

saving equipment. Here is a warning. All labor-saving devices to date have to do with routine work, work that must be done periodically, daily or otherwise. The budget demands that the labor force be reduced to "moving the machines" and a spare. Don't yield to the demand for if you do it will in due time be costly to your club.

The green-committee and greenkeeper are working with things that are animate. Turf is sensitive, is hurt by harsh treatment, and responds to nursing. Wounds cannot be entirely healed by machinery, neither does machinery pay particular attention to the pimples on the face of "number nine" green, or nurse a sick green. The danger for the budget makers is that in their enthusiasm they are liable to reduce their labor budget so much that there will be no personal care, nursing, or attention to ailing areas of turf.

Labor-saving machinery is *desirable* for routine work on golf courses for it releases men from grooming the course and encouraging the grass, particularly sickly grass. If experiences teach that a machine can save four men's time, buy it, but cut only two men from the payroll instead of four. Even then there will be a reduction in the budget. Place more value on the released men than on the payroll saving by discharging men.

Advancing the Greenkeeper

Some one slips an item in the budget proposals for, say \$250, to be used for professional improvement of the greenkeeper. Should such an appropriation be in lieu of a salary increase? How should the greenkeeper use it? What becomes of added obligations if the greenkeeper accepts the offer? What will he get out of it? Will it be worth it? These are pertinent questions to be answered frankly.

Salary increases are for added responsibilities or rewards of merit. Professional improvement is keeping abreast the times and increasing one's knowledge. One can hardly be substituted for the other.

A greenkeeper can use an appropriation for professional improvement in a number of ways. There are meetings and conventions that he should attend. There are always special projects being undertaken within reasonable travel distance, or the winter schools for greenkeepers are worth attending.

The greenkeeper accepting professional improvement opportunities from a club is

obligated to put forth his best efforts that he may acquire as much knowledge as possible. He is also morally obligated to remain with the club long enough for the club to profit by their generosity.

The greenkeeper will get as much out of professional improvement as a member of any profession does. The amount will be in direct proportion to his efforts, willingness to learn, and ability to absorb what he sees and hears.

If professional improvement is unprofitable, why are doctors, lawyers, bankers, and merchants seeking and demanding such improvement?

The 1931 budgets of golf clubs are to have a very far-reaching result upon the individual club and upon golf courses in general. They must not be selfish and short sighted but must be economically sound.

Greenkeepers Show Space in Lively Demand

Cleveland, O.—Fred Burkhardt, chairman of the show committee of the National Association of Greenkeepers, forecasts a complete sell-out of exhibition space at the fifth annual exposition which will be held at the Columbus (O.) Auditorium during the first week in February, 1931.

Burkhardt reports that more than three-quarters of the space already has been reserved. Indications for attendance at the annual convention which will be held in conjunction with the exhibit point to a record figure as a number of additional clubs have ruled to make their greenkeepers' convention expense a logical detail of the maintenance budget.

Golf, the game that grew without newspaper publicity, now is getting attention from the press. At Merion 75 golf writers filed 2,225,000 words with the 32 telegraphers in the press quarters. Thousands of words additional were filed at the Philadelphia telegraph offices. When Jones made his debut at Merion in 1916, 300,000 words on the tournament were filed by 29 writers to six telegraphers.

The writers praised the Merion press arrangements made by R. L. Barrows; chairman of the club's press committee, as the best of any national golf event.

Gate receipts at Merion totaled \$55,670, the highest amount of any national championship gate. There were 3,091 six-day tickets and 16,362 daily tickets sold.