

turned, merely were cutting off the runners and leaving the roots to multiply the runners one hundredfold. I put an end to this business by discharging the offenders and starting a system whereby I inspected the weeds pulled by each man every day. If there was not a large proportion of roots in the day's takings, there was the devil to pay. The greenkeeper who has a problem like that will do well to investigate his men's weed-pulling methods, as it is extremely hard to get men who have enough patience to do a proper job of weeding."

Firing the offenders may seem like a heroic measure, but the author of the system has one of the best kept courses in the state.

### Hard-to-Learn Tasks.

Other tasks which course superintendents always find difficult to teach new men include absolute disposal of grass clippings, keeping grass sufficiently watered on the banks of traps, cutting the greens from a new angle on each occasion, and filling in gouges made by pitched balls. Something else which it is perennially difficult for greensmen to learn not to do is tampering with the cutting machinery, a task which should be under the sole jurisdiction of the club mechanic.

### Good Mechanic Essential.

The belief is becoming more and more prevalent on the Pacific coast that a good golf course is dependent upon a good shop run by an efficient mechanic. Not so many years ago in California, every broken part meant a special trip to the factory distributor for a replacement, and expensive hours of delay while cumbersome machinery was taken apart by inadequate tools to effect the repair. At the present time although machinery is vastly better than it used to be, the mechanic and the shop occupy a more significant place in the scheme of things because there is more machinery run at high speed. Some of the courses in the vicinity of Los Angeles at the present time are so well equipped with lathes, forges, and other apparatus that they are able to make many parts for existing machinery and in addition they are able to make tools of their own especially adapted to their peculiar needs.

Local greenkeepers assert that there is nothing like well kept tools to keep their men satisfied and for this reason the last five years has seen a remarkable improvement in shops and their equipment and a

consequent rise in the status of the course mechanic. This was evidenced during the recent turf equipment demonstration sponsored by the southern California greenkeepers at which time a large number of the visitors was composed of club mechanics whose immediate superiors were striving to keep in close contact with the latest in mechanical developments. Such a procedure would have been unknown a few years ago.

## Study Use of Course Workmen Displaced by Machinery

ONE subject discussed during the question-box confabs at the Massachusetts Agric. College's greenkeepers' winter school conference in March was whether a greenkeeper, having purchased new labor-saving machinery, was justified in laying off the labor saved, or whether he should utilize this labor to perform maintenance tasks previously left undone and thereby raise the standards of the course.

While it was conceded that the solution of this problem depended in large measure on the financial status of the club, the conclusion reached was that utilizing this saved labor for attending to the little things, unimportant in themselves but essential if a course is to appear well-groomed, was the smart procedure. In other words, purchase of labor-saving machinery should mean improvement of maintenance standards rather than reduction of maintenance costs.

## Save Hose by Telling Late Players to Use Valves

LATE afternoon golfers often find sprinklers at work on the greens. It is common practice to send a caddie ahead to pinch the hose and thus shut off the flow of the water until the balls have been holed out.

This is extremely hard on the hose; it will repay clubs to post notices at the first tee or otherwise inform the members that water should be turned off at the water outlet and that under no circumstances should caddies be permitted to double up the hose to cut off the water flow.

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