

tions on golf conditions around Chicago. John admits that the duties of keeping his layout in A1 condition have prevented him from visiting many other courses this season, but feels sure the conditions he's met at his course are representative of the Chicago area.

"I have been watering fairways daily since June 5," he says, "which is way and above the usual requirement, so water costs are going to be high this year. In addition, so much watering means considerable washing away of potash and nitrogen from the soil, and these elements will have to be replaced; all watered courses will, of necessity, have an increased fertilization program to follow this fall.

"On the courses without fairway watering, the turf is so dry that wise clubs are warning members to be careful where they toss matches lest they start fires.

"The lack of rain has been accompanied by unusually high humidity, so brown-patch must be constantly guarded against. Grubs have not showed to date, but cut-worms are causing me some trouble.

"In spite of the dry conditions, I am having a lot of success with an experiment I began this spring. Early this year, before the grass started to grow, and again two months later, I applied 400 lbs. per acre of 10-8-6 fertilizer to the fairway area lying between 185 and 235 yds. out from each tee. I put on the material when the grass was dry and, particularly in the second application, was careful to water the application in well.

"As a result the grass is so heavy this season in these areas that dandelions and other weeds have been smothered. It seems to me to be the answer to the fairway weed problem. This fall I intend to apply another 400 lb. dose to the fairways and again next spring. Whether the formula will be the same depends of course on the soil analyses I always make a point of securing beforehand."

Water and power bills are going to be well up in the Southern California sector, according to word from Robert S. Greenfield, superintendent at Wilshire CC, Los Angeles. Clubs in that area are forced to pay \$600 to \$800 for July water needs and all of them are hoping to get a cheaper supply once the Boulder Dam aqueduct is completed. So large a water bill is hard on any club and tends to make golf unduly expensive. This year there have been extra demands on water to offset the weather.

"The average course out here," writes Greenfield, "is in excellent shape, considering the funds available. There hasn't been any increase in course budgets that amounts to much, though quite a few clubs have purchased new course equipment.

"There has been an increase in play. It was noticeable last year and invitational tournaments so far this season have been well patronized."

Greenfield points out one interesting trend. Real estate values are going up around Los Angeles. Taxes, he says, are sure to rise correspondingly, with the result that some of the less patronized public courses may have to close down. Players from these courses will shift to surviving layouts where increased green-fee volume will permit better maintenance budgets. "It may all be for the better in the end," comments Greenfield.

Ball Gathering—Charles Victor, ingenious greenkeeper at the East Potomac course in Washington, engineered the device illustrated for gathering balls at the course's large driving range.

The device is dragged around the range by an old automobile that has its windows protected by heavy wire netting but which shows on its steel sides numerous signs of heavy bombardment.

The machine looks like a snowplow in reverse. Sideboards, supported by wheels,



This machine saves time and, perhaps, a cracked skull or two.

are at a height that nicely clears the ground. Balls are rolled along by these sideboards until the balls reach the opening at the rear. At the rear are a couple of revolving brushes, one of which is shown sticking up between the two rear wheels. These brushes are geared directly to these large rear wheels and as balls are rolled back into the opening between the sideboards a brush flips the balls up an inclined slope into the boxlike cage in the rear.