

Golfdom

The Business Journal of Golf
REG. U. S. PATENT OFFICE

Vol. 7

MARCH, 1933

No. 3

New Ideas, Work and Enthusiasm Outsmart Depression at Clubs

By JOE GRAFFIS

THAT GREAT magazine *Time*, several issues ago made one of its few fumbles when it said that 25% of the nation's golf clubs were bankrupt or had suspended. What *Time* based its figures on was the fact that the USGA membership had slumped 25% in a little over two years.

Nobody can make a reasonably good guess on how many golf clubs are sadly in the red financially. GOLFDOM, which gets more annual financial statements of golf clubs than any other factor in the field, already has commented on the 1932 statements showing there is ample foundation for the estimate that more clubs operated at a profit in 1932 than during any other year of American golf history. As for clubs suspending operations altogether, the prospect for 1933 indicates that very few folded entirely, and those were largely of the 9-hole pasture type. Some of the larger clubs that were in over their heads on plant investment may turn to daily-fee but that won't be a bad thing for the game. It should arouse more golf interest if properly worked.

New Ways to Sign Up Members

But this prospect of competition with luxurious private courses operating on a fee basis, already has done its bit in benefiting the golf field. It stirred up some ingenious thought and brisk action among clubs threatened with this competition as

a deterrent to their membership campaigns.

Last year one of the country's greatest golf clubs put new pep and brought new money into its affairs by running an entertainment schedule that was the greatest thing in its metropolitan community. The club made money on its entertainments, got a committee of live young workers to organize, conduct and publicize the schedule, and put new zip, along with new members into the entire situation.

Another club that had a hard membership problem created a class of associate members who were admitted on introduction by a member, at an annual dues charge of \$115. The member's dues stayed at \$200 a year, unless he introduced an acceptable associate member, in which case the member had his own dues cut to \$115.

Another club, clearly realizing that women's interest in golf is the liveliest part of the game, held winter luncheons for its women members and stirred them up on membership solicitation. The women did more than the men could do in getting desirable new members.

Pros, Managers Must Help

The pros and managers, fully aware that the foundation of their operations must be a large membership, took more of an interest in membership solicitation than they

ever did before. Wherever a man was really on the job in the pro and house departments, visiting men or women players were impressed by some thoughtful exhibition of superior club service. You'll see a decided development in that phase of department head activity during 1933.

I know of one case when one of the brightest young pros of my acquaintance moved into a new job this year. The job is at a club where 75 members had resigned since the end of last season. Before this boy took this job he visited every one of the resigned members and asked them why they quit. In only a few of the cases were the resignations made imperative by the resignee's financial condition. Most of the members had resigned because they thought things were "dead" at the club.

This kid showed them a program of events he had worked out for men, women and children. He told them about his instruction policies and what he had observed at other clubs in the way of ideas that could be put into effect at this club to pep things up. Single-handed, he got 58 of the members to come back into the fold.

That illustration shows that a lot of the clubs may be overlooking bets in not going after old members for renewal of their memberships. With many clubs cutting dues the last two years, and with club's operations on a lively but simple basis, there is a new appeal at many plants.

Reinstating Old Members

Alexander Warden, of the Meadow Lark C. C., Great Falls, Mont., reports that ably run organization, following a fine financial showing in 1932, now permits members who resigned during the last three years to be reinstated without penalty, providing they were fully paid up at the time of resignation. This club which was in the red \$2,500 at the end of 1931 watched its operations on a strict monthly budget basis during 1932 and ended out of debt and with a cash balance of \$1,100. Naturally its former members are going to be impressed with this example of successful operating and will be inclined to come back. Meadow Lark intends to put in a swimming pool and tennis court as a further attraction for members in 1933.

Waiving the initiation fee as an emergency measure has succeeded beyond expectation in many cases. One of the old and distinguished metropolitan district clubs, by eliminating the initiation fee,

took in approximately 100 of the finest type of younger members since the close of the 1932 season.

Many smaller town clubs, such as the excellent Hillsdale (Mich.) C. C., have eliminated the initiation fee. When you can belong to a course like that at Hillsdale for \$25, payable \$12.50 January 1 and July 1, you have a heaven-sent answer to the call for poor man's golf. Considerable play is made on community pride in the membership drives of such clubs as Hillsdale, and properly so, for a course like Hillsdale's establishes the community as a place far above the average.

Base Dues on Amount of Play

Dat old debbil dues which has been giving hell to golf clubs is being attacked in a most ingenious manner by the Fox Hills G. C., at Stapleton, N. Y. The Fox Hills plan has been the subject of much discussion in the New York metropolitan sector and chances are that other clubs will adopt it before the opening of the season.

Considerable investigation was done by the Fox Hills club. James J. Conaty, green-chairman of Fox Hills, and the one to whom his comrades assigned the development of this effort to reduce the cost of golf, tells of the idea, in advising GOLF-DOM:

"Prior to this year our annual dues have been \$200, plus U. S. government tax. During the past winter the number of our resignations was greater by far than expected and the Board of Directors felt that something must be done to permit members to play golf at a cost more in keeping with the times. The committee appointed formulated the following plan:

Dues to be fixed at \$100 a year, payable in ten monthly installments. The use of the golf course for playing and practice to be \$1.00 per day up to a total of 60 days in any one year with unlimited golf privileges after that and without further charge. An analysis of the playing activity for the season of 1932 showed an average of 40 days of golf per member. This distributes the cost of golf more equitably and those who make a greater use of the course contribute more than those who make little or no use of it.

We believe dues will take care of fixed overhead charges and the income derived from the playing fee plus the other additional revenue will be sufficient to take care of departmental operations provided



Clubhouse and No. 8 green at Pine Hills C. C., Sheboygan, Wis. The hole is 365 yards, with tee elevated about 35 ft. Native stone steps lead down to the fairway. A stream runs about 20 yards in front of the tee. The course is one of the hardest to score on in the state, according to "Doc" Treacy, veteran Woodmont pro. Paul Johnson is Pine Hills pro.

the chairmen of the various committees confine themselves to the budgetary limits placed upon them. To make this change possible it was necessary to amend the by-laws and to create a special class of member, inasmuch as we own our property and a resident member is required to hold a participating certificate of interest in the club assets. Dues have been reduced to the resident members and to the special members and the special membership class has been extended for a two-year period and given the same playing privileges as enjoyed by resident members, except that the special member does not have to purchase an interest in the club.

Of course, it is too early to measure results and we will have to await the beginning of the golfing season in April to prove whether we are on the right track. It is interesting, however, to note that during January and February we enrolled sixteen new members which is most unusual the first two months of any year around New York. The success of the plan depends upon our getting a full membership.

It has always been my opinion that the cost of golf was getting beyond control and that catering to the whims and wishes

of a few made golf a luxury rather than a pastime or a sport.

It may be interesting for you to know the average number of rounds per member for a twelve (12) month period:

13 members played	0 rounds.
30 members played	1-9 rounds.
23 members played	10-19 rounds.
15 members played	20-29 rounds.
14 members played	30-39 rounds.
25 members played	40-49 rounds.
45 members played	50-59 rounds.
13 members played	60-99 rounds.
12 members played	100 rounds and over.

Tom Boyd, our professional and greenkeeper, has shown excellent results and his co-operation and industry has made it possible for the green-committee to keep within a very limited budget made necessary by a general reduction of income and still provide a playable course."

BROWNED AREAS on putting greens are not necessarily due to brown-patch infection. They may be due to:

- Insufficient water.
- Poisons in the soil.
- Chemical burns.
- Unfavorable soil conditions.
- Starvation—especially no nitrogen.

How I Made a Barrel Cart Out of Odds and Ends

By GEORGE CASKEY

Greenkeeper, Rochelle (Ill.) C. C.

SOME OF US handling the smaller clubs where budget allowances are so small that the purchase of equipment is difficult are seriously handicapped and often have to spend more on labor than the equipment would cost. One way of keeping the cost down and making the skimpy budget balance is to use some of the odds and ends lying around to build some maintenance machinery.

Herewith is an illustration showing how I made a barrel cart out of an old iron lawn roller, an old gasoline barrel, some pipe, and scraps of plank.

I believe the illustration shows very plainly how it is made, but I will elaborate on a few of the details.

In this type of lawn roller the weight is generally obtained by suspending a heavy iron weight from the shaft in the

center of the rollers. Such was the case here. I removed the handle and the center weight. The bearings which fastened the handle to the roller shaft were separate from the handle and bolted to it. These I removed and used, bolting them to two short pieces of 2x12 in. plank about 24 ins. long. If you will examine the picture closely you can see the bolts.

I made a little platform over the top of the roller of two inch plank of a size to hold the barrel—a 12 in. piece in the center and a 2x4 at front and at back.

Two-by-fours were bolted to the sides and a 1 in. pipe run thru them for a handle to pull the cart. Shorter 2x4's were dropped from the handle to the ground for supports to prevent the barrel from tipping too far forward when standing. The barrel must set well forward so there is some weight on the handle at all times other-



Here's the home-made barrel cart in operation. Not a thing of beauty, but it works, which is all that matters, and the cost was negligible.

wise there is too great a tendency to tip backwards.

We cut the top out of the gas barrel, cut a hole large enough to admit a 1 in. pipe close to the bottom of the barrel, and set it on the improvised cart. The lower rim of the hole in the barrel should be at least 1/2 inch above the bottom of the barrel to allow for the locknuts that hold the pipe in place.

Blocks cut to fit the shape of the barrel were nailed to the platform on both sides of the barrel to prevent it from sliding off the platform. A wire run thru a hole at the top of the barrel and fastened to the platform prevented the barrel from tipping toward the back, and a piece of sheet metal bent into a clamp and fastened over the pipe held it from tipping forward.

For pipe, control valve, etc., I used the following: A short nipple with a long thread on one end and provided with two locknuts and a rubber gasket, a 1 in. gate valve, a close nipple, a tee, and two pieces of 1 in. pipe each 40 ins. long; and two pipe caps.

The locknuts and gasket made a tight connection with the barrel and also afforded some support to the distribution pipe. However, as the nipple projects out from the barrel and is a slight distance above the bottom, I placed a small block under it which supports the distribution pipe, rather than have it supported by the thin side wall of the barrel. The clamp that keeps the barrel from tipping forward, mentioned above, holds the pipe down tight against the block and to the platform. If a wooden barrel is used this probably would not be necessary as the sides of a wooden barrel are of sufficient strength to support the pipe.

The distribution, the tee plus the two 40 in. lengths is approximately 7 ft. long. I screwed the three pieces together, and laid the assembly on the work bench. Driving a nail into the bench at each end of the pipe, I stretched a string between the nails and directly above the center of the pipe. With a crayon I made a straight line the entire length of the pipe and tee. With a pair of dividers, I made scratches every 3/8 in. the entire length of the pipe. I followed this with center punch marks and took the assembly to the local machinist to drill the holes—1/8 in. in diameter.

I happened to have on hand a 1 in. steam throttle valve and I used it in place of a regular gate valve. This valve is exactly like an ordinary gate valve except that it

opens and closes by simply pushing and pulling a lever instead of turning the handle. It makes a very handy outfit, but the cost is about double that of an ordinary gate valve, and I don't believe it necessary. I had the valve on hand and no other use for it.

I made a circular cover for the top of the barrel from scraps of 1 in. material, double thickness, cutting the lower thickness so that it just fit inside the barrel and the top about 2 inches greater diameter than the diameter of the barrel. This cover prevents any splashing over the sides of the barrel.

Looks Clumsy But Works Well.

The entire outfit looks clumsy, but it is not clumsy to handle and it is surprising how easy it is to handle on a green. It can be turned any place on the putting surface without injury to the turf and because of the width of the roller there are no wheel tracks left. I have used it on greens too soft to use an ordinary barrel cart on. The roller is made in three sections, hence the easy turning.

While I realize that a wooden barrel is probably better, there was none available. We have used this for two years and while it is rusted somewhat on the inside, it is still good for several more seasons. We always wash it out well after using.

If we had purchased everything we used the cost would have been as follows:

Roller (purchased 2nd hand) ..	\$ 3.00
Barrel (purchased 2nd hand) ..	1.00
Lumber	3.00
Pipe, inc. cutting, threading, etc.	3.00
Drilling holes in pipe ..	.75
Valve—1 in. gate.....	1.50
Labor (estimated)	5.00
Bolts, nails, paint, etc.....	1.00

Total\$18.25

We had the lumber, pipe, barrel, nails, paint, and valve on hand and our cost of building over the cost of labor was:

Roller	\$ 3.00
Cutting and threading pipe..	1.00
Drilling holes in pipe.....	.75
Bolt25

Total\$ 5.00

Ten dollars was complete cost including labor. As all the work on this was done at odd moments when nothing else could have been done, the labor became simply

overhead chargeable to, "Repairs and general maintenance."

A greenkeeper friend of mine, from whom I conceived the idea of using the roller used the roller from a Roseman fairway mower. I think it is even better than mine as the roller is not quite so high or so heavy, and the entire unit sets closer to the ground making it less topheavy.

The only fault I have to find with the cart is that it is inclined to tip over backwards going upgrade. Setting the barrel forward so that some weight is on the handle does away with most of this danger and only ordinary care is necessary to prevent an accident.

The picture shows three men pulling it. Two of us pull it most of the time, though three are better.

A barrel full of water with the pipe drilled as this one was drilled will cover approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of putting surface if pulled at a normal walk.

I am writing this just as a suggestion: There are many other types of wheels, rollers, etc., that could be used for the same thing and probably with much better results than I have secured. I hate the sight of a barrel cart and do not use it when I can find some other way of making an application; but unless you have power spray facilities I don't think any greenkeeper should be without one.

A Topdressing Mat.

The first few times we topdressed the greens at Rochelle, we matted the topdressing in, using the back of a rake. This was too slow; so the next time I got ready to topdress, I went to the local hardware man and asked him if he had any steel door mats. He produced a small one, 18x36 ins. I believe it was. I bought two of them at a bargain, took them back to the club and wired them together, using small wire. I wired a broomstick across the ends for a drawbar, tied a small rope to this and I have as fine a mat for brushing in dressing as can be bought anywhere. The finished mat is 36x36 in., probably not as large as I'd like to have it, but it works fine.

I wired the two mats together in such a way that the flexibility of the mat is not impaired and the wire does not scratch the green.

Another little tool I find very handy is a common table fork with the tines bent in the form of a hook. I carry one in a loop formed by a leather strap on the handle of my putting green mower at all times. You



See the fork hanging from the mower handle. It does many useful jobs for the mower man.

can see it in the picture. I use it to "comb out" the dirt thrown up by an ant hill or worm cast, or to remove clover, crab grass and chickweed. Try it once and you'll be surprised to see how handy a tool it is.

Jap Beetle Quarantine May Be Extended

JAPANESE beetles have spread so rapidly beyond the limits of the present zone of quarantine, which comprises the states of Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, Rhode Island and District of Columbia and portions of Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, that Sec'y of Agriculture Hyde is recommending the extension of the quarantine to include several additional states. From within this area, certain agricultural products may not be shipped, among which the following are of interest to golf clubs: Nursery stock, ornamental trees and shrubs, sand, soil, earth, peat, compost and manure.

While arsenate of lead has been most effective in preserving the turf of golf courses from damage by the Japanese beetle, clubs everywhere should be interested in preventing the spread of the pest to areas not as yet affected, since once the beetle gets a foothold, much money must be spent fighting the ravages of the grubs on greens and fairways.

Membership Slump Is Halted, Say Managers in Annual Meeting

By HERB GRAFFIS

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Club Managers Assn., in session at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, February 27-March 2, drew an attendance almost 100 more than the 1932 national meeting.

Barring the matter of heavy fixed charges which have some clubs trying to wriggle out of a spot against the wall, the club managers were hopeful about the situation. City clubs, which are about 6 months ahead of the golf clubs in their ability to guess on the 1933 season, report membership slumps have slowed down. Only slightly more than the average turnover in membership has been experienced this winter by representative city clubs.

City club experience in operating on a cash basis has been so successful in instances mentioned by visiting managers that an extension of this plan is predicted for 1933. According to gossip at the convention, country clubs were planning house operation minus all show-off but with lively, simple entertainment during 1933.

It was brought out early in the meeting that one of the manager's most important present duties is connected with membership solicitation. In numerous cases managers spoke of "ghosting" by letter and telephone for their officials in going after candidates for membership. Club officials have enough to do in maintaining their own businesses so the all-important job of membership solicitation falls on the manager who has the initiative, ability and permission to take an active part in this work.

After some debate the dues in the national association were kept at \$10 a year. Manager O. F. Davenport of the Elks' club, Springfield, Ill., called attention to the need of a membership campaign by the Club Managers' Ass'n, citing that the organization had less than 10 per cent of the managers on its roster. This weakness of the organization reflected on the manager's individual situation, as many a manager needs support that national association could supply in situations that come up in almost every club, simply

because the member is rare who doesn't think he knows more about running a club than men who have spent 10 to 40 years in the business.

The load Davenport shot into the managers about the need of association strength would have been good medicine for the pros and greenkeepers.

Difficulty of fairly comparing figures on operations which already has cost many managers their jobs, in the absence of standardized accounting that would make comparisons clear and correct, still is agony to the managers. The country club managers in a conference took action on the adoption of a standardized accounting system with which they have been worrying for a couple of years.

Members of the association rolled out of the warm sheets at 5:30 a. m. Tuesday, to see the South Water street market in operation. The night before the managers compared notes on markets of the world. Thomas P. Jones, president of the association and manager of the Harvard Club, Boston, is an authority on world wholesale food markets. Jones, in the evening's informal discussion pointed out how careful buying of quality material has helped the clubs weather the storm to such a degree many of the managers made more money in their restaurants last year than they ever did before. Getting the old market basket over the arm, figuratively, and getting the members reconciled to the absence of big staffs of waiters and busboys, is the policy managers have adopted.

The association's official magazine featured in its convention issue an editorial on managers' graft on purchases, which stirred up some lively controversy. Graft as an issue became extinct some years ago and the depression completed the clean-up for the boys who held their hands out, leading managers stated. Seeing a large number of men crawl out in the cold grey dawn to study close-up the buying of better for less, as the managers saw during their inspection of the South Water market, indicates they are close buyers.

How Public Courses May Qualify for R. F. C. Loans

By J. FRENCH PADDOCK
Consulting Engineer

OVER 400 PROFESSIONAL golfers, now seeking employment and looking forward to days when demand will absorb supply among their numbers, should be vitally interested in the opportunities offered by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in the financing of new municipal golf courses.* In passing on such projects for loans, capable professional management must be indicated and maintained.

It is an opportunity that should interest, as well, the manufacturers of golfing equipment and supplies. In fact, all those in the business of supplying the needs of golfdom should be boosters for municipal golf projects that can be shown as self-liquidating and economically desirable, thereby qualifying for loans from the R. F. C.

Representatives of building supply manufacturers, engineers, architects, and building contractors have evidenced positive interest in promulgating legislation and studying the feasibility of promoting projects that can be made self-liquidating under R. F. C. requirements. Entire sales organizations of such manufacturers are now devoting much of their time to vast educational programs under various State Committees for Trade Recovery. Those allied with the contracting and building industries as expressed in housing projects,

**Types of Public Projects that may be made eligible for loans:*

The construction of municipal swimming pools, golf courses, stadia or other recreational facilities which will be paid for out of charges for their use.

Self-Liquidating Defined:

For the purposes of this subsection a project shall be deemed to be self-liquidating if such project will be made self-supporting and financially solvent, and if the construction cost thereof will be returned within a reasonable period by means of tolls, fees, rents, or other charges, or by such other means (other than by taxation) as may be prescribed by the statutes which provide for the project.

water supply, sewage disposal, bridges, tunnels, etc., that can be made self-liquidating, are serving on committees, attending conferences; in fact, laboring ceaselessly to devise ways and means of planning work for thousands now unemployed.

It seems that the opportunities along the same lines as applied to municipally owned golf courses are being sadly neglected. Yet such golf courses show a remarkable record of self-maintenance and are among the items suggested in literature of the R. F. C. as being most suitable for promotion.

In Indiana, where the average population per hole in cities of over 5,000 is 1,245, 20 cities are sufficiently below the state average to justify consideration of municipally owned and operated golf courses, together with clubhouse facilities, supply shops, and refreshment concessions.

In Ohio, where the average population per hole in cities of over 5,000 is 1,267, 16 cities have golf facilities sufficiently under that average to justify consideration of municipally owned golf courses.

In Michigan, where the average population per hole in cities over 5,000 is 1,250, 8 cities are sufficiently below the State average to justify consideration of municipally owned golf courses.

An analysis of the needs of all states would conservatively give 500 new golf courses with their attendant need of equipment, labor to construct, seed, building supplies, shop equipment, etc., as the probable field of promotional activity open to those interested in the business of golf.

Where cities have park land available and suitable, or where such cities' lands are as yet undeveloped for definite purposes, the construction of municipal golf courses may assist materially in alleviating unemployment. Where desirability and feasibility are readily determined, much work can be accomplished throughout the medium of welfare labor pending receipt of funds from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as needed.

There is nothing particularly mysterious

about the requirements or workings of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. It is simply a correct economic approach, financial analysis and program of execution and operation applicable to any contemplated project that can pay its board and keep. The data which has been accumulated to date regarding the cost of building and operating courses, the number of rounds of golf played at various charges, figures on the golf supporting public, the profits from the sale of playing equipment, the leased income of concessions, make available most of the information required on which feasibility is to be judged. This data in itself simplifies the approach to municipal golf under Reconstruction Finance Corporation loans.

An objection may be raised that many private club courses have been thrown open to the public; that daily fee courses are not overly busy. This must be taken as an abnormal rather than a normal condition, as is the doubling up of families in the housing field. Taking as the basis for normalcy, the average population per hole that has supported golf for the past several years, a broader and more correct prospective as to the needs in any specific locality may be obtained. It would be well also to take into consideration this single point of sales psychology: That while many private club courses may be thrown open for public fee play, the average player not a country club member would much prefer playing on a municipal golf course, where he feels he has a right to be, than patronize the finest private club course where he is "tolerated" for an indefinite and uncertain period. And, incidentally, many former club members are now patronizing public courses.

If new municipal golf courses are to be built with funds of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the outlets for such funds must be promoted by those interested in the BUSINESS OF GOLF.

The first step toward definite promotion is through the collection and redistribution of information. Probably the first needed information can be obtained from the editor of GOLFDOM. He can no doubt inform you whether or not your particular city contains opportunity for the promotion of a municipal golf course. Further, he can probably tell you how many holes will be feasible. Information as to the cities' tax and credit situation, powers under its Charter and land owned that would be suitable and available, constitute

vital factors. Where the need is evident, a little talk with the Mayor, President of the Commission, or City Manager may be in order. The Golf Manufacturers' Association could constitute a headquarters for the collection and distribution of vital statistics and information that will be needed in answering the questionnaire and instructions of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Necessary initial capital can be raised through the sale of memberships to public spirited citizens and to others interested.

Existing programs for action by Committees for Trade Recovery lay great stress on specific information as to where various public improvements are needed. For example, the Michigan Committee publishes a long list of cities and towns needing sewage disposal and water purification plants. Later reports will no doubt cover various other needed improvements including housing projects for reconstruction of blighted areas, etc. Manufacturers through their sales forces are seeing to it that the committee receive such information as fast as it's gleaned. The next step of the committee is to "sell" the city administration on the idea of executing needed improvements through the medium of an R. F. C. loan, rather than limiting their demands to dole money for the welfare list. Everyone interested must impress those not so interested; that it is just as possible and far better for the welfare of the country at large to obtain money for purposes that will add to the wealth and welfare of the community, rather than to dissipate funds for sheer charity in a never ending vicious circle.

It is up to those interested in the Business of Golf!

Roseman Has New Idea in Financing Clubhouse

JOE ROSEMAN, veteran golf businessman, is meeting with success in financing a clubhouse for the 36-hole Pickwick Suburban golf course. This fee establishment with its two courses never has had a clubhouse, but with building prices low Roseman is going after 200 members on a 10-year basis with \$500 bonds. Bonds are a first mortgage lien against clubhouse and clubhouse grounds.

Income from daily-fee players who are not entitled to use the clubhouse is intended to retire the bonds. Buyers of a \$250 bond are entitled to play at half price.

Coast Greensmen Given Free Hand But Problems Keep Up

By
ARTHUR
LANGTON



Oakmont C. C. members (Glendale, Calif.) have no difficulty visualizing how a new green is going to look after they see the clay models as prepared by Lester Gould, superintendent of grounds.

RECENT months have demonstrated one thing above all other on California golf courses: barring financial restrictions greenkeepers have enjoyed greater freedom and greater opportunity to display their real worth than ever before in the history of golf. Course officials have been too busy attending to their own shaky businesses to spend much time creating new devices to disturb the nocturnal slumber of the weary greenkeeper. If nothing else, the depression has been instrumental in destroying the bland self-assurance on the part of many prosperity successes which has led them to believe that because they were Napoleons of the feed and fuel business or the glue market they knew all about running a golf course. And fear of assessment has stilled the club member's cry for improvements involving expensive new construction.

Instead the order has been given out, "Give us golf, but don't spend any money." Perhaps this command has been a little harsh in many cases but some surprising results have been obtained as a result. In not a few instances the courses coming under this edict have been improved noticeably. This because non-essentials have been banished and attention has been concentrated upon maintenance of tees, greens, and fairways.

Greenkeepers Pals in Distress

How nobly California greenkeepers have responded to emergency is also indicated by the closer knit spirit of co-operation which has been created during the past two years. No longer do course superintendents operate as isolated beings. In this time of stress a fraternal spirit has been fostered which has been to the benefit of all courses throughout the state. For

instance, when a turf guardian at one end of the state is confronted by a new problem it is not unusual for him to communicate with his colleagues at the other end. In this manner he becomes the recipient of much beneficial advice in regard to identification, treatment, and policy.

Not long ago Earl Randleman of the Western Avenue course of Los Angeles found that large areas on one or two of his greens had been entirely devastated of grass for some obscure reason. He made an investigation and found that the soil was streaked as if by rust. Sounding the alarm among his colleagues many of them came to his aid and the group engaged the assistance of scientists at the Citrus Experimental Station in Riverside as well as that of the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles. Meanwhile every superintendent was put upon his guard against a possible invasion by this new disease to the Pacific Coast.

Although little has been discovered beyond the fact that a protein-consuming fungus was present in the affected areas and that its spread has been checked by the application of lime and fungicides, every greenkeeper is forearmed by being forewarned. A few years ago Greenkeeper Randleman might have had to suffer in silence, but now with the searchlight of investigation being turned on it is prob-