

Encourage Fast Play But Don't Cut Back on the Challenge

By JOE C. HADWICK
Supt., CC of Lincoln, Neb.

In addition to problems of agronomy the course supt. has an important and delicate problem involving the time of play.

At our course, as at many others, play was terrific last year. Roughs were kept short and fairways were made as wide as possible to eliminate delays. Improvements that made the course easier to play were rated as essentials in our program.

Encouraging faster play and better scoring by the majority of club members without diminishing the charm, the challenge, the basic competition of player vs. course and the fundamental nature of the game, requires sound judgment. If the course is made too easy to be interesting, play will fall off.

Stretching the budget was a tougher job last year than ever before on labor, materials and machinery. Wages increased and it was difficult to get sufficient labor that could be trained to understand and perform jobs that have to be done with the least possible interference with the players.

Possibly there has been unbalanced consideration of some of the grass diseases that we regard as the newer ones. There has been more attention to the cure of these diseases than to their causes and prevention.

Plans Experimental Work

I believe that deficiencies of trace and minor elements may account for some of our newer and mystifying turf troubles. I am going to do some experimental work at our course on this problem in association with our State University.

I see some turf that is well fed with nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and lime but which still seems to lack something and be susceptible to disease. I want to learn the what and why of cases such as this.

In golf we are still far behind most other businesses in the percentage of income spent on research. We have innumerable problems on courses and lawns that are not getting adequate attention for the simple reason that the money for the work isn't being made available.

There is a chance that we will get more work done on our courses by making the work easier. Industrial and office jobs

are being made easier all the time. Course work isn't as hard as it used to be but it still is heavy enough to have laborers shopping around before they will take a golf course job.

The idea that men might be trained to do better work easier is making some progress in golf course maintenance. But it isn't advancing as rapidly as it should because the supt. himself probably is reconciled to getting up early and working and worrying until late at night to get and keep a course in enjoyable condition for men who have been told by the doctors not to kill themselves with long hours or hard work, but to get out and play some golf.

PGA Holds Teaching School at Dunedin

PGA's Teaching and Educational schedule was presented at Dunedin Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 and will continue through February.

Evening sessions with professionals and authorities from other fields of education bring out a great deal of interesting and useful discussion.

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