a golf course.

In conclusion, I would say that we must all recollect that trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle.

Labor vs. Machinery in Greens Budget

By "Mac"

"WHAT shall we spend on upkeep?"

Far too few greens committees can answer that question with any degree of certainty. Because the average greens committee does not know the amount of work required to keep a golf course in good condition, most of the estimates of annual maintenance costs are too low. But there are some clubs that are too liberal in course maintenance allotments. It has been my observation that these clubs usually do not operate on a budget basis and the greens operations are carried on in the fashion made traditional by a sailor on shore leave.

I have seen a case where \$23,000 has been spent on upkeep that I would consider expensive at \$5,000. In my part of the country a man who will spend over \$18,000 for an average year's upkeep I would hold open to an argument. If he spent more than that I consider it safe to say that he is not using modern equipment and modern methods.

In my opinion a good greenkeeper can keep an 18 hole course of good design in first class condition on a budget from \$16,000 to \$18,000 a year, barring extra work that is really a capital expense.

I have been connected with four clubs in this country since coming from Scotland. Not any of them have spent more than \$16,000 a year for upkeep and their courses were kept in good shape. My course right now is one of the best in the district (the south central) and my budget is \$15,750 a year. This is my first season at my club. The course was not in the best condition when I took it over and

there are still a few things that need improving, but they will have to be worked up gradually as time and the budget permit. My members say they never saw the course looking so good and so well trimmed up, and visitors from some of the country's foremost courses compliment its condition, so I have every reason to believe that my budget is a reasonable one.

Cutting Labor Budget

I have tried it and know that a good bit can be cut out of the labor budget by the use of modern machinery, such as compost mixers, etc. When a lot of greens committees realize that they can spend for up-to-date equipment and stand a very good chance of quickly saving its cost in reduction of labor charges, the greenkeepers' work is going to be easier and better.

What I consider a reasonable budget for a course to follow is:

Labor	\$11,500
Sand, gas oil, repairs, etc.	2,500
Machinery	1,500
Seed and fertilizer	1,000
Weeding	1,000

I work my budget on an elastic basis. For instance; if I am under my budget for weeding and need some more machinery, I pay for the machinery out of what I have saved in weeding. I never have seen a budget where there wasn't some room for adjustment along this line.

From boyhood in Scotland I have been connected with golf and during my connection with it have seen nothing that equals, in its practical significance, the present interest greenkeepers are taking in course maintenance. Much more now is available in the way of information, and a greenkeeper must keep in touch with all available data or slip behind the procession.

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