

Good Machines Save Man-Power

By FRED SHERWOOD

Greenkeeper, Northmoor Country Club, Chicago

A SHORT time ago, I was quoted as having said, "The maintenance expense of a golf course could be considerably reduced, likewise the club's annual budget by cutting down the labor costs, if modern machinery is used on a more extensive and comprehensive basis." Perhaps the following will explain to some extent what I mean:

Machinery is on the market for almost every conceivable job on a modern golf course. While it is true that some of this machinery is worthless as far as performing the work claimed for it, other machines are real labor-saving devices, and they are here to stay as a boon to the greenkeeper.

It is not my intention to attempt to enumerate any one firm's machine for any special service. I am fully convinced, after practical tests and demonstrations, that some of the firms turn out very fine labor-saving machinery—devices ranging from tractors, gang mowers, to putting green and bunker mowers.

Visiting some golf clubs, I have been amazed at the piles of miscellaneous junked machinery lying around the barns and out-sheds, most of them bought as labor-saving devices on the strength of a smart salesman's word. Whether it was the fault of employee or the superintendent, or possibly the makers, the machine has been discarded and junked as no good. Instead of saving labor, it has only helped to swell the budget.

In the past, as well as the present, golf clubs can trace many of their big budget expenses largely to discarded and junked machinery. My experience has been that the chairman of the green-committee does not, as a rule, frequent the barns or sheds. A peek now and then into the sheds, and a few questions asked regarding the used and unused machinery, etc., might en-first-class playing condition at all times. It does not matter if, perchance, the budget increases \$2,000 or \$3,000. It is the small club with limited resources that generally



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lighten the green-committee and broaden their knowledge on various matters.

An 18-hole golf course, properly supervised by an up-to-date and intelligent greenkeeper who has had more of the practical and less of the theoretical side of it, could, and should, normally run an 18-hole golf course and keep it in perfect condition at all times for play and still have lots of change out of \$20,000.

Golf courses vary in upkeep. Those that have sprinkling systems installed are likely to run higher in labor upkeep than those clubs who have not the system.

Machinery, properly used and properly handled, with up-to-date devices, will save golf clubs much man-power. A summary of some of the items generally considered as the most expensive will, perhaps, be of interest. Fairway mowing twice a week with a tractor and five mower units will entail an expenditure of 960 hours for one man alone, or \$550 for the season. These items will vary according to what a club must pay its labor.

	Total Hours	Wages
Rough, once a week.....	480	\$ 250
Fairways	960	550
Scythe man	1,200	660
Four-acre machine for cutting traps and around green	1,200	720
Five men cutting greens daily	3,600	2,000
	7,440	\$4,180

These items are based on the maximum expenditure rather than the minimum. I have refrained from mentioning the expenses for top dressing, fertilizing, worming, brown patch, weeding, raking traps, etc. Most greenkeepers seem to have a way of their own for doing these pursuits. But here again, quite a deal of man-power can be saved if the greenkeeper will familiarize himself with modern appliances, put on the market to minimize the cost of the various items I have just mentioned.

First-class golf clubs with large incomes are not perturbed one way or the other, providing their golf courses are kept in

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first-class playing condition at all times. The small club wants to save.

The best way this can be brought about is to engage a thoroughly practical greenkeeper, familiar with all up-to-date machinery. Give him a free hand to work in conjunction with his chairman; eliminate red-tape methods; recognize him as an authority on his work, and let him account for all expenditures once a week. Having confidence in him will make him want to attain great heights and will give him pleasure in running the course at a minimum expenditure.

Play All Winter Without Green Injury

WESTMORELAND, in the Chicago district, probably has more winter golfing "nuts" than any other club in the section. Play continues all through the winter on the permanent greens and to the unformed observer it is an amazing fact that Westmoreland is one of the earliest courses in shape for spring play, and continues in excellent condition all through the normal season.

It is the belief of the people responsible for Westmoreland's all-year play and maintenance policy that since nature takes pretty good care of pasture grass during the winter it should do as well for golf turf. They admit that walking on the greens during the winter makes them rough in the spring, but they correct this condition by rolling in the spring when the frost leaves and before the ground gets too dry.

A tractor-drawn roller 6 feet wide and weighing not less than 2,200 pounds is used for this green rolling the same as for the fairways. Experienced men operate the tractor, so there is no damaging slippage of wheels. The man uses his head. He doesn't run up hill on a green at a brisk speed. He gets results by careful operation and in addition to smoothing out the rough spots left by winter play, the rolling keeps the moisture in the ground so the greens get a good early start.

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