

ble contributing factor must be taken from time to time, preferably once a month. It is wisest to consider not alone how certain expenses may be curtailed before the next check-up, but also how the same expenditure will produce better golf. The most successful greenkeepers are not necessarily those who spend the least money, but those whose courses attract the most players.

In one of these check-ups a certain greenkeeper found that every few days one of his men had to be sacrificed to the cause of rodent control, there being an ever-recurring plague of gophers and moles in the vicinity. He found, by making each greensman responsible for the eradication of the pests within certain vital areas of the course that control could be maintained without loss of efficiency in other departments. Incidentally, in the palmy days of a few years ago, another superintendent found that the best and cheapest way to eradicate moles on his course was to put a bounty of 50 cents a head on the rodents. Today, half that amount is effective.

One man decided that the cost of poling greens was too much and could be reduced. He went to a nearby firm and had it make him a special broom, a monster of its kind with a nine-foot brush. It cost less than \$5.00, outlasted innumerable canes, and did a better job in a shorter time.

Greensmen Inventive Lot

Perhaps the best indication that at least California greenkeepers are taking their economies seriously is the fact that those once so popular monuments to waste, the junk piles, practically have disappeared from the land of sunshine and receivers. Instead, nearly every bit of scrap metal is hoarded as much fine gold, for some day it may be used in the manufacture of some money-saving device. Practically every greenkeeper in the state has a pet scheme or device that he is working on, and some have scores of them to their credit. The strange part about most of these brain children or brain storms is that many of them work. Scarcely is there a superintendent but has operating on his course sprinklers that will never recognize a father, weird contraptions with arms, cogs, wheels, vibrators, and baffle plates. But it is interesting to note that sprinkler manufacturers pay these creations the compliment of very close attention for many of them have incorporated principles that

later have been seized upon and patented. Another favorite subject for experiment and modification is the topdressing machine. It would seem from casual observation that no company has yet produced one of these machines that greenkeepers have not tried to improve upon. The writer has seen these machines taken to pieces by ambitious greenkeepers and rebuilt along absolutely different lines in the attempt to obtain a more even distribution.

In the southern part of the same state most club officials are not aware of the fact that there is a tremendous amount of borrowing and lending of tools and equipment between the various courses. The members of one club do not realize that the very excellent spiker it purchased a few years ago has helped to improve the turf on at least four courses in the district. Nor do these members know that tools from practically every other club in the vicinity have contributed to the excellence of its own greens. But such is the case and such will continue to be the case while the present very commendable spirit of co-operation prevails. It is this spirit of co-operation which is holding down the cost of upkeep and maintaining splendid turf in Southern California. Which makes it possible for greenkeeping to be robbed of many of its terrors in this district, because one's colleagues on neighboring courses are willing and eager to lend their opinion, equipment, and goodwill. In this manner the status of greenkeepers is being raised throughout the whole district.

Poa Annua Fight Begun

MAY INSPECTION of many mid-western courses shows much *poa annua* on greens. Mindful of what happened last year when this grass went out during the hot weather, some of the veteran greenkeepers are advocating longer cutting and less water on greens in the hope they'll be able to avoid last summer's big bare spots on their greens.

OAK RIDGE C. C. (Tuckahoe, N. Y.) has solved the trap foot-print problem by driving a 2 in. dia. galvanized iron pipe about 4 ft. long into the ground at the end of each trap, out of playing range. In these pipes are trap rakes. Players must not leave vicinity of traps until caddies have raked and replaced rakes. "Plan works great," says Isaac Simons, Oak Ridge pres.