

# YOU MUST SPEND

**R**ETURN of prosperity, observed at numerous golf clubs, is beginning to involve problems that probably never will be settled due to the frequent turn-over in club officials and newly-elected officials repeating the same old mistakes.

One angle of this eternal argument comes up in a letter Prof. L. S. Dickinson, famed golf maintenance authority of the Massachusetts State college, recently wrote the green chairman of a thriving New England club which is rejoicing with 100 new members.

Dickinson's letter follows:

"In observing the golf club situation this spring, I find three general conditions. One, a group of clubs that have been foreclosed but still operating and working their ways out; two, a group still solvent

but with limited funds; and three, a group with an increased membership over 1934 and therefore with more money to spend.

The third group cause much worry, as in a large majority of the cases these clubs, again tasting what appears to be prosperity, are committing the same errors that brought them into the depression or failure to many clubs.

If your club is fortunate enough to be in the third group, this letter, though really none of my business, may be of assistance in causing a sane allocation of the increased funds.

Observations, gossip, and investigation convince me that these "newly rich" clubs are preparing to spend the added funds unwisely and with no regard to any lessons that should have been learned in 1933-1934. To be brief, it is the old feud

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between the house and the golf course, and the house is again beginning to make demands for any extra penny available.

The probable cause for this return of error in club management is the curse of changing chairman and boards of directors. New committee chairmen or directors are anxious to "make a showing" in their department and not being fully informed, or incensed with the club's needs and policies, become selfish and unduly critical of other departments. It is my hope that if your club should find itself with unexpected funds or additional revenue that it will allocate the money, wisely.

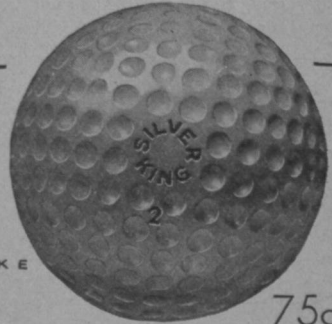
If you will review the reports that I have rendered concerning the cultural condition of your golf course, you will find many references, which have been increasing in number and imperativeness to the need for fairway fertilizing and more labor hours.

**Turf In Failing Health**

As I have stated several times the fairway turf is in such condition of health that it will fail very rapidly unless it is fertilized. I suggested that 1934 must be a fairway improvement year. There is no

doubt in my mind that this year is the critical year in the cultural condition of the fairways. Neglect means less enjoyment, "Winter" lies, and added maintenance cost with lower inventory value. A fairway rebuilding program will have to be prepared and such a program would mean a torn-up course for four or five years. The clubhouse could be destroyed, and your club would still exist because it could play golf, but if your fairways were destroyed or became intolerably bad, do you think the clubhouse could hold the club together? Furthermore, let each member realize the proportion of time spent at the club in the house, and on the course.

The above is perhaps unnecessary but the following is not to be overlooked. You, your greenkeeper and the golf course, have been operating the course for the past three years at a deficit and only your reserve courage, your greenkeeper's reserve ingenuity and ability, and the fact that the grass does not want to die, has kept the course in the unfortunately fine condition that it now is in. I say unfortunately for many are probably thinking that the condition can go on forever



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and improvements be made with little additional funds.

I am going to be bold enough to state that I observe many signs that tell me the reserves are nearly exhausted. The thinning grass on the fairways is the first indication. Several areas must positively receive fertilizer this spring.

Your club is very poorly designed for economy in upkeep in particular reference to labor. I will not bore you with proof, but your greenkeeper should have one more man in 1935 if it is at all possible. It is unwise to attempt to operate an 18-hole course with less than four men and a greenkeeper. Six men is the usual minimum number.

You are probably wondering how much fertilizer is needed for the fairways. From \$500 to \$1,000 is my answer. When should the fertilizer be applied? Before April 25. What should the fertilizer be? Cottonseed meal, castor bean pomace, or either of the excellent proprietary mixtures having a ratio of 10-6-4, 8-6-2 and having a large part of the nitrogen in organic form from such sources as meals, sewage or tankage.

If your club should have an unbudgeted income I strongly urge you to make every effort possible to obtain sufficient funds to maintain the golf course.

### Cleveland District GA Gives Public Players a Hand

**PUBLIC** Links Players division of the Cleveland (O.) District Golf Assn. has been formed to promote development of public course play and competition. The Cleveland District GA now has on its executive committee as public links representative Al McCargo, well-educated, young and personable chauffeur for Mrs. Leonard Hanna.

Basic idea of the new section is to open up competition. Local protest has been that competitive play has been dominated by group of ex-caddies. District association handicap cards will be used by the new unit. Such groups as Italian-American GA, Postal Employees AA, and employee organizations of Fisher Body, Willard Battery, Industrial Rayon, Graphite Bronze and small companies formed the nucleus of the new CDGA section. Big entries are expected in the handicap, city championship, and team match events. The Cleveland Press is sponsoring and will give prizes far down the list in a 72-hole handicap tournament under the auspices of

the new section of the Cleveland District body. Entrance fee is one dollar for the handicap card. This money goes into the CDGA treasury.

### Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Field Day, May 27

**SIXTH** Annual Greenkeepers' Field Day at Rhode Island State College, Kingston, R. I., is scheduled for May 27th. These field days have always been exceptionally successful.

It is hoped that greenkeepers will invite their green-committee chairman and other club officers to this meeting. Committee-men should appreciate more fully the rapid changes which the greenkeeper must cope with. They should also encourage their greenkeeper to participate in greenkeepers' clubs, course of study and demonstrative meetings.

A special invitation is extended to seedsmen, fertilizer men, and equipment men to come prepared to exhibit and demonstrate during the day.

The program will be essentially as follows:

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 10:30-11:00 | Registration (Taft Laboratory—Experiment Station).             |
| 11:00-12:30 | Inspection of experiments.                                     |
| 1:15- 2:30  | Speaking program.  |
| 2:30- 3:00  | Annual business meeting of the Rhode Island Greenkeepers Club. |
| 3:00- 5:00  | Exhibits and demonstrations.                                   |

### Play 19th Hole for Prizes at Resort Course

**MAXWELTON** BRAES, celebrated summer resort at Wisconsin's Door County Peninsula, claims the only 19th hole of its kind in the world.

The 19th fairway is 60 yards long, with an 18-foot green perched on a steep knoll. No "babying-up" to this hole—nothing but a well directed pitch will reach and hold the green. Only after the regular 18 holes are played does each player get one shot at it—no more, no less.

The ball of the player who makes the 19th green rolls down through a hidden tube and out through the sharply pitched slope of the green. On its way the ball trips a mechanism and out pops both the ball and a handsome, newly-minted gold-bronze medal—conclusive evidence of the golfer's sharp-shooting eye.