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### PET IDEAS COSTLY

Course Revamping by Novices Makes Greenkeepers Goats

By H. STODOLA

Sec., Minnesota Greenkeepers' Assn.

MOST CLUBS change green-chairman every annual meeting, or every two or three years. It is exceptional to keep a green-chairman longer. These men have different ideas of maintenance and construction and they usually have the greenkeeper carry out their ideas. As maintenance is quite standard a new chairman does not demand many changes in that respect.

But here is where the catch comes inreconstruction. Mr. Brown has wanted No. 10 green changed for a long time. He wants a built-up green that you can pitch to and stick without much skill. In fact he is an advocate of built-up greens. Many times he has recommended the change of No. 10. Now he is elected green-chair-The first thing he has done is man. change this particular green. This green may have fine turf, be architecturally sound, and blend beautifully in the sur-But Mr. Brown, an expert roundings. with the mashie-niblick wants another hole to pitch to, and he picks out No. 10.

What can the greenkeeper do? He can argue, show facts, but in the end he must do as he is told. What is the result? green is changed without any respect to the rest of the course and this green stands out as a monument to Mr. Brown. He continues to make other changes. In a year or so, Mr. White is green-chairman. He is a fanatic on traps, and many traps are put in.

In time the course is a disjointed effect of the ideas of many men. The greenkeeper is blamed for continually uprooting the course. No one is satisfied and the golf course is not a fine co-ordinated piece of art.

What can be done about it? Just this: Consult a qualified architect when you plan to make changes to the course. He must be qualified because all the club members will judge his work. He preferally should be local because then he can be consulted often. When any changes are to be made the architect can be consulted and when his plans are approved, the greenkeeper will gladly carry them

out. The responsibility is on the shoulders of the architect where it belongs. The green-chairman can get real results during his term. He will retain his popularity. The greenkeeper will not be the goat because the work will be properly planned. In the end the greenkeeper will become the maintenance expert he should be, the green-chairman will be relieved of responsibility for work he does not understand, and the local architect will make a real golf course to play on.

### "SWEET IS ADVERSITY"

New York Paper Sees Golf Benefit in Revision

EDITORIALLY welcoming the elimination of "show off" from golf club operations and putting on heat for an amateur status clean-up the New York Herald-Tribune of March 4 under heading of "Saner Times, Saner Golf" said:

"If the depression has done nothing better than deflate the pseudo-prosperity of the late paper profits era it has had a very beneficial effect in purging golf of much of its hocus-pocus and artificial flubdub. With the approach of spring, those who love the game for its many normal beneficences seem likely to come into their own. Gone are the swank and snobbery of clubs with members boasting that all those on their rolls had stood an initial assessment of anywhere from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Many such clubs have seen their memberships fall away during the winter, and they are now bidding for members at sane rates. Their very existence now depends on the good normal fellow willing to come forward with an annual assessment of from \$100 to \$400. Expenses have been cut, and the game of golf goes forward on the more solid and equitable basis of golf for golf's sake.

"Gone also are the semi-professionals who called themselves amateurs and gleaned a comfortable living playing for high stakes in many clubs. The new element which will save golf in this country is the type of man who plays not for high stakes and is not willing to pay monthly house accounts beyond all reason and entirely out of step with the new economic era.

"To a lesser degree also, we believe, will the golfers of the country witness amateur championships played by ringers whose



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