

# END COURSE NEGLECT

## With Finances Better, Clubs Must Lay Plans Now for Links Betterment

By JOHN MacGREGOR

**TAKING FOR GRANTED** that clubs are today in much better condition financially than they have been for the past three years, it is my opinion that something must be done to bring our courses and maintenance equipment back to pre-depression standards. I realize this is a large order, and that it all cannot be accomplished at once, but clubs should make a start this year.

I believe many clubs are in need of new fairway mowing equipment. In many cases this equipment was practically worn out before the depression hit. The greenkeepers cooperated with the directors of their clubs in the endeavor to keep expenses at a minimum by patching this old equipment and making it do long after it was uneconomical to operate. Tractors come under the same category and I would further advise clubs to consider very seriously replacing their hand mowers with economical and efficient power mowers on their greens.

Another indispensable item of grounds equipment is the dump truck, which I find more economical than other types. If it is at all possible, provision should be made in the budget for whatever trucks are needed.

If the money is available, and I am taking it for granted it is available, a very necessary step in maintenance which has been neglected for several years because of financial stringency is fertilization, particularly of fairways. Here proper food must be provided if a dense turf is desired. Of course that is not the complete answer to dense turf, as water is another requisite, and because of the enforced neglect of the past few seasons, considerable seeding will also be in order. If club finances will permit, at least a start toward this fairway seeding and fertilization had best be planned for this fall.

At nearly all courses, inspection will disclose that traps and bunkers have not been given the attention recently that a first class course requires, and there has been a tremendous lack of weeding, with the result that tees and greens are not in the

best of condition, especially during the crab grass season which is now upon us. The cause of all these conditions is the curtailment of the budget, which made necessary a cut in the number of grounds employes. Thus, one answer to the poor physical condition of many courses is enough men to keep the layouts in a high state of perfection.

Information has come to me recently of damage done to courses by a remedy used to control web-worms. I caution greenkeepers to be very careful, before using some "cure-all" for this pest, to be sure it has been thoroughly tested and proven. There is one safe way to destroy the web-worm and that is by using a pyrethrum compound. The web-worm breathes through its skin and pyrethrum clogs the breathing pores. The remedy is not injurious to turf if used according to directions, and it is efficient—so why experiment?

## British Turf Experts Hold Confab at St. Ives

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTY** English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish greenkeepers assembled on May 30 at the St. Ives (Yorkshire) research station of the British Golf Union's Board of Greenkeeping Research for their second annual turf conference. Those present were given the opportunity of inspecting the 800 test plots of the station under spring conditions, and of comparing the relative desirability of various indigenous strains of bents and fescues.

Principal speaker was Prof. R. G. Stapledon, director of the Welsh Plant Breeding station, an acknowledged authority on all grassland investigation, who told why research was essential if golf turf was to be improved. He cautioned his hearers not to lean too strongly on American maintenance practices, as conditions in the British Isles were very likely of a nature sufficiently different to require particular treatment.

**AN ECONOMY TIP** comes from Elmer Biggs, pro-supt. of Peoria (Ill.) C. C. When greens mowing is on a 7-day schedule elimination of mowing and watering one day a week would save approximately \$800 a year on an 18-hole course and tend to give grass heavier top growth especially desirable in hot weather.