



Three views of Des Moines' new muni course. Over 350 workers have been employed at one time on this job.

IN THE PAST couple of years, greatest golf development has been in the construction of municipal links by relief labor. Literally scores of layouts have been built or are at present in the process of construction, due to the fact that the government believes the development of public recreation centers offers a better chance for ultimate dividends in the way of health and happiness of the people than any other form of public works. Under

the Federal Emergency Relief Administration's plan, instructions have been issued to give the building of playgrounds and all recreation plans first consideration.

Under the FERA plan, the government allots large sums of money to the various states. In each state there is a government agency to distribute the funds to cities and towns, who apply for stated amounts for various and specifically described community purposes. There are three guiding principles in awarding the money—as many men as possible must be put to work, the job must be completed with hand labor only (machines are of course permitted on work hand labor cannot do), and the project must eventually be self-liquidating.

Curtis Suggests Cities Apply.

Julian W. Curtiss of A. G. Spalding & Bros., who is chairman of the Athletic Goods Mfrs. Assn. committee on promotion, is deeply interested in the opportunity the FERA offers to expand the recreational facilities of the country, and offers this advice to all communities desiring to apply for some of the government funds:

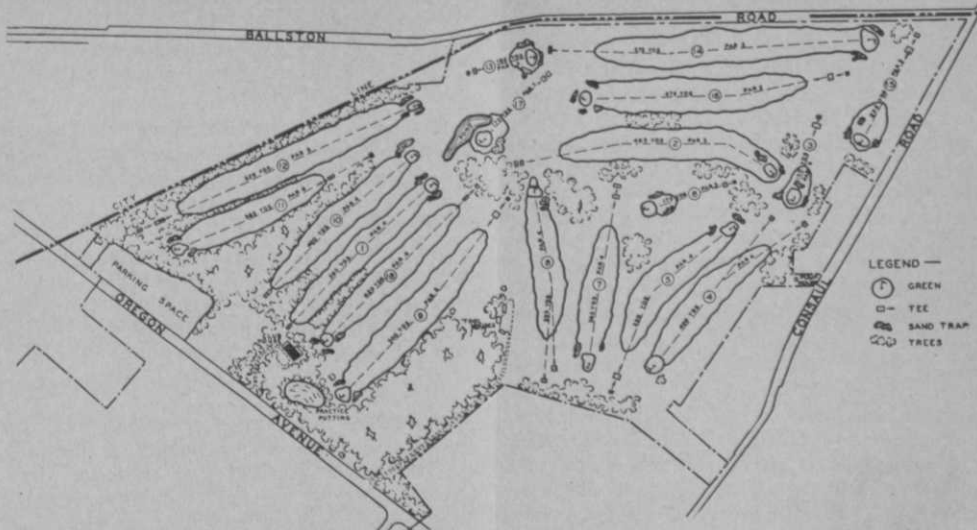
"If in your city you have a park head, appeal to him to apply for and use some of these government funds which are being distributed by the government to all states and through those states to the different cities and towns. This is all under the FERA; in other words, emergency funds to help unemployment. If there is no park department in your town, then probably it would be well to take the matter up with your first selectman, or whoever is the official authority, and tell him about the chance that is offered to give boys and girls, as well as adults, health and recreation."

Schenectady Builds Course.

Data on two major course construction jobs, which have been made possible through the use of government money, will prove of interest. The first is the new municipal golf course at Schenectady, N. Y., expected when opened for play to be one of the finest layouts in northeastern

FERA FUNDS PAVING WAY FOR MANY NEW MUNI PROJECTS

BY SEWARD DAVIS



Schenectady's new course will be a real championship layout of 6,580 yards.

New York state. P. J. Kirkwood, City of Schenectady CWA official, supplies the following information about the course:

"The new 18-hole Schenectady municipal golf course on recently acquired property adjoining Central park, will be a real championship links of 6,580 yards, calling for a par 72.

"An interesting feature of our construction work was the employment of experts in every line of endeavor in the work who have come directly from the ranks of the CWA, meaning that they were among the unemployed. Farmers for the plowing and breaking of the soil and the rough grading for laying out the course; soil chemists for the necessary soil tests and treatments; plumbers for the watering system; engineers and draftsmen; agriculturists, landscape architects and even a modeller.

"His job was to make plasticene models of the contours and construction of each of the greens to scale so that the roll and pitch of the green was known before construction was started. The greens have been built from these models. Greenkeepers and professionals from the various clubs in this section cheerfully donated their service and advice for the work."

A Real Layout.

Designer and architect of the course is A. F. (Bill) Knight. "My work has been mostly co-ordinating the talents and gifts of the men under me," Mr. Knight said. "They deserve much credit. It is amazing the amount of talent in any given direction

or in any profession that was represented in the ranks of the CWA."

There are 2,000 square feet of teeing surface for each hole divided into two tees for each hole; average putting green is 7,200 square feet. Arsenate of lead in the ratio of 10 pounds to each 1,000 square feet has been put into each green below the top soil to prevent grubs and earth worms. A line of four inch tile was placed under the center of each green.

A practice fairway near the clubhouse, a 2-story structure 66x28 feet, has four tees, and there is a practice putting green with an area of 15,000 square feet.

A sod nursery for trees planted with tee mixture for an area of 10,000 square feet and a sod nursery for greens with an area of 5,000 square feet planted with green mixture will be maintained.

Des Moines Rebuilding Links.

Let us jump now to the middle-West where, at Des Moines, Iowa, the Department of Parks and Public Property is reconstructing the Waveland Golf course with relief funds, under the enthusiastic supervision of Paul L. Sandahl, executive superintendent. He writes:

"Waveland, a tract of 190 acres, is approximately square, and is very rough in places and heavily wooded. The old course, which traversed mostly the tops of the hills, was 5,400 yards long. The new plan, which was laid out by Paul Coates of St. Paul, travels the valleys to a great extent and will be 6,500 yards. The new plan

called for grading amounting to 73,000 cubic yards, which has been mostly accomplished under the CWA program of the government. We have had as high as 356 workers on the job at one time, covering several months during last winter, but the original start of grading, tiling, etc. was done under the first relief program under the initials of RFC. We laid 612 ft. of 3 ft. concrete tile, 1,779 ft. of 30 ft. concrete tile, 1,200 ft. of 18 in. drain tile, all with this kind of labor.

"All abutments and retaining walls pertaining to the drainage system have been built, and a complete new water system spread out over the course. Our old water system consisted of one 2 in. main which connected on two sides of the links with city mains. We still have this same two inch line, and in addition, a new line consisting of two 4 in. leads from two separate sides of the course. One and one-half inch water lines are brought up to each green, and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. leads to nearby tees. We are hoping to have the whole course in play sometime in 1935.

Welton Offers Advice.

"We are standardizing on metropolitan bent grass planted on soil that was built under suggestions and direction of Kenneth Welton of the U.S.G.A., Green Section. Right here, for your own information, I would like to say a word of gratitude to Mr. Welton's work. We thought we were doing a good job of building soil until he came to the greenkeepers' meeting here last fall. He was kind enough to go over our work and he showed us by test methods how much better job we could do. We feel that the result of the Green Section work in soil and turf management will be worth thousands of dollars to our course in the next twenty years.

"Another improvement very valuable to the course is a 6 ft. chain link woven wire fence, topped with three barbed wires on three sides of the course, 7,200 ft. in length, which was made possible through CWA and the government purchase of materials. This fence enables us to control traffic on the course and to prevent damaging fires of incendiary nature, with which we have been troubled in the last four or five years.

"During the winter we found in our CWA crew an experienced house-mover, and by renting his equipment for approximately \$20 for the job we moved all our service buildings into one place, and with CWA labor built them all together into one set of sheds with concrete foundations, sanitary plumbing, lighting, etc.

"Bag Starting" System Works Poorly; Asks Better Plan

Editor of GOLFDOM:

We are having quite a time establishing a satisfactory system for controlling starting times. Play is quite heavy (ours is a public course) on week-ends and we employ at present the "bag system," whereby a player, after buying his ticket, takes his bag to the starter's tee and leaves it in line until all others in front of him are on the tee. The plan is unsatisfactory. What other system would you recommend?

J. L. (Oregon).

COURSES habitually crowded find the best system is to assign a definite starting time to players at the time they pay their daily fee. The cashier is supplied with printed slips along the left hand edge of which appear an hour of starting intervals, one line to each time, thus:

—:00 _____
 —:05 _____
 —:10 _____
 _____ and so on until:
 —:55 _____

The cashier prepares these slips, one for each hour in the day and at the time players buy their tickets, permits them to select whatever starting time is still open on the slips of the day.

The serial number of the starting ticket is then posted on the line opposite the time selected, and as a cross check, the starting time is written on the ticket.

These slips are given to the starter at the first tee far enough in advance to permit him to keep the traffic moving smoothly.

The plan is practically foolproof and barring connivance between cashier and starter, eliminates the evil (into which some starters fall) of squeezing in favored players to tee off ahead of their regular starting time.

CLIPPINGS from greens plots at the Arlington turf garden were weighed and analyzed during the season of 1930. The results indicate that to replace the fertilizer elements removed from the soil in the clippings taken from 18 average well-kept greens during one season, it would be necessary to apply fertilizers carrying the equivalent plant food to be found in about a ton of ammonium sulphate, 200 pounds of superphosphate, and 400 pounds of muriate of potash.