

What About Golf Course Maintenance During War-Time?

By JOHN MONTEITH, Jr.

Wise management and knowing where to curtail are **MUSTS**, if permanent damage to golf courses is to be avoided.

THERE are any number of predictions as to what effect the present emergency will have on golf and golf course maintenance. Regardless of these differences of opinion it is generally conceded that whatever they may be, the effects will be quite different from those of World War I.

The curtailment of metal has already been felt by the manufacturers of golf course maintenance equipment. The recent ruling on rubber directly affects the game itself as well as the equipment used in the maintenance of the courses. Those charged with the management of courses must therefore consider immediately a change in maintenance methods to keep the course in as good condition as practicable this year. The possibility of its being a long term problem must also be considered so that the course may be brought back to its usual standard at the end of this emergency as rapidly and economically as possible.

Pseudo-Experts Are In Abundance

Whenever curtailments are suggested there are always plenty of individuals who are qualified experts at simply crossing off figures on budgets. It doesn't require any exercise of intelligence or judgment to slash budgets for golf courses or anything else. It will, however, require considerable intelligence and judgment to adjust many golf club budgets in the present emergency if these courses are to be kept in a condition that will justify reclaiming them at the end of the emergency. Therefore, Public Enemy Number One of any golf course is the individual whose principal aim is to slash budgets under the panicky impression that golf is through. The curtailments in turf maintenance during the depression clearly demonstrated that only wise management prevented permanent damage being done to golf courses.

If the membership feels that the club is worth saving efforts should be directed toward making any necessary reductions in expenses with a view to cutting where the permanent damage from neglect will be least. Thoughtless cutting of expenses may quickly bring about unwarranted neglect which may make members soon give up the game. Such resignations will necessitate further cuts which in time will bring about additional resignations. It will now be more apparent than in the past that dues from dubs are as useful as dues from the low handicap players, so it is to be hoped that this situation will serve at least to give the high handicap player some share of consideration on golf courses.

Expenses for equipment will automatically be reduced since it will be hard to purchase. It is, therefore, important to consider methods for conserving to the utmost all equipment on hand. Mowers should be kept properly sharpened, at the best adjustment, for careless adjustment can greatly shorten the life of high speed mowing equipment.

Labor Costs Cut Most

The chief curtailments must obviously be in labor. In many sections this would be necessary regardless of budgets, for the simple reason that adequate labor will not be available. Intelligent supervision will be more needed than ever if this limited labor is to be used to best advantage. In addition to high class supervision there will be a need for hearty cooperation from club officials and members in adjusting themselves to lower standards of maintenance. There will be plenty of conflicting opinions as to what are essential. Other things equal, the course that will remain in play the greatest number of years will be the one where the opinions of those who know something about course maintenance have pri-

curities over the opinions of those who are primarily interested in their personal preferences or prejudices on the course.

One of the first suggestions commonly made for curtailment of maintenance costs on a golf course is "just let the rough go." Unfortunately, like many of the suggestions that are forthcoming these days, this simple plan is not as workable as the sponsors picture it. On a few courses it will work but on most courses the rough is too dense to be neglected for long.

Heavy, neglected rough may soon represent a greater cost to members in the form of lost golf balls than is saved through reduced mowing. When that stage is reached members will play their golf on other courses. Less frequent mowing no doubt will reduce costs but judgment must be used or the purpose will be defeated.

If heavy grass is permitted to stand until the members will tolerate it no longer there will be so much hay left that the loss of balls will be as great as before the mowing. Then there will be an added cost of raking and removing this hay, for players will naturally be more critical than usual this year of conditions that greatly increase the number of lost balls. Curtailments in the rough can best be made by neglecting areas that cannot be handled by power equipment. Such neglect may be a blessing in disguise in calling attention to the number and extent of these areas which are relics of the "horse and buggy" era of golf courses.

Mow Fairways Less Frequently

In order to conserve the equipment and to save labor it will be necessary to mow fairways less frequently. In order to avoid the risk of serious damage to turf by "scalping" which is more apt to be apparent when turf is mowed less frequently, it is well to raise the mowers to cut higher. The best height to cut will vary with the different types of grass. This may raise objections from some of the more critical players, but the decision should be made in favor of the long-time effect on the course.

A feature of many golf courses that should receive immediate attention of club officials in the light of present conditions is the large water hazard from which balls cannot be readily retrieved. In many instances a new tee at one side of or across the water will make it possible to by-pass the water hazard and thereby

greatly extend the play with present supplies of balls. A local rule permitting players to drop a ball on the other side of the water hazard will serve the purpose in many instances. Some of the sticklers for length, etc., will of course object to such changes. However, the length of time the majority of members can continue to play should now have preference over matters of length of the course in terms of yards.

Many golfers who, in normal times, do not object to the loss of balls in a water hazard will make a big fuss about green-keeping methods if they lose a ball in long grass near the edge of the water. Therefore, by-passing of these water hazards in many cases will account for a sizeable saving in hand labor for maintaining banks around these hazards.

What Price Sand?

As was pointed out in *GOLFDOM* last year, averages from 20 well-kept courses showed that labor used for raking sand traps cost about as much as that for mowing both fairways and tees. On many courses more money is spent for raking sand than for mowing putting greens.

Many of us have repeatedly urged the abolishment of surplus sand traps or conversion into grassy hollows. The clubs that have heeded this advice can now profit by these changes. The large supply of traps that remain will usually have to go without regular raking on most golf courses. Where large quantities of sand are repeatedly washed out of traps onto fairways or elsewhere it would be well to remove it rather than to be constantly putting it back into the trap.

The idea that is frequently presented of "just throwing in a little clover or some other seed" to solve the sand trap problem is another sign of panic rather than sense. Unless traps can be changed so that power mowers may be used in them there is no point to seeding them. It is better to completely neglect them as sand rather than to neglect them as dense mats of undesirable vegetation that will merely add to the lost ball nuisance.

The cost of watering can be greatly reduced on many courses to the distinct benefit of the turf. However any statement that watering should be cut to a certain fraction of past applications is certain to be misleading. There are courses with full watering facilities that have not been greatly abused. There the



1942 class of the Massachusetts State College winter school for greenkeepers is shown in the above photo. (Five greensmen who attended the regular class sessions were not present when the photographer 'said his piece'.) Prof. Lawrence S. Dickinson, director in charge of the winter school, is shown top right in photo.

Graduating exercises for the 1942 school will be held as part of the opening program of the annual MSC Golf Course Maintenance Conference, Friday, March 13. Roland H. Verbeck, director of short courses at MSC, will present the certificates, and Carlton E. Treat, supt., Montclair (N. J.) GC, will give the charge to the graduates. The conference will continue through Sunday, March 13, concluding with the annual Experts on Trial program with the "Chief Justice" and the "eight old men". The following organizations are actively interested in this sixteenth annual conference: Greenkeepers Club of New England, GSA, PGA, N. J. GSA, Conn. Assn. of Golf Cse. Supts., R. I. Greenkeepers Assn.; Northeastern N. Y. Greenkeepers Assn., and Philadelphia GSA.

costs cannot be drastically reduced without loss of turf.

At the other extreme are the courses where water has been applied in great excess for several years. In these cases the vegetation has largely changed and the turf is now chiefly composed of such plants that require ample supplies of water. On these courses any drastic cut in watering costs will result in loss of large areas of turf.

On the courses where an intermediate policy of watering has been carried out it will be possible to make definite reductions in watering costs with only temporary damage to the turf.

The control of diseases on turf is complicated not only by reduced funds but by the threatened curtailment of mercury. Since the mercury fungicides have been standard treatments for turf diseases for several years the limitations in the use of this metal will soon have a definite effect on putting green maintenance. The clubs that have supplies of these fungicides in stock will be wise to ration them carefully so that maximum protection may be obtained from them. Other fungicides have promise of replacing the mercury compounds but their values have not yet been determined fully. Beware of the quack remedies that are sure to appear.

A decided reduction in the amount of water used on the putting green will reduce the severity of brown-patch and make present stock of fungicides last longer. Some careful pruning of trees to open up better air circulation across greens will also help cut down the damage from brown-patch. Supply of inorganic fertilizers may be restricted by demand for war

materials, but there are no present signs of shortage of organic fertilizers such as cotton seed meal, soy bean meal, castor pumice and activated sludge.

Metropolitan GA Calls Off Tournaments Lasting Over Day

METROPOLITAN Golf Association, at a recent organization meeting of the Executive Committee, decided to drop for the duration, tournaments which would require more than one day to complete. Chiefly affected by this decision are the amateur championship, the amateur-professional championship, which last year supplanted the open championship of the MGA, the junior championship, and the public links championship.

In lieu of events which would require more than one day to complete the MGA plans to conduct a series of one-day tournaments. Included among these will be an amateur-pro tourney, details of which will be determined later.

The Metropolitan association plans to cooperate with the USGA in the conduct of the sectional qualifying round for the "Hale America" tournament. The committee also decided to hold six one-day tournaments.

Before reaching a final decision on Red Cross events, the committee decided to get in touch with the four sectional associations to determine the most effective methods of conducting these events, always, of course, with the view of raising the most money for the Red Cross. All amateur prizes will be United States Defense Savings Bonds and Stamps.

GSA Meeting Draws Over 600

Stodola re-elected president, as greenkeepers formulate plans to cope with problems ahead in '42

By HERB GRAFFIS

Official registration of 585 plus about 100 who didn't register, added up to make the Greenkeeping Supts. Assn. annual turf conference and equipment show held at Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Feb. 10-13, surprisingly large. There was no surprise element to the studious and determined attitude of the course superintendents as they listened to an excellent conference program, shopped at the exhibits, and in informal sessions discussed their plans for wartime maintenance.

Harold Stodola, Keller Park, St. Paul, Minn., was re-elected president. Marshall E. Farnham, Philadelphia (Pa.) CC, was elected vice pres., and A. L. (Gus) Brandon of St. Charles, Ill., was elected sec-treas. on a full time basis, a move dictated by the growing and important nature of GSA operations.

Directors elected: James Haines, Denver (Colo.) CC; Lawrence Huber, Wyandotte CC, Columbus, O. and Chester Mendenhall, Mission Hills CC, Kansas City, Mo. Hold-over directors are T. T. Taylor, Westchester CC, Rye, N. Y.; John Darrah, Beverly CC, Chicago, and Wm. H. Johnson, Griffith Park course, Los Angeles.

It's Akron in '43

Akron, O., was selected as the scene of the 1943 GSA national conference which will be held sometime in February. The equipment exhibition will be discontinued until after the war.

A broad view of the social and economic phases of the greenkeepers' job were presented in the talks by Major John L. Griffith, Commissioner of Big Ten athletics, Virgil K. Brown, Chief of the Recreational Division of the Chicago Park district, and A. C. Horrocks of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.

Technical problems of course maintenance were handled by an all-star array of talent sent into operation after John Gray had opened the program with a welcome defining the greenkeepers' aspirations and duties in these critical times, and had introduced T. T. Taylor, Westchester CC, chairman of the GSA Educational committee.

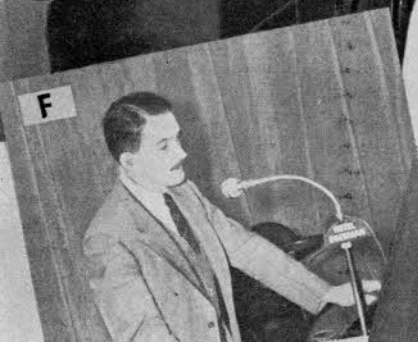
Advises Testing By Sections

M. E. Farnham gave a valuable talk on Chemical Weed Control, making running comment on colored slides. Farnham frankly related details of mistakes as well as of triumphs. He said that in Philadelphia they found August was a good time to start chemical weed control so there would be a chance to re-establish turf the same season. Farnham advocated doing the work in sections so members would be educated, as well as having check plots. He described the method of handling sodium arsenite application, fertilizing and seeding. After the first year's spray treatments dry applications were made. Spring treatments of rough, from the first week in April through the last week in June, were made at about double the recommended rate of Milarsenite, with burning of desirable grasses not being severe until toward the later applications.

For crab grass Farnham reported good results with sodium chlorate. One slide showed a skin irritation suffered from dry application of sodium arsenite. The case was the only one Farnham had observed.

Edward J. Casey, Wykagyl CC, checked with Farnham in declaring that unless chemical weed control was done by competent careful men, it was dangerous business. Casey divided the weed control problem into 3 divisions; determination of

The photographer was a busy man at the GSA four-day conclave; just a few of his 'shots' are shown on the page opposite. For identification purposes, they are: (A) Marshall E. Farnham answers questions on "Chemical Weed Control" after stepping down from the speaker's rostrum; (A) Dr. John Monteith speaking on "Turf in the National Defense Program"; (C) Norm Johnson of Medinah tells about fairway watering; (D) Ed. J. Casey continues "Chemical Weed Control" subject; (E) Educational session Feb. 13 opens with Pledge of Allegiance, led by John Darrah on speaker's stand; (F) Fred V. Grau tells about "Landscaping with a Gun"; (G) T. T. Taylor (right) asks Don Boyd "what he thinks about it"; (H) C. A. Tregillus gives some interesting facts on watering of fairways; (I) John Gray, honorary chairman, opens educational program with speech welcoming attending greensmen.





what weeds have infested areas to the degree that control is urgently required, the method of distribution of the control material, and the rate of application. Both men said that time of season, soil condition, and temperature are factors best determined by local experiment. Casey described, and showed slides of, a power boom spray outfit that provided close control of rate and area of distribution. The ingenious outfit has a "Fifth Wheel" device that indicates rate of weed control application. The device also is used by Casey on his fertilizer spreader.

What Nazis Did

Major John Griffith told how Germany prepared for its offensive campaign by physically conditioning its youth. We, despite the lessons revealed by draft examinations for World War 1, didn't take action on the physical conditioning of youth and adults that we really needed. Now again, through Army and Navy findings, we are beginning to see that physical conditioning is essential to an all-out war, and must extend the job to the civilian populace. The morale-toughening element in competitive sports Major Griffith rated as highly valuable in protecting the country against the weakening effect of enemy propaganda.

Dr. Fred Grau, Pennsylvania State College, told of the unique job done in getting turf along the widely publicized Pennsylvania Turnpike. A mixture of fertilizer, lime, organic matter, seed and soil was put into the water and blown onto the banks of the highway by a Gunite machine. Mulching also was blown on. With the gun method the material sticks on, even though heavy rains fell the day after application. This method makes unnecessary work of smoothing the banks. Soil erosion control was effective.

Slides showed interesting views of the work and the grasses and other plants sowed.

John Darrah, chairman of the second day's conference, began the program by presenting C. A. Tregillus, Supt., Mill Road Farm, Lake Forest, Ill. Tregillus and Norman C. Johnson, Supt., Medinah CC (Chicago district) collaborated on a fairway watering practice survey. Slides illustrated both sections of the report. Tre-

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About 275 attended the annual greenkeepers banquet in the Sherman grand ballroom. Program was especially well planned and received.



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gillus covered the turf culture features, and Johnson the operating features, of the survey. Among interesting points brought out in the discussion was that of fairway watering having made the courses slower, hence members' demand for shorter cutting. Tregillus advocated raising the mowers to help courses through dry spells without excessive watering.

Wide Variation In Water Amounts

Wide variations were reported in amount of water used, soil differences accounting for much of the variation. Difficulty of getting exact figures was caused by clubhouse supply in several instances being included with course gallonage. The Tregillus part of the joint study revealed the need of closer adjustment of fairway watering to the rainfall, for economy and turf health reasons. However, it was pointed out, rainfall is not the only factor to be considered, as some turfs are more sensitive to moisture than others. Especially did courses with considerable poa annua have heavy water requirements. Higher temperatures some summers also call for heavier fairway watering. Incidentally, Tregillus called attention to higher cut of fairways helping to hold poa annua in check.

The conclusions noted that fairway watering is a supplement but not substitute for a fertilization program. A close study of local weather records was urged, and recommendation was made of rain, temperature and relative humidity records, together with frequent sub-surface inspections of subsoil state and needs of roots.

Johnson described the mechanical character of the systems studied, and their operating methods. An interesting sidelight mentioned was the hunch that in "the old days" when weed seeds blew onto unwatered fairways in the summer they didn't have the chance to get established that they do on watered fairways. Against this hunch was, of course, the evidence that good turf maintained healthy did not favor weed growth.

Johnson called special attention to judgment in watering high and low areas. He showed interesting views and gave operating data on the Denver CC canvas hose system supplied by outlets from 12 in. vitrified sewer pipe outlets. Interesting

data recommending a hoseless system from a Florida test also was presented.

Virgil K. Brown, Chicago Park District Recreational chief, told greenkeepers that Americans are becoming keenly aware of the need of physical fitness. He said that a balance of relaxation to win the war of nerves and to keep the factory and office workers in excellent mental condition was important.

Brown said that if golf were to continue to interpret itself merely as a pleasure proposition it would not have a good year, but if it seized its opportunity to contribute to improving public health and morale to withstand the growing war pressure, the game would be in for a busy and valuable season.

Golf as an antidote to the "killing monotony" of the production line has tremendous value, Brown said, and recommended that it be campaigned on this count. He told that his staff is considering installing a shorter course with very interesting holes to cut down time of play while giving the players golf benefits in mental relaxation and a physical change.

Investigate Plant Antagonisms

Dr. O. S. Aamodt, Chief of the Forage Crops division in the Department of Plant Industry, presented a paper on "War Among the Plants." He told of investigations being made of the antagonisms plants have toward each other. He referred specially to work being done with strains of Kentucky bluegrass and white clover. Some strains of bluegrass have almost completely inhibited the development of white clover, and some strains of white clover have predominated over bluegrass. He also told of studies of aggressive strains of bent, and mentioned certain selected strains of bent being conspicuously resistant to invasion by poa annua. Limited experimental evidence indicates that harmful root reactions may occur between various species of plants.

Bruce Matthews, Green Ridge CC, Grand Rapids, Mich., was chairman the final day of the conference. John Monteith, Jr., head of the USGA Green Section's technical staff, spoke on Turf in the National Defense Program. Monteith told of the greater emphasis put on the greenkeepers by the Physical Fitness wartime campaign. He urged that thorough study be given to any proposal to slash maintenance costs, lest the loss to nation and club

be more than the supposed temporary gain.

Parks, housing projects, army and navy recreational areas, lawns, highways, and airports all come under the jurisdiction of the turf expert these days—or should.

Monteith presented some extremely important and interesting figures on how turf in reducing dust cut down the cost of plane motor maintenance and extended plane motor life.

He referred to the great field for specialized turf knowledge during wartime and sadly commented that not much use is being made, outside their own immediate and established jobs, of men who really know how to handle turf problems in a practical way.

A. C. Horrocks gave a close-up on American industrial development for war and mentioned incidents that outlined the pattern of future development. He, too, referred to the need of golf as compensating for the terrific strain on worker and executive during wartime. Among other interesting points he mentioned that the Nazi rubber shortage made necessary use of steel tracked tanks in Russia. The steel couldn't bite the ice or the frozen mud or turf in Russia and the Nazi mechanized blitz skidded into reverse.

Dr. R. T. White of the Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, gave an interesting paper on Jap Beetle Control, with special reference to spore-forming bacteria that have supplied quite satisfactory control. This paper appears in this issue of GOLFDOM.

A program of entertainment for the superintendents' wives during the convention sessions was featured by a visit and luncheon at the Cradle in suburban Evanston, which is the nation's most famous baby station.

Former President John Gray was presented, on behalf of the association, with a chest of silver at the annual banquet and dinner dance. President Harold Stodola made the presentation in a neat and succinct address. Tom McMahon of the Chicago District GA, Carleton Blunt, Genl. Counsel of the Western GA, Tom Walsh, honorary pres. of the PGA and Joe Davis, exec.-sec. of the CDGA, were among the speakers. The greenkeeper of the year award went to "The Average Greenkeeper", a life-size cardboard cutout, inasmuch as the committee decided every greenkeeper had done a standout job in 1941. A floor show and dance followed the dinner ceremony.

How to 'Lick' Problem of Transportation To and From Club

By ANDY HIGH

ONE of golf's problems certain to increase as time goes by is that of transportation to and from the club. Heretofore, this was a problem of the individual member and ignored except as it affected the pocketbook; there was no rubber shortage or prospective rationing of gasoline. But it is now a club problem.

In major cities it would not be unfair to estimate that the average distance of membership is nearly 15 miles—a round trip of 30, and for the balance of the clubs this distance can hardly be halved. Golf clubs lack the centralization found in other games—the baseball park, football stadium, the prizefight, bowling alley, etc., which are often either in walking distance or convenient bus or streetcar rides for the spectator or participant.

The transportation problem is one that must be given immediate attention by the club management or pro. The start of the season is the best possible time to break members into a new way of doing things. It will not do to rely on a haphazard and wasteful solution of the problem by the members. Foursomes composed of members that have all driven to the club alone, must stop.

An idea for a step toward solving this problem by the directing force of the club, is presented below.

The placement of a large and easily accessible bulletin board to hold the following information: an alphabetical listing of every active member by full and called (nick) name, phone numbers (business and resident) and addresses (business

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