

Manufacturers and Dealers Cooperating

To offset this gloomy picture it is necessary to point out that the manufacturers of course equipment and their dealers have been cooperating most closely with the greenkeeper in trying to keep their machines running, and the fact that so many courses have been reported to be in excellent condition despite an abnormally dry summer in the past, bears this out. It could not have been done otherwise.

Lessons Have Been Learned

What have we learned from all this, that will pay dividends in the future maintenance of our courses? 1st: It has been brought home to many clubs and greenkeepers alike, that the better machine are going to stay with us. 2nd: That no matter how good, nor how fool-proof they may be, we are going to need a mechanic to keep them running at ca-

capacity service, at least until we are able to train and hold experienced operators. 3rd: That more and better machines are required, some of them to replace hand operations, especially as the older type of men who could use a scythe become extinct.

Manufacturers Should Consult Greenkeeper

In the not far distant future the manufacturer will be glad to consult the greenkeeper, more so than he has done in the past, as to the type and design of many of the machines he will make, especially those to be used for special purposes. For example, mowing the rough; spiking; cutting steep banks; raking sand traps, and gathering fallen leaves. There is much room for improvement and many greenkeepers have been pondering these matters over and some of them have definite ideas as to what is best suited for specific operations.

Mechanical Ball Retriever for Driving Ranges

Below is pictured the newest thing in golf ball retrievers for driving ranges. The new ball retriever is described by William H. Nicholas, Park supt. City of Pasadena: "We are using one of these new machines on our driving range at the Pasadena Municipal golf course.

"The retriever consists of a series of ply-wood discs, just a trifle narrower in spacing than the diameter of a golf ball. The weight of the equipment spreads the discs allowing them to pick up the balls. And, as it rolls around, fingers push the ball out into boxes in front.

"These boxes are removable and you can drop your balls into your buckets. The framework in the front is made to pull by hand; however we have put another hitch on as you will see in the picture and will pull it with a Cushman Glide. The interesting thing about it is that in our situation it is a big conservation of manpower as it replaces two boys who used to pick up the balls and does the job much

more efficiently and quickly. The machine is designed and built by Mr. Martin E. Fonken, 308 East Grinnell Drive, Burbank, California.

"Recently, we started the construction of a 990-yard 9-hole Pitch Putt golf course in an 11 acre piece of ground that was a large estate on our main downtown street, less than three-quarters of a mile from the center of down town. We were able to secure priorities from the War Production Board because the area is just one block from the Army hospital and we believe will help serve in the great rehabilitation program for our servicemen.

"In addition we propose to encourage the youth of the community to use it, and we are designing the course so that the greens will be large enough and should prove an excellent practice area for the many golfers who are members of all the golf courses in the Pasadena area. Incidentally the design and supervision of construction is being done by Mr. William P Bell.

