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California Gets Park Golf on a High Plane



Greens At Lake Chabot Municipal Course Are Big and Are Kept in Good Shape.

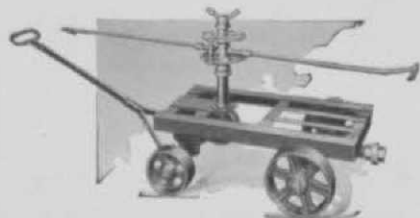
THOSE responsible for the maintenance of private golf courses may think often that they have about all the burden that can be handled by greenkeepers or green-chairmen, but until they compare notes with the men in charge of municipal golf courses, they really haven't qualified for fair standing as first reader students of misery.

It has been the job of one of GOLF-DOM'S staff recently to offer a sympathetic bosom upon which municipal golf men

could sob out woes, and some rare tales we have heard. It is a hard battle for many municipal authorities to escape from the hallowed traditions of politics and to see the many golf men, despite this condition, trying to establish a high standard of maintenance at low cost is really inspiring when you consider the harassing political influences.

In the first place there often are people in authority who consider the golf courses rank misuses of the city's income. They

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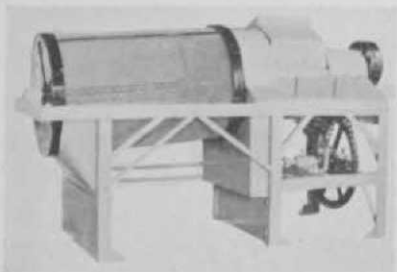


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give deep thought to the appointments of the police department's gondolas and subjects of like civic importance, and howl unto high heaven when the municipality considers spending some money for a public golf course in keeping with the city's standing. Then there are jungles of red-tape to hack through before purchases are made, and countless other difficulties, but it must be said for the municipal golf men that they are a patient and persistent breed of high minded mortals and they are making it so the city without really representative public courses today must offer apologies to its voters and visitors.

Considerably more than a casual investigation reveals that the park end of municipalities in manned by executives of such character and ability that golf must pay them high tribute for their work in bringing the sport to the eager rank and file.

The above references to the sorrowing and steady striving of the park men confronted with political obstacles was not made with the case of Oakland (Calif.) in mind. About that angle at Oakland we are entirely uninformed. But what we do know about that situation is that R. W. Robertson, superintendent of recreation there, and his staff, are giving to the city municipal golf that is of the highest standard.

Mr. Robertson has told GOLFDOM some of the details of his work that has resulted in providing Oakland with public golf of a character that might well be the aim of many a private club. Robertson says:

"Since the opening in 1923 of the Lake Chabot Municipal golf course, which is owned and operated by the Recreation Department of the City of Oakland, (Calif.), every effort has been made to keep the course in splendid condition throughout the year for the pleasure of 55,000 players yearly. A crew of experienced greensmen are kept busy on the course which is open to the public nearly every day of the year due to Oakland's mild climate. Within the last few months the Recreation Department has purchased 1500 pounds of rye, red top and dutch clover seed and 20 tons of fertilizer.

"The ground was first prepared for re-seeding by drawing a heavy spiked roller over the course with the use of a two

ton Caterpillar tractor. This method aerated the ground, which is used daily and cannot be tilled in any other way. The seed was then scattered and the ground heavily sprinkled by the spring rains.

This year the department has laid 400 feet of drain tile on the fifth fairway and also graded and made a drain ditch for the sixth fairway. New benches and drinking fountains have been placed at convenient points on the links. Many trees planted at strategic points have added greatly to the natural beauty of the course. During the last few months 350 additional cypress, black acacia, Monterey pine and flowering acacia shrub have been planted on the grounds, which in a very few years will change the appearance of the course, making it even more attractive than it is now."

Old Layouts Fairer to Women Golfers

By MISS CECIL LEITCH

Ex-British Ladies' Champion

A WELL-KNOWN golf course architect told me recently that one of his ambitions is to lay out a golf course entirely for women. I was unable to follow up the remark with a discussion as to his ideas on the subject, but he gave me food for thought. Shortly after this brief conversation, an important women's meeting was played over a modern course, and during this event a competitor said to me, "Isn't this an ideal course for women?" I could not agree with this opinion, and my negative answer caused surprise with the result that my reasons were solicited. It was then that I ventured to point out that the course was laid out for "tigers" (the term now used to describe the best performers of the male persuasion). My inquirer still adhered to her original opinion, so further explanation was necessary. Her attention was then drawn to several incidents which had already occurred in the event then in progress.

Let me give one of these here to illustrate my argument. At a certain hole on the course, A, representing one side, and B, representing the opposing side, were all square at the end of eighteen holes and the match had to be played out. A hit a very poor drive to the next hole and the ball finished in a much better position than it deserved in thin rough. B had a perfectly struck long tee shot on the true line and



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