

COURSES IMPROVED

... but battle to restore links to pre-depression condition not over

A GAIN comes the time when many clubs take end-of-season inventories of course work and condition to check the year's achievements against initial hopes, and to plan for next year with the lessons of the departing season fresh in mind.

A check-up with greenkeepers on what they consider the most valuable details of their work during the past year brings out that the majority of them were lucky to get by without exceeding their budgets, despite a season that was unusually bad. One frank and resigned greenkeeper answered:

"I gave them all the course anyone could for the money I had to spend and that kept me down to barest routine work, but keeping within my budget was an achievement although I can't say that I am as proud of the condition of the course as I was in the days when they let us buy what we needed."

Jacob Kohr, greenkeeper at the South Bend (Ind.) CC, set as the first accomplishment for member pleasure and pride in his course the improvement in green and fairway cutting effected this year by new mowing machinery. Kohr observes that where greens are unsatisfactory and where fairways are ragged, there is not much the greenkeeper can do if he is working with inefficient, out-moded machinery.

Improve to Cut Costs

Several greenkeepers stayed within greens mowing budgets by reducing the size of the putting surface, but the general advisability of this practice because of playing requirements is questionable. Some say the labor required on the fringe that formerly was putting surface may run costs back up so the net saving isn't worth the effort, if the members insist on a manicured fringe.

Alteration of trap slopes to permit machine maintenance is a work detail that numerous greenkeepers nominate as their outstanding thrift job for the year.

Preventive work all the way through has been the year's feature and although it has shown no conspicuous increase of course beauty it has cut costs and kept courses in better playing condition. Greens

drainage work has paid rich dividends in a season like the one just ended. Drainage and air circulation have cut down disease and weather damage.

Several greenkeepers report that they are privately proud of the way in which they kept their nurseries maintained this year because eventually greens will have to be rebuilt and resurfaced and they have sod available. This is a valuable piece of work the membership generally doesn't appreciate.

He Keeps Members Posted

One wise veteran relates that the most valuable thing he did during the season was to be around when his men were doing the slightest bit of construction or improving work so he could explain in detail to the members just what was going on and give them an idea of the nature of course work.

Kohr, the South Bend man, again brings out a worthwhile suggestion in relating that the construction of a new caddyhouse at his club was one of the valuable jobs of the year. During the depression the caddie quarters at many clubs have run down so they would stir up newspaper campaigns if they were used to house negro share-croppers. These places get hard use. Most of the time they are out of members' sight and are allowed to run down badly by clubs that keep reminding the kids to take pride in all the club's property.

Judging from GOLFDOM's staffs' observations this season, about half of the first-class clubs in the country could wisely invest the price of some boards, nails, paint and labor on caddyhouses during the winter. It's a job that will keep some of the greens force employed instead of being knocked off to go on relief.

Late reports of play stretching into the fall at eastern and central clubs call at-

tention to the job of cleaning underbrush and dead timber from woodlands during the summer. Trees suffered as much as turf during intense hot spell of last summer and tree care, neglected widely for the past four or five years, is due again on a major scale.

Fairway watering installations now are at the point where satisfactory systems are available in a wide range of prices, with the factors of thoroughness and labor economy being major ones in determining cost of a good system. Early this past season there was enough rain in most of the central territory to shove ideas of fairway watering aside at many clubs, but things averaged up and when the hot weather came along and stayed, play kept up at the watered courses sufficiently to justify the expense of fairway irrigation.

Fertilizer deficiencies are beginning to show up at many courses. Some greenkeepers admit privately that they have been able to switch around and sneak enough funds from their budgets to do some desperately needed fertilizing but many of them are apprehensive of the future unless they can feed their grasses.

Knowing full well that fungicide effectiveness is governed largely by weather, greenkeepers here and there rejoice they have been lucky enough in guessing weather conditions to keep down fungous diseases, and have begun to talk about weather instruments being a greenkeeping requirement that soon will pay for themselves.

Mass. S. C. Again Offers Greens Course, Conference

WINTER greenkeeping school at Massachusetts State college, Amherst, Mass., starts January 2 and continues through the annual recreation conference and exposition which will be held March 13, 14 and 15.

This course under the direction of Lawrence S. Dickinson, has become one of the great influences in practical course maintenance. Graduates occupy positions at many first class clubs in the United States and Canada.

Cost of the course is kept low. Registration fee is \$16.50. Board and room can be obtained in Amherst for \$10 a week, and some students get by for an additional expense as low as \$10 during the ten weeks of the course. There are students in the greenkeeping course who bring their

wives, for Amherst is a grand little town where college entertainments with a pleasant blending of culture and pepper are available on a good schedule.

A development of the MAC short course that is creating a lively winter sports program in New England is the recreation conference. President Baker of the school marshalled all his forces in expanding this idea, which grew out of Dickinson's short course, with the result that the conference unquestionably has stirred up considerable winter sports activity in that territory, with golf clubs deriving a good share of the benefits.

At the conclusion of the 1934 conference, the golf section advisory committee, composed of leading factors in golf club maintenance, operation and executive management, drew up several conclusions, one of which was the earnest recommendation that golf clubs should encourage attendance of their greenkeepers at the MAC winter school by defraying all or a part of the expense.

As the winter school is organized and conducted for club service primarily, it is logical that the clubs take advantage of it at club expense rather than make greenkeepers pay a premium for their interest in applying to the clubs' courses lessons from the valuable school at MAC.

Rutgers Turf Short Course Offered Feb. 17-22

COLLEGE of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., will again offer next spring a one-week course in turf management which should, as in other years, attract large attendance from greenkeepers. The date for this year's course is February 17-22. There is no tuition to residents of New Jersey. A nominal registration fee, to cover cost of supplies used, is charged.

The Rutgers course is conducted as a real course, not merely a series of conferences. Lectures are supplemented by classroom discussions and by laboratory and field demonstrations, so that the student may absorb, so far as possible in the time allowed, a thorough grasp of the subject at hand.

Interested greensmen, whether residents of New Jersey or not, are urged to write without delay to the Director of Short Courses, College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J., for a circular giving full particulars of the course.