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## British Turf Board Warns Against Permitting Undue War-Time Deterioration

SINCE the start of the war there have been only two issues of the British Golf Unions' "The Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research," the second of which, and the only issue for 1941, having only recently reached the U. S.

Lead editorial shows that by excellent management and stringent economies the St. Ives Research station finances have been kept in healthy condition. In this editorial a plea is made for support of the station beyond that given by a limited number of clubs. Notwithstanding the Station having the same trouble as the USGA Green Section of being supported by a minority of the clubs it serves, the British Board hopes "every club will make immediate and regular use of the Station during the war because the Station can help all subscribers to manage the turf economically, to avoid waste, to prevent costly errors and lastly, but not least important, to prevent undue deterioration."

Warning is given that references to official Acts and Orders are subject to amendments if such Acts and Orders were made while the Journal was being printed.

Many golf clubs are being grazed by sheep while play continues. Clubs have taken hay from land out of play or allowed farmers facilities for silage making, and have had land set aside for vegetable, root or cereal crops.

### Must Contribute Foodstuffs

Although the British government has not made hard and fast rules involving ploughing of golf courses, recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries call for a contribution of food stuffs from all golf courses that include land capable of bearing satisfactory crops, and where a course is unsuitable for arable cultivation, to fully utilize its grazing capacities.

On an 18-hole course where sufficient suitable land is available the Ministry believes the cultivation of 15 to 20 acres is not unreasonable. It is recommended in selecting the area to be ploughed, greens, specially prepared fairways, and where possible, bunkers not be destroyed. It is advised to leave greens intact and ac-

cessible for maintenance even if out of play.

Electrical fencing to prevent sheep from grazing on, and scalding, greens is reported as satisfactory. The electrified fencing, being light and the posts only at about 10-yard intervals, does not interfere with play.

The Station reports valuable results in making silage from turf mowings to replace imported concentrates. Experimental silos made of welded steel fencing and sisalkraft paper were erected. The experiments emphasized that care should be taken to fill the silos gradually and to ensure suitable consolidation of material. Gradual filling in fits in well with the mowing program on golf courses. Equipment has been made to trail after 3-unit gang mowers to collect grass cuttings on fairways. Greenkeepers are referred to government bulletins on silage by the BGR.

#### Lists Other Items

Among other wartime items are:

Allowing setting of spring traps in the open for trapping rabbits. Traps must be visited twice between sunrise and sunset.

Allowing, under certain restrictions, sale and use of strychnine for controlling moles.

Flower crops in open or under grass restricted to half the acreage grown in 1939.

Publication of a method for rot-proofing sand bags. Rotting of these bags used for defense has been causing considerable trouble and expense.

Using granulated peat moss for bedding of pigs kept by a golf club. Using the bedding, with alternate layers of soil, and allowing decomposition for 12 to 18 months in the compost heap. Recommending greens cuttings as pig food, partially replacing meal.

Value of the Station has been increased by experienced greenkeepers and greensmen and club officials going into war service. Inexperienced men are relying greatly on the Station for advice.

Close cooperation with Headquarters Home Defense in regard to obstructions on golf courses designed to prevent airborne landings.

Conferences with Royal Veterinary College in regard to relation of lead arsenate use to sheep grazing on golf courses.

April, 1942

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