

Warns of Complications When Greens and Pro Jobs Are Combined

A. C. STATT, president of The Country Club, Inc., Minneapolis, Minn., writes GOLFDOM calling attention to dangers in the trend toward combining pro and greenkeeper jobs at larger clubs. He points out that men successfully handling such combination jobs are such geniuses that they cannot be expected to abound throughout the land. Furthermore, the executive requirements are such that they require a highly proficient superintendent and an instruction assistant of better than average capabilities.

When a larger club, for purposes of stringent economy, adopts the pro-greenkeeper—or greenkeeper-pro—combination of a job, Statt maintains that it frequently burdens a good man with a ruinous excess of responsibility and labor. Members who want lessons from the No. 1 pro at a time when important work on the course requires expert supervision, will complain, should the combination man apply himself to the course job.

Study of the achievements and the

headaches of the combination men reveal that administrative ability of a rare order is demanded by the combination jobs, but that, in most cases, the value of this ability is not reflected in the pay received. The combination jobs, in many instances, are dictated by economy factors rather than by placement of the entire outside operation under one man's management.

Small Clubs Need Combine

At smaller clubs, Statt concedes the frequent necessity of combining the two jobs, but he has observed that at clubs of 300 or more members the turn-over in pro-greenkeeper jobs has been so high during the past several years that pros and greenkeepers might well beware.

He believes that this turn-over in jobs should serve to remind golf club officials, pros and greenkeepers:

(a) The jobs of the pro and of the greenkeeper are so exacting that each requires the full-time service of experts.

(b) Conspicuously successful pro-greenkeepers demonstrate a degree of executive ability and talent in selecting competent and dependable assistants comparable with the best performances in businesses that are in position to pay much more than golf plant management can afford.

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