

my next spring's work this fall as I possibly can. This will be a smart move for every club that plans on opening next spring.

Some of us have been doing very little topdressing in the past few years. But under our present mowing program we are creating a heavy mat on certain types of bent greens even tho they are brushed frequently. This mat should be removed or serious trouble will occur.

As soon as the heavy mat is removed a good topdressing is usually necessary. In most cases it is left until spring. Clubs having facilities to keep their topdressing dry should screen their next year's supply this fall, if the compost is dry enough to do so. This has been my practice for several years and has always worked out satisfactorily.

If there is an opportunity to prune any trees or shrubs, trim any hedges that have gotten out of hand or spade shrub beds, this work should be done this fall. It can be done to good advantage any time up until the weather gets too cold for this kind of work.

All leaks in water pipes or sprinkler valves should be repaired, and tile lines that need cleaning or repairing should be done before the ground freezes.

#### **If Possible, Do It Now**

It will be a good idea to keep all grass cut this fall at a reasonable height so that there will be no old grass to bother with next spring.

At many clubs the leaves in the fall are a problem and nothing is done with them until spring. It will be a wise move to dispose of them this fall and thereby save many hours of work next spring.

Any sand traps that are going to be filled in or made into grassy hollows should be done this fall.

All buildings, bird houses, tee benches, and ball washers that need painting should be done as soon as possible after the golfing season is over.

All equipment should be checked for broken or worn parts before storing away. These repair parts should be ordered without any delay as it may take some time before your order is filled. Orders do not go through as fast as they used to.

Clubs that do not do their own repair work should send their equipment to the repair shop this fall, and not wait until spring, as they may not have them back when they need them. These repair shops may have labor shortages too.

In many cases as soon as the golfing season gets near the end, clubs begin to lay off their help. This may have been all right when men were plentiful but those days are not now.

The reason I feel that as much work should be done this fall as possible is because we now have some of our old help that has been with us for years, plus the ones we have been training for the past season. These new men now have a good idea of how to do most of this work.

But next spring where will they be? Lord only knows. In fact, the greenkeeper does not know where he will be. But he can show his club what his intentions were and after the war is over, a welcome hand will be waiting for him.

## **Warns Against Too Little, Too Late, in Course Work**

**By G. M. DEARIE**

Sup't., Edgewater GC, Chicago

**W**HAT you do on your course this fall will determine next year's condition. Beware now of too little, for next spring it may be too late.

Fall maintenance work that has been carefully planned and carried out will give any golf club the jump on next year's operations. A golf course superintendent should know more about the working ability of his club now than ever before. Now he is not only looked upon as a man to carry out orders from various committees but as an executive whose foresighted action can carry the club through war conditions. There is no short cut to a finely groomed golf course. If a course has been maintained properly in the past no doubt it will stand the strain for a number of years, providing the greenkeeper of that course is on his toes.

Wartime shortage of manual labor, supplies and machinery and budget reduction will test the ability of any greenkeeper.

Here at Edgewater we are within walking distance of many of the members' homes and near all city transportations so we have not experienced any slump in play.

It has been a practice with me to make notes through the year on maintenance problems and at this time of the year to make recommendations to the chairman of the green committee. I never have made recommendations in such trying times as we have today. Yet it is my belief that

we must maintain a fine course for the condition of the course will have a bearing on getting the membership to use the course for essential wartime recreational balance.

In our fall program we have planned to enlarge the practice tee due to more play there than ever before. Many of the men in war production do not have time to complete a round of golf. We are to close three large traps on the course. This will reduce the number of hours of labor. We will continue a program of improving our drainage system. Fertilizing of greens and tees and seeding where necessary, the storing of a compost pile, which will be much larger than in the past, due to the curtailment of high nitrate fertilizer, are other items on our program. All machinery and implements will be given a general overhauling and be in readiness for next season.

A greenkeepers work does not end with his fall program completed, but this year especially accents the winter months when the greenkeeper must guard his greens against snow mold as this can be one of the greatest handicaps in the spring.

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## Be Ready to Change Plans If Conditions Warrant

By JOHN L. COUNSELL

Supt., Salem (Mass.) CC

I believe that long-term planning is out for the duration. We are living in an unbalanced world today, with a pendulum swinging as uncertain as the tail of a kite. We can plan to some extent, but the picture is apt to change so rapidly that we must be open-minded enough to alter our plans quickly to meet new conditions.

New construction and extensive renovation work on the golf course will be reduced to a minimum. We do not expect to keep the course as well groomed as in the past, but we shall provide the members with good playing conditions. We have no special plans for this fall except to keep the turf as healthy as possible, with one eye on the budget. We have changed some of our operations and by cutting corners we have reduced our maintenance costs, but we must be on the watch for any cumulative effect on the turf, resulting from the curtailment.

The labor shortage has been a problem this year and it is reasonable to sup-

pose that it will be worse in 1943. We can help to solve this problem by providing as pleasant working conditions as possible and by being prudent in handling the men. I am planning to purchase as much of next year's necessary supplies as my budget will allow, providing they are obtainable. Under present conditions, shopping around for better prices is a waste of time; in many cases, we consider ourselves fortunate if we can locate and purchase the merchandise we want.

It will be necessary to discard some of the generally accepted good greenkeeping practices for the duration, and substitute other methods that will suffice, even though they may appear to be the product of a brain storm.

I believe golf clubs will continue to operate on a program of rigid economy and the vital part of golf, the golf course, will survive where the greenkeeper employs intelligent management, ingenuity, and the courage to carry on.

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## Managers' Menu: Headaches for Breakfast, Dinner, Supper

MANAGERS of country clubs not distant from residences of their members have been surprised by this season's volume of house business. Higher costs of feeding at home, domestic help shortage, inability of members to get out of town on vacations, and women's activity in Red Cross and other war organization work, account for the volume.

What has given managers plenty of trouble is the help shortage and the members' expectation of service-as-usual at the clubs. Members also yowl now and then because of increased menu prices at clubs despite the club-women's knowledge of higher food and labor costs.

Laundry also is giving the managers concern. In some cities near army camps or navy posts the government has taken over laundries and the clubs find themselves short of clean linen notwithstanding emergency laundry work done by cooks, waitresses, et al.

Strain of long hours and problems has begun to tell on some older managers who have been hospitalized.

Ingenuity in planning affairs for war service organization benefit has been outstanding in golf club managers' performances this season.