

due to transportation. The wise thing to do is buy what can be ordered now and hope for shipments to be made in time.

If any mineral nitrogen is available or on hand, it should best be used to break down compost materials. Club garbage, some weeds, cut before they go to seed or get "woody," grass clippings, tree leaves raked up and piled before they dry out too brittle, and local peats should be considered as compost ingredients. They should be piled now, with only a little top soil to hasten decay, then increased in bulk with sands of right grade before freezing. This material while low in fertility compared to commercial materials, will have to do, even tho bulkier, and costing more to handle.

### Hold Men Through Winter

It is economical to keep the main crewmen working thru the year so they will be available for the next season, but fall and winter work should also justify the expense of carrying these men on the pay roll.

For example, some courses built on stony ground find that stones frost-heave over the winter, and altho they do eventually settle as the season progresses, they do not all return beneath the surface. Such stones that stay exposed are a financial liability. They cause damage to mower knives, wheels and rollers; may cause a player to break a club if he takes a divot from turf just covering a stone. A ball landing on an exposed stone may be deflected off into the rough or woods where it gets lost for good, or ties up play while it is being sought.

Painting, repairs or alterations in the clubhouse and other buildings is best done in the slack golf season. The water-mixt casein paints are quickly applied, and require little if any skill. While wet, the paint looks streaky, but the better grades of paste or powder paints level off in drying which takes little time. These paints are inexpensive, and are highly satisfactory in rooms not subject to shower steaming or cooking grease mists. They come in many colors, and have good light reflecting value, which means less consumption of illumination electricity. This is a job that can be done on stormy days, and done yearly, keeps a freshness in the appearance of the rooms.

Trees and shrubbery on the grounds are an asset, best maintained by pruning, treating bark bruises and cavities in



These sports trophies were turned in to be sold to raise funds for war materials. Chairman Clarence Low (right) of WPB's New York Salvage committee, and Holcombe Ward (left) Pres. of the U. S. Lawn Tennis Assn., head of the sports committee which secured the trophies, inspect the haul to be converted to win the world's title from the Axis.

dormant months. The Greenbrook C.C., Caldwell, N. J., has a good scheme for adding to grounds planting. Before ground freezes, holes are dug and fertilized and fill soil is brought under cover. Members buy evergreen trees, balled and tubbed from nearby nursery "overgrown stock." After New Year's Day, these trees are brought to the club, the grounds crew plants them and each tree is marked with a sign bearing the donor's name. There is some cultural loss, but a gain in trees that do live, nonetheless.

### Here's My Fall Check List

By RAY H. GERBER

Supt., Glen Oak CC, Glen Ellyn, Ill.

AS the golfing season in the Chicago district is drawing to a close I believe most golf clubs have a much better feeling than when the season started.

A good percentage of the clubs are reporting their play as good as last year. Some others are ahead of last year, but the contrary is the situation with clubs in the out-lying districts.

Here at Glen Oak the golfing picture is much brighter than early last spring. Our play is as good as last year's. If there should be a gas rationing, there should be no need for us to worry as the electric train stops at our ninth tee. This will make transportation very convenient. So our plans for the coming year are going to be about the same as in the past.

I am going to try and do as much of

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**

Supt., 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