

ments in housing, playgrounds, sanitary facilities, refreshment facilities and traffic routes for caddies, will minimize future aggravations from this ever-present source. Traffic routes of caddies are but a part of the total foot-traffic problems. The clubhouse, pro-shop, bag-cart storage rooms, lawns, pool and tennis courts all demand definite traffic routes, some of which may be beneficially modified as much as present-day cloverleaves modify the flow of vehicular movements.

Back to the course proper again, it seems almost presumptive to suggest items for consideration of the green chairman and the superintendent. With the opening of schools and colleges, the young blood will be leaving the golf course labor ranks, and the dearth of labor we experienced last spring will again be a reality.

A few principles might be suggested that will help with the vexing question of deciding where available labor can best be used. So far we have considered some of the desirable extra-curricular improvements that could be made to keep our people happier. It is well to keep in mind that there are many essential items in maintaining the golf plant that must receive consideration after the midsummer nightmare.

The most essential consideration is that of turf. Areas that were damaged can not be ignored. Sodding and seeding must be done. Here it is well to consider the factors that brought on the damage. If caused by a solvable traffic problem, it is obviously better to solve the problem than continue to struggle with the effect. Likewise, if poor varieties of grass went out, they should be replaced with better ones. If excessive shade or moisture is responsible for the injury, correct the condition. A simple workable rule: "Correct the cause; the cure is costly."

There are many good, playable golf courses that require but a fraction of the time and labor required to maintain others. This is, of course, due to a number of factors, some of which cannot be controlled. But it is apparent that the course designed to use power equipment efficiently has an advantage over the one where much hand work is necessary. Where alterations that will permit the reasonable use of more economical equipment can be made, it is poor business to neglect making them. Likewise, if the equipment used is not economical in operation, more money goes down the sewer.

Figuring the Costs

No plan for fall and winter work can be worthy of the paper it is written on, unless the equipment and facilities available to do the job are of high efficiency. The superintendent and green chairman who are responsible for the execution of

any plan of alteration must carefully consider the choice of method. Purchase of good equipment for making alterations has oftentimes saved clubs good money on a specific job, and the equipment was left in club ownership, ready for the next job. On the other hand, it is obviously poor business to invest in costly equipment that will depreciate in value at a rate higher than outside contractors would charge for the use of their equipment. The choice must be made by the responsible parties after all factors are considered.

The ability and ingenuity of the men who care for our golf plants, coupled with the work done by reserach people and manufacturers, has kept the cost of golf maintenance within reasonable limits despite general inflation. There remains much to be done. If the trend is to continue toward better quality, intelligent planning and efficient execution of those plans are of fundamental importance.

The loosely organized business of golf is complicated by weather, climate, soil, economic condition, terrain, labor availability, and technological problems without number. Planning progress despite complications is the job faced by the green chairman and the superintendent. Pope said it well, "A mighty maze! but not without a plan."

Field Days and Conferences

- Aug. 5—Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J.
- Aug. 20-21—Field Day, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, R. I.
- Sept. 3-4—Field Day, Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa.
- Sept. 24—Field Day, Greater Cincinnati Golfers' League and Cincinnati Golf Course Superintendents.
- Oct. 6-7—Turf Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Oct. 9-10—Turf Conference, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.
- Oct. 13-14—Turf Conference, Washington State College, Pullman, Wash.
- Oct. 22-24—Third Turf Conference, Central Plains Turf Foundation and Kansas State College, Manhattan, Kans.
- Nov. 17-21—American Society of Agronomy meetings, Netherlands Plaza Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Dec. 1-3—Texas Turf Conference, Texas A & M College, College Station, Texas.