

able to these economic attacks. And when once a greenkeeper's salary has been reduced club officials can find so many excuses to keep it down. Generally it takes some unprecedented condition like a war or a business boom to place a greenkeeper in the same financial status as before.

During my 50 years as a greenkeeper I have been through 2 wars and 3 major depressions, so can speak with some truth and conviction. It is my belief that during all that time the greenkeeper's status has not been raised very much.

Greenkeeper Stands Alone

He is surrounded by wealth and by men in high positions in the professional and business world, which cannot help but give him an inferiority complex. It matters not how tolerant these men in high places are or how good they are, there is one fact that always stands out, that a greenkeeper is never regarded as an equal in social standing, and is generally looked upon as a glorified laborer, subject to the vagaries of those in authority over him. If they want to be mean there is nothing a greenkeeper can do about it.

He stands alone, mostly financially unable to talk back, for he is dependent on his job to live. In this vast country where doctors, lawyers, business men, technical men, artisans, clerks, railwaymen and others are all organized, the greenkeeper still goes it alone. He has an organization that gives him technical advice but no solid protection, and oftentimes some ambitious worker will sell him down the river and secure his job. If we could take a census of greenkeepers 20 years ago and see what has become of them today, the story would not only be astounding, it would be alarming. In my own locale out of a master greenkeeper personnel of nearly 40 a decade ago, only 8 are in the business today and these are old reliables who have borne the brunt of battle and are nearly ready for the social security benefits to give them relief in their old age.

Perhaps the greenkeeper has not done all he could to raise his own status, perhaps he drank too much or neglected his work, did not shave and keep himself clean. Perhaps he should have put on a clean shirt more often and cultivated those social niceties that pros and managers do so prettily. What would that avail him if he had bad greens and a ragged layout? Even Hagen had to have something on the ball besides dress. But Mr. Editor, I know what you mean; a man at least should be respectable (or able to stand inspection) but even this is no guarantee of holding his job.

The most deplorable insult a greenkeeper can suffer is, after years of satisfactory work, to be denied the opportunity of giving one's best effort in a major improve-

ment, of being pushed aside as of no consequence and allowing some so-called expert to come in and take all the glory in achievement. This has been done so frequently that all the ambition and glory has been taken away from a greenkeeper, and only dull routine is left for him to do. When opportunity is denied him to prove himself an artist, his status will never be raised for he is just a hireling of no importance.

How to raise the standard of a greenkeeper is one of those complex questions that can never be answered satisfactorily. It depends upon the man, the club, the opportunity, and dear old Lady Luck. The unfortunate part of the whole business is that there is no ladder to climb. Today we are a worker, tomorrow, by some unforeseen circumstance, a greenkeeper—the change is too swift. We are either a man or a mouse.

It does not matter what our associations think, it's what club officials think that counts. If we had an organization that had the strength to decide who should be who, then things might be different, but we have neither strength nor power. We are like a bird in a cage, we can move a certain distance and no further, and to think we are masters of our own destiny is one of those pious dreams that carries us on and on but gets us no place. The only power we have is the privilege of quitting if we don't like the job.

S. CAL. TURF RESEARCH PUSHED—

Meetings at the Los Angeles CC have brought together Southern Calif. GA Golf Club Supts. Assn., UCLA officials, PGA officials, SC Public Links Assn., park and cemetery officials, golf architects and supply men interested in establishing a turf research program at the University of California, Los Angeles. Greenkeepers in the LA district have been advocating location of a turf experimental station and research work at the UCLA for some years. They have maintained that such work would effect tremendous savings in contending with unique problems of turf development and maintenance in Southern California. Presence of Dr. Vern Stoutemeyer of UC LA faculty and availability of his successful experience with the Iowa State college turf research work caused Southern California greenkeepers to renew their drive for this work. C. C. Simpson, chmn., green committee, Southern California GA, and George Armstrong, pres., SGGGA, went to bat in bringing other organizations into the collaborating group. Now there are hopeful signs that turf research in Southern California soon will have the benefit of university tie-up that has proved highly profitable in other sections.