

Man-Hour Cost Basis to Push Machine Maintenance

A PROMINENT COURSE equipment and supply dealer who is in close touch with the golf field in the mid-continent sees in early prospect a tremendous demand for golf course equipment in that area. He says that the overdue replacement business in itself would account for a vast volume but during the war years the wisdom of power operation, as complete as possible from tee through greens, has been so convincingly demonstrated that the growth of demand for machinery will be far beyond anything anticipated five years ago.

He says that the new basis of course maintenance cost accounting is that of man-hour cost rather than the old plan of number of men required.

As for watering installations and practices he hesitates to comment, particularly as regards fairway irrigation. He says there is a wide difference of opinion as to the worth of heavy watering of some grasses in some areas, and it is his opinion that the matter will be entirely localized; some areas going in for very heavy watering, and other areas, due to climatic and turf conditions, will give slight attention to watering, and more attention to proper fertilization.

He believes that many clubs will install watering systems, due to their good financial condition, and feel that it is a good investment toward good year-around turf; as even in areas where watering fairways is not the answer to good turf alone, it is of great value in dry falls to get the proper reaction from fertilization at the proper time when natural moisture conditions are not favorable.

He sees a tremendous increase in fairway fertilization and a growing interest

in weed control, in which field there has been considerable progress in the last few years.

The matter of labor he regards as a touchy subject, and a vital one, particularly at this time. It is doubtless something to be reasoned with for several years, and a matter that will call for a little more consideration on the part of club managements. He doubts that labor will be available at prewar prices for some time to come; and this of course, will increase the demand for power equipment and labor saving devices.

He expects within the next two years to see some interesting refinements in equipment. He says that there has been very little in the way of revolutionary design within the last few years, and it is his opinion that for at least the next season it will be difficult for manufacturers to provide enough equipment to fill the needs now existing for power equipment.

It is also his opinion that there will be considerable re-designing and some new construction, and that the trend will be toward simplification in design of greens to eliminate all possible hand labor. He is sure that leading designers appreciate this factor and will give more attention to maintenance problems than has formerly been evident. He recently discussed this phase of architecture with one of the leading golf course architects. It was the architect's volunteer opinion that the matter should be given more consideration and was an important consideration for clubs, as well as golf course designing. Such a trend will lower the maintenance cost of a

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golf course, and yet, if properly handled, not affect the interesting challenge of the game.

In his opinion the greenkeepers have done a remarkable job in maintaining courses for the past four years with limited help, inefficient help, and lack of materials and equipment. The clubs will greatly profit from this thrifty experience the greenkeepers have gone through.

CLUB HAILS STRINGHAMS—Minnehaha CC, Sioux Falls, S. D., observed 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Stringham with a gala party attended by more than 150 members. Charley has been with the club more than 30 years as supt. He is widely known among greenkeepers, pros and amateurs as a very able man at his business, a great hunter, and an all-around grand guy. Ma Stringham is a super-star in her own right, so the club had plenty of license in rejoicing at having the two teammates. Mayor C. M. Whitfield presided at the festivities which were highlighted by the talk of the green chairman who hired Charley, and by presentation of a bond, a testimonial scroll, a purse and a case of shotgun shell, the latter representing a noble gesture by Sioux Falls nimrods. A 50th anniversary cake taller than a silo, so pro Ed Livingston says, was sliced along with the oratorical baloney ribbing Charley.

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