

How Greensmen's '32 Job Hopes to Protect Course Standards

By RALPH HAMILTON HALL

TODAY the average greenkeeper in the southeastern states is often faced with the almost insurmountable problem of maintaining his course in the so-called "pink of perfection" after having had his green-committee slice off a very considerable percentage of his budget allowance.

How to find the answer to the problem no one knows, or seems to know and after talking to a great number of green-chairmen and greenkeepers the only thing that I find myself certain about is that IT MUST BE DONE.

Greenkeepers at municipal and public fee courses are having one large and hearty laugh over the plight of their brethren employed by the private clubs. Depression has caused a great number of resignations from clubs and added to the

horde of players playing the "muny" and public fee courses with the result that several municipal superintendents in the vicinity of Atlanta actually turned back a surplus for the past year and during that year dressed up their courses.

For those of you (and us) who belong to the army headed by General Depression we can manage to get by provided that we map out a plan of campaign and then stick to it. Here are a few of the ways that we can come thru 1932 with colors flying:

Mechanize for Economy

This is still the machinery age and the quicker some of us snap into the realization of it the better off we will be. Labor saving equipment is vitally necessary if we are to make our courses appear to be,



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and be, perfectly conditioned. With the proven ability of power greens-mowers which now sell at an attractive price it is possible for us to maintain our greens at a saving in labor which will, over a period of one year, exceed the cost of the equipment and not lower course standards.

The same is true of top-dressing machines—to my mind the most necessary and important piece of equipment, with the exception of mowers, used on or about a golf course. It also holds good with tee-mowers, compost mixers, etc.

One can cut fairway maintenance costs to the bone and, when funds are once again available, very quickly bring the fairways back to their original condition but this does not hold true in the case of the greens. Too, anyone can pardon and even forget a cuppy fairway lie or two, as long as the putts—both the long and short ones—go kerplunk. In par golf about 50 per cent of the strokes are on the greens so, take the gentle tip of keeping your greens perfect even if you get gray-headed over the condition of the rest of the course. In other words, top-dress regularly and frequently.

Another item of greens maintenance ex-

pense which runs up into large red figures is that of watering. I suggest consideration of watering not more than two or three times a week but, when you do water, soak them 4 to 6 inches deep with a sprinkler that sprays almost a mist. Use several of them on each green at the same time so that the entire surface becomes thoroughly soaked. Water, hose, sprinklers and the labor to water cost plenty of money, so incorporate plenty of peat moss in your top-dressings and spike your greens thoroughly. The moisture-holding content of the peat will save you additional funds.

Group Men for Most Work

Another good habit to get into is that of working your men all together whenever possible. Scatter them out without supervision and they waste 40 per cent of your time. Stick with them where you can accomplish the job and then move on to the next one.

Wages, in a lot of cases, have been slightly reduced but, in a majority of instances, agreements have been reached to lengthen the working day as soon as Mother Nature keeps the sun on the job longer because of the already low wage

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scale prevailing in the southern and southeastern states.

Too many courses are suffering from insufficient fertilization. This is to be regretted but there doesn't seem to be any mid-way point on this item. You either do or you don't. Personally, if I were a green-chairman, I would recommend to the directors of a club that they close 9 of the holes entirely and use the available funds to maintain one side in perfect condition once I was convinced that I would absolutely not have funds enough to maintain the entire 18 holes.

Last, but not least, maintain your course maintenance equipment. You simply cannot do good work inexpensively with poor tools or dull ones. Keep all mowing blades sharp and machines in the same perfect adjustment. Tractors and all gas engines should be maintained by a responsible mechanic and not doctored by one of the course laborers. Have them inspected and adjusted periodically and, at the first indication of trouble of any sort, have the trouble fixed immediately. It's always cheaper in the end and we may have to do things cheaper this coming year.

"NEXT BEST TO RAIN" CLAIMS DOUBLE ROTARY SPRINKLER

Kansas City, Mo.—Double Rotary Sprinkler Co., Coca Cola Bldg., explains basis of its claim that Double Rotary sprinkler performance is "next best to rain" in an interesting booklet available direct from the company or from golf course supply houses.

The booklet details construction of the sprinkler responsible for even, gentle and extensive distribution of water by the device. Areas up to 80 ft. diameter are watered by Double Rotary. Bronze gears running in oil bath are mentioned as reason why the sprinkler requires no attention or repairs.

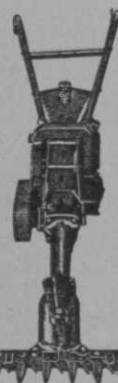
ATKINS & DURBROW HAVE MID- WEST DRICONURE PLANT

New York City.—Atkins & Durbrow, Inc., 165 John st., advises that mid-western business in Driconure has increased so decidedly that plant arrangements to serve the central territory have been completed with the Brook Hill Farms, Genesee Depot, Wis., near Milwaukee. The company's business on Sorbex, a super-fine peat moss, also is registering big early season sales. Emphasis put on aeration of greens by turf specialists in winter school and convention addresses has given Sorbex sales a boost.

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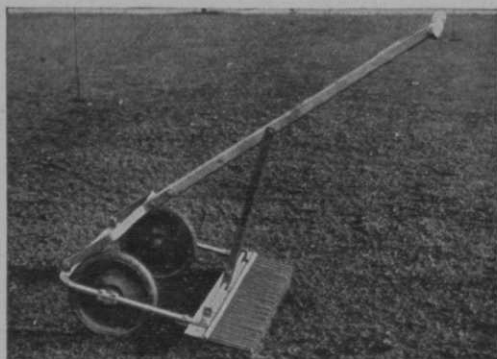
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