

In these two districts, as in others, the caddie situation received close attention, with the outcome being that there is developing a better and closer relationship between the clubs and caddies than ever before.

Also in both districts the Greens sections were more active than ever before in close association with greenkeepers who were doing phenomenal work under adverse conditions. The most extensive and closer cooperation between the club and greenkeeper organizations and members in both cities was credited as having been a 1943 development that showed positive benefits.

Detroit's Red Cross tournament raised over \$35,000 and the Chicago District GA through its Victory National tournament raised \$6,445 for servicemen's recreation. Through its Dime a Round campaign, an activity that should be widely copied, the CDGA raised more than \$10,000 for wartime organizations last year.

The CDGA local tournament schedule was maintained and fitted into the wartime working schedules of players. Much was done by the association's general counsel in connection with the effect of the 48 hour week on country clubs, workmen's compensation, federal taxation and state retailers' occupation tax matters.

In the cases of the two regional associations cited because their reports happen to be at hand, there was proof of the wisdom of the old American slogan: "united we stand; divided we fall."

Reports of all associations show slumps in membership slighter than most golfers would expect, but in view of the associations' constructive and vigorous performances last year you wonder if golf clubs aren't missing something very much worth while in wartime by not making association membership larger and cooperation with associations far more extensive and intensive.

Iowa Authority Gives Course Care Tips

H. L. LANTZ, of Iowa State College, in his newsletter for greenkeepers, says: "This year there may be some easing up in the labor problem, depending upon local factors. The fertilizer problem appears to be equally acute as in 1943. No ammonium sulfate or ammonium nitrate is promised at this date.

"Our tests with various fertilizers on blue grass last season showed some interesting results. Soybean meal applied in the spring produced a noticeably greener grass in late August. The protein of soybean meal has to go through bacterial decomposition and be converted into soluble nitrate before the grass can use it. Last summer this process required around 4½ months. A similar application was made again in September. The results should be of interest next spring when growth is resumed. Grass fertilization to be effective on golf courses should promote early and lush growth during the fore part of the growing season so that the fairway sod may be thickened up and weeds 'squeezed out.' Soybean meal appears to have considerable promise, but of course it will not be available for some time, since it is in great demand as feed at this time.

"The problem of greens fertilization during 1944 will keep greenkeepers busy. An organic fertilizer such as Milorganite will do a lot of good if used correctly. There are times during the growing season, however, when greens need a 'shot-in-the-arm,' a fertilizer which is immediately available to the grass.

"During the past two seasons, on account of labor shortage, top-dressing on a number of golf courses was abandoned, or

the number of applications was reduced. The lack of top-dressing may lead to serious trouble. Most competent greenkeepers recommend at least four top-dressings during the growing season. If a top-dressing soil is not prepared in advance, a good sandy loam may be used. A good mixture used by some greenkeepers consists of 2/3 soil plus 1/3 horticultural peat. To this may be mixed the required amount of Milorganite, phosphorous and potash for the first spring application. After that, leave out the phosphorous and potash until the September application. The application of phosphorous and potash in the spring and fall promotes good growth and sturdy grass. Good greens usually follow a wise application of fertilizers, top-dressing and fungicides. No one of these three items can long be neglected. If these procedures are followed and failure follows, this means that it is time to examine the drainage and aeration of the soil.

"Machinery is a headache. Many of our fairway and greens mowers were pretty well worn when the war started. Every effort should be made to put these machines in as good condition as possible by the first of April. It would be wise to order additional parts to make quick replacements when breakdowns occur during this coming season.

"The need for Victory gardens is as urgent as it was last year and the demand for garden space will be as great or greater. No doubt many golf clubs will again cooperate to make land available for member participation in the food for victory campaign."