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Perhaps we have ourselves to blame in that our efforts were not sufficiently widespread and timely. If that is the case, club officers and members may well afford the effort of a letter to each of their Senators and Representatives before the next session of Congress convenes and certainly the frankest expression of opinion can't hurt us much.

Of course, we are good Americans and good Americans do not call their Senators or Representatives to account for "good practical politics." Still we have been crowded a little here; another quarter of a million on top of the rest of the tax levied in this District is a little burdensome; so, even if we don't consider the matter before we cast our votes in November, a nice gentlemanly little note from each of us to these legislators before the next session of Congress may save us some money.

Perhaps the squeaking wheel does get the first attention after all. Well why not squeak—Loud?

**In Cleveland District Golfer.*

How We Ward Off Winter Damage

By C. A. TREGILLUS

Supt., Mill Road Farm Golf Course, Everett, Ill.

FEAR of "winter kill" seems to be the ever recurring "fly in the greenkeepers' Christmas ointment." So much depends upon favorable weather conditions, suitable snow fall and so on that it is practically impossible to undertake preventive measures against all the possibilities or even probabilities of turf loss.

Fortunately at Mill Road Farm the greens are sufficiently undulating to assure fairly efficient surface drainage during the winter. This is a great help since I have found throughout my experience that much turf is lost annually as the result of water flooding the putting surface, either held in natural pockets or penned up by snow and ice. Most of this drainage occurs, I think after this water has frozen and commences to thaw out on sunny days, causing a sudden and abnormal rise in temperature at the surface

In spite of the fact that the water does

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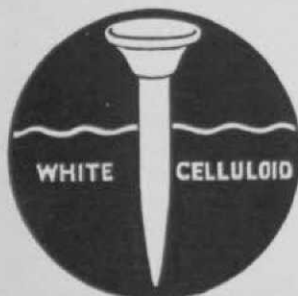
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run off our greens quite well, still we watch them carefully during the thaws to see that the water is getting away readily. When ice sheets form they are broken up to allow the air to circulate and avoid hot house conditions beneath the ice.

We expect a heavier mortality on newly seeded and vegetative surfaces due to heaving and drying out. We try to avoid this as much as we can by lightly mulching what appear to be susceptible areas.

Our chief concern is winter disease—"snow mold." Last winter was very bad except where we had treated and this season we have already had a touch of it. As a precaution against it we have treated all bent surfaces (greens, approaches, margins, and tees), with a late fall application of fungicide. This year it was put on early in November, while last year the application, made for a late September attack of fungus, proved a protection against the winter trouble. However, I think that late applications are the safest. Furthermore I expect to keep a strict watch during March and early April and will retreat if there are any signs of spotting.

These, I might say, are the active precautions we take. In our regular routine we try to arrange things so that the putting greens have a fair covering at the close of play. We set up the mowers for the last three weeks, so that mowing was more of a trimming. We fertilized rather lightly towards the end of the growing season.

Other Winter Work

We carry over a couple of men besides the greenkeeper. This gang will overhaul and repaint all the machinery and equipment. We continued up till the holidays with the six men, who cared for the greens all summer and did a lot of tidying and cleaning up. Last winter this gang was kept on all winter to trim out woods bordering the fairways, but this winter it was thought sufficient to employ them till Christmas only.

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