

manufacturers are pushing forward the performance standards so swiftly that it would pay clubs to junk many pieces of substantial old equipment in favor of improved, speedier appliances. We have before us the operating figures of an establishment standardizing on one make of maintenance equipment. Although some of this equipment has been operated under severe conditions for seven years, the annual cost of repair parts for this constantly-used machinery is less than three per cent.

You might easily look at three per cent and be inclined to forget the tremendous labor economies that could be effected by junking equipment out-dated by manufacturer's later models. That extravagant mistake will be made by too many unless the budget for 1931 is figured beyond the end of the green-committee's and finance committee's noses.

This is the year of years for the thoughtfully operated golf club to bid farewell to the foolishness of straining at the gnat of purchases for maintenance and swallowing the mountain of cost for dispensable and unnoticeable trimmings.

Machine Cost Cutting Salvation of Budget

By "THE COLONEL"

FURTHER indication of response to the warning against blind blundering with the greens budget comes in the accompanying analysis of the conditions and the logical "out". The writer is one of the country's well known, practical authorities on course maintenance.

MAJOR R. AVERY JONES of Baltusrol contributes to a recent number of the Green Section *Bulletin* a very timely article on "*The Greenkeepers' Dwindling Budget.*" All will agree that it deals with a subject of growing importance to the golf clubs. Many of these, as we all know, are faced today with the problem of how to keep their expenses within the limits of their resources without detracting from the high standard of course maintenance members insist upon.

Major Jones remarks: "In these days, golf clubs are so numerous there is real competition and the one that falls behind in the standard of the golf course is apt to see a declining membership and declining income—a very serious situation for the club."

This situation resolves itself obviously into the question, how are these two apparently irreconcilable interests to be adjusted?

In reviewing this subject we are venturing to predict that the clubs will have to look for help in the direction of time-saving machinery. Perhaps many of them have not kept informed on the truly amazing advances that have been made more or less recently in this field, improvements which enable standard mowing machinery to attain a speed of operation never before thought possible.

It will be observed that nearly all manufacturers of mowers in this country are now exploiting new designs which are credited with the power to quicken greatly all major mowing operations. If saving time is also saving money, what would be more profitable than for our clubs to investigate these claims?

If it is true that the 40 to 60 minutes now consumed in cutting by hand an average putting green, has been reduced drastically, and the cutting time of the fairways at least two-thirds, does not this give the choice to a club with a "dwindling budget," of two ways out of its difficulty—either to dispense altogether with two-thirds of the men at present employed on these two operations, or better still, to transfer these men to other work upon the course, which has probably been heretofore somewhat neglected from motives of economy?

If the standard of upkeep can at least be maintained and all of this time thus saved in the several operations, what better way is there than this to settle this economic question?

Everybody of course has observed that the cutting operations, particularly of greens, are very expensive. But it has always been assumed that the fundamental importance of the work and its difficult character has forced upon the greenkeeper not only the employment of the best men but a full complement of them. Up to date, this has meant that about half of the entire maintenance force has been assigned to the mowing department. This suggested substitution of labor and time-saving machines will not only result in a reduced budget, but what is perhaps of equal advantage, a freer course for the players, since the operators can get off the greens and fairways much quicker than ever before. And all without in the least disturbing the critical labor situation.