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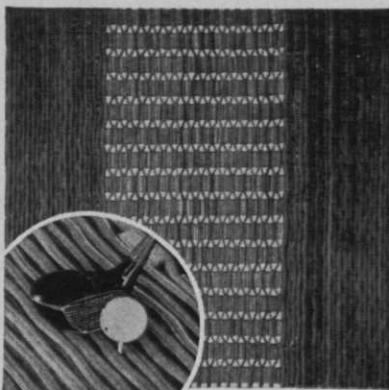
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Greensmen Tell '41 Outlook

Prominent greenkeepers offer forecasts
on trends to be expected in season ahead

GREENKEEPERS, generally an optimistic lot, are not looking forward to the greater part of 1941 as promising them much freedom from care. Labor scarcity and higher costs are expected to provide a fat budget of headaches.

GOLFDOM queried representative greenkeepers about their outlooks for this year. Those who have replied by press date are virtually unanimous in believing that this will be a year to severely test the resourcefulness of men responsible for course maintenance.

However, the greenkeeper is a rugged soul and gets whatever solace there may be in seeing other troubles that might be worse than those he usually contends with. Robert Pollock, supt., Llanerch CC, and sec., Philadelphia Assn. of Golf Course Supts., believes that the caddie problem will be most serious around Philadelphia.

There's some talk about hiring most efficient caddies on a weekly basis to assure a supply of kids. If the boys don't earn their guarantee in fees, the clubs will have to make up the difference, if the distress plan is adopted. Another hope for solution of the Philadelphia caddie problem is that the Labor Board will permit hiring of younger caddies.

Bob believes the course labor problem will care for itself, with an increase in mechanized maintenance. There'll be more money spent in 1941, Pollock points out, and some of this increased spending should find its way to the golf club and course.

Arthur Hughes, supt., Scioto CC, Columbus, O., believes that weed and clover elimination and fertilization will pay big premiums this year inasmuch as an increase in golf play is in prospect and the better conditioned courses will get in-

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crease commensurate with their superior turf.

He expects labor to be a grave problem, saying that at Scioto men who have been on the maintenance staff for 7 or 8 years now are working at plants in town. He's doubtful about them returning to the club in spring. Breaking in several new men is plenty of a task, especially when the course has a high standard of conditioning it must preserve.

Must Cut Layoffs

Not only increased wages but assurance of year-around employment Hughes expects will be demanded of the clubs. He and others point out that one can't blame the men because in golf course work they're laid off at a time of the year when other jobs are taken.

Boys under draft age and men too old to be up to the ideal of golf course requirement of speed and brawn look to Hughes to be most of the labor replacement battalion in line for golf courses this year.

John Darrah, supt. of Beverly CC (Chicago district) says that already some of his 1940 staff have told him they have other jobs and won't be back. Wage in-

creases are certain in order that men can be attracted. However, he too, expects the general spending will be reflected in an improvement in golf club income.

Mercury Cost Is Worry

Darrah is praying this won't be a bad brown-patch year, with mercury prices mounting. Weed control, in his opinion, is a feature of maintenance that will be emphasized this year.

Don Boyd, supt. at Akron, O., Portage CC, says that Portage already is getting ready to handle an increase in club patronage. He forecasts that the strain of defense work and war nerves will boom golf as an important physical and mental treatment.

Boyd says:

"In my opinion, the improvement of fairways will draw more attention in 1941 than any other phase of greenkeeping. Right along with this, of course, is the killing of weeds with chemicals. At Portage, we will be striving for that weedless golf course, if that is at all possible.

"Insects and grubs will probably cause more trouble in this section than any other thing as few of the clubs have used anything to control these pests. Most



Cincinnati CC's famed No. 8 hole gives Supt. Warren Bidwell plenty of worry, but it's worth every bit of it—it's given him a claim on one of the country's best known greens.

clubs do not have the funds to lead their entire course at once, but they could do some part of it each year. This idea would probably be especially good for clubs in the path of the Jap beetle.

"The labor problem will probably not be troublesome, except in areas where new plants filling war orders are located. The clubs who keep their key men through the winter will be O.K., but I do not envy anyone breaking in a new crew.

"The operating budgets will be increased, as the materials, machinery and wages all will be higher. The chemicals have all gone up more than any other thing and will no doubt go higher. We have raised our budget 8% to take care of these increased prices."

Crew Retained All Year

Another reporting from Ohio is Warren Bidwell, supt. of the Cincinnati CC. In the case of the Cincinnati club only one of his crew of 8 is unmarried. All men are being paid top wages in their line of work and are employed 12 months as the club has a winter sports schedule and spreads its work to keep its men. All the crew has been with the club for years so Bidwell expects no labor difficulty.

His 1941 budget will follow the 1940 figures closely, except for adjustment necessitated by chemical prices and equipment replacements and repairs. Rain governing the operation of the club's fairway watering also will be a big factor in 1941 maintenance expenses.

The Cincinnati CC will be host to the Women's Western June 9-14. Warren is praying heaven will give him a break so the gals will see a great course in the best condition man and Allah can effect. He's solved some of the toughest of

brown-patch problems but has one to make anybody gray-headed, in the club's short 8th. It's a beautiful hole deep in the woods and smartly trapped in front. Lack of air circulation is the problem with which he constantly copes at this danger spot.

Cites Canada's Problems

Arthur Stephen, for 13 years supt. at Erie Downs' GC in Canada about 2 miles from the Peace Bridge at Buffalo, already has been getting a sample of war-time operating. He thinks 1941 is going to be one of the hardest years maintenance has had. Says Arthur:

"Canada has been in the war for over a year which means that most of my men are either away fighting for their country or are working in factories which are essential for carrying on the war.

"These factories are paying more money than our budget can afford which means that most of us fellows will have to break in some lads who are just out of school and who, due to their inexperience, do not expect too high wages.

"I have always had a good crew working with me on the golf course; most of my men have been with me since I started at the club.

"I believe, therefore, that in the coming season our biggest problem will be the labor situation. Industry in Canada is absorbing more men every day which means that experienced men will be hard to get.

"Another big item which will take a lot of important consideration is the materials used on the golf course. Take, for example, the mercury for greens. During the 1941 season this product cost over \$4 a pound. Machinery was a great deal higher and will be more this year."