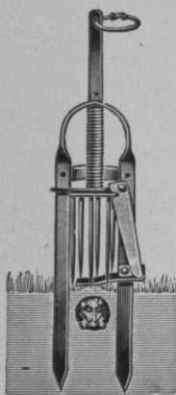


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**GREENKEEPERS' WARTIME JOB
WAS POSSIBLE HANDICAP**

By Arthur Boggs

The golfer who was out of the country or laid off the game during the war found quite a surprise when he renewed his play. He discovered that the course is in good shape, in fact probably kept its condition much better than his own swing did during the lay-off of war years.

If he thought about the course at all he realized that somebody must have done a lot of work on it to keep it from showing signs of deterioration.

The war did teach the greenkeeper many things. It taught him how to improvise more than he ever had before. The labor situation was worse at golf clubs than in industries where big wages were being paid.

Still the work had to be done on the course. The greens had to be mowed, top-dressed and watered. The fairways had to be mowed, watered and sometimes fertilized. The usual problems of maintenance existed and those golfers who continued to play were about as exacting as ever.

If the greenkeeper was over draft age the work gradually fell heavily on him as the help left, one by one, for military service or work in war plants.

If the greenkeeper left too, then the job had to be taken over by some old-timer on the force who did the best he could.

As a result the greenkeeper had to dress and act as a laborer. He couldn't do all the work that was required and remain well-dressed. That's when members and officials got in the habit of thinking the greenkeeper was just an ordinary sweating grass mower and it may be that the greenkeeper too got out of looking and acting like a superintendent with plenty of supervisory and other responsibilities of an expensive and complex plant.

The greenkeeper in the war years at many clubs did the work of five men and a horse and regardless of the budget kept the course in pretty good shape. But nobody can expect that abnormal condition to prevail in the postwar period.

It looks in some places like the greenkeeper spoiled things for himself by working himself ragged for his club during the war years. But at any club where officials are experienced, observant and have an element of gratitude the adjustment of the greenkeeper to his proper rating as an expert manager of a course has been made without difficulty or misunderstanding.