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Course Management that Saves Money

Frank Dinelli, supt., Northmoor CC (Chicago dist.), makes some observations that are endorsed by other superintendents who manage their courses with the same excellent results and economy Frank shows at Northmoor.

He says:

"Even in periods of labor shortage it's very doubtful that a man in charge of a first class course can afford, for the good of his job, to go around operating machinery. When he does that he's liable to find himself tied to one detail while something urgently important is developing elsewhere on the course.

"What makes the superintendent of most value to his club is keeping his trained eyes on all parts of the job. In the summer when school is out he should be able to train high school or college lads to properly handle routine work and place them where an experienced worker can advise and help the youngsters, so the superintendent can get around the course supervising every activity.

"The sudden development of disease or insect threats must be attended to without delay and if a superintendent is devoting

himself to routine chores that can be done by day labor he is not managing himself in a way that gives his club fullest value from his services.

"His chairman and other officials know that in their businesses they don't see the chief engineer or the sales manager folding the mail and licking the stamps; if they're doing that something is wrong in the organizing and operating of the business. When they see the superintendent of a heavy investment in golf plant running a mower the business executives might well be inclined to think that if that's the biggest work the department head can find to do the whole job can't be too exacting.

"Doing detail work is a hard habit to break with some men who are in charge of good golf courses. They'd sooner do the work themselves than try to train somebody. Consequently they're at one place on a course for hours when they should be getting around.

"A summer like this one we've been having, with the necessity of constant expert vigilance on all parts of the course, really is a disguised blessing in reminding the superintendent he's expected to be everywhere at once so he'll keep ahead of trouble.

"There's another point that is emphasize-

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Dept. A

ing the superintendent's value as a practical expert and that's the dosage of chemical treatments. In exchanging experiences with other superintendents in the Chicago district I've been impressed by the fact that, in some cases, dosages higher than the manufacturers' recommendations give complete and safe control whereas the recommended dosages may give such inadequate control that they really don't do the product justice.

"Determination of the correct dosages for the conditions is a delicate and important problem. Sometimes even the minimum recommended dosage may be too strong. But often I've seen that recommendations made with a view to accenting the economy of a product actually work out to be an extravagance because the product in the applied amount doesn't do the job. Twice the money spent to get complete control safely is economy over a sum spent in getting disappointing results."

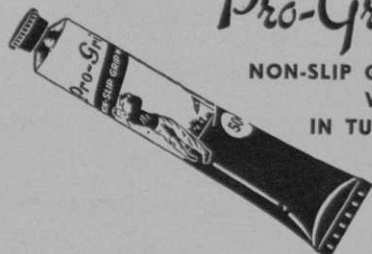
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