

DROUGHT BRINGS SAVING

By LENY CALDERWOOD
Pro, Emporia (Kans.) CC

Water Shortage Forces Club to Install Its Own Watering System

THE terrible drought year of 1934 which burned up fairways on practically every golf course in the middle-west actually brought about a big reduction in the cost of watering the greens at the Emporia (Kan.) CC.

Of all the cities hit by the drought, Emporia suffered as one of the worst. The water supply for the city had already decreased so rapidly that the population was faced with a serious problem of a water shortage, even for the necessary domestic purposes. Twenty-some consecutive days with temperatures over a hundred degrees burned the fairways to a crisp. Then the mayor of the city ordered the country club to cease watering the greens which were being watered from the city water system. A few days without water would completely finish our greens which were already suffering from the heat.

Fortunately our course had a lake of quite an area and, at normal, its depth reached nearly thirty feet in places. Immediately our club president, C. W. Burnap, called a special meeting of the directors. Several years before this Mr. Burnap had drawn up a plan whereby the greens could be watered from the club's own lake at a saving, but hesitated to carry out this plan because of financial conditions which at that time confronted many clubs. However the water would have to be taken from the lake or the club would lose its greens. So the directors approved the president's plans for the club's own permanent watering system.

Of course, a permanent system could not be constructed in time to save the greens from burning. New pumps could not be ordered and installed in time to keep the greens still unharmed from lack of water. Although pumps were very much in demand throughout the country by farmers, Mr. Burnap secured a used pump and set it up the following night, connecting it with one of the main lines which ran near the lake. This proved unsatisfactory but it supplied enough water to keep the grass alive until the permanent system could be finished.

Main lines were quickly laid and hooked up with branch lines to the greens. A new

pump and an automatic electric motor with pressure tank were installed. And now the club has its own permanent watering system which is sure to save much money over a period of years. Too, after a few applications of lake water, the greens showed a bright healthy color that had been lacking, probably due to chemicals in the city water.

According to Mr. Burnap's figures, the club had been paying the city 25 cents per thousand gals of water. It costs the club 7c per thousand gals, counting depreciation on the pump, to pump its own water from the lake. The new system has also helped to cut the labor for watering the greens to about half that used for watering from the city system. Formerly, only three or four greens could be watered at one time on account of pressure from the city water system, but nine greens can easily be watered with ample pressure from our own pumping system. This saving will pay for the installation of the new permanent system in two year's time.

The total expense to the club was \$750. Nearly all of the pipe laid for the new lines was used pipe bought from the oil fields. In the rearrangement of the system 2,400 feet of trunk line was laid. A used pressure tank was also secured for \$35. The electric motor and a plunger type pump, pumping 2,100 gallons of water per hour, were purchased new for \$230. The cost of labor was low, as several of our club members donated their time.

Jersey Genius Speeds Fairway Fertilization

KENT BRADLEY, ingenious New Jersey greenkeeper, has scored another in speeding up golf course maintenance work.

His recent achievement was to fertilize about two acres of lawns and all the fairways from tee to green on 27 holes, in 22 hours running time, including trips to the barn to load up! Fairways are from 150