

# Where Does Economy Start?

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EVERY golf course should be maintained on some definite cost program year in and year out. The cost should be kept as the standard unless a departure is warranted by some good reason and the reason should be good.

Changes of program should be made sensibly with a clear view of the results that may be expected. There is no sense in trying anything and everything. Many a course has been ruined by that sort of work. How-

ever, there has been a vast improvement in maintenance equipment and its progress has greatly reduced course upkeep and no doubt will do more to help approach the ideal maintained golf course at a minimum than anything since the birth of the lawn mower.

Without machinery, we would be nowhere in modern golf upkeep today and the manufacturers of course equipment are rendering golf a great service to an end of arriving at reduced cost of upkeep.

## Desirability of Standardization

Only experience will evolve a classification of accounts that can be used on all golf courses and there seems to be no doubt of the desirability of standardization. It is more than likely that experience will show that golf courses will be divided into groups in order to get a fair comparison of upkeep cost that can be used as a standard.

Course maintenance costs is the key to all course difficulty. For future yearly budgets, costs should include only those items necessary to present the course to members ready for playing the game of golf.

These items can be worked out only in unit costs. This means separate records of costs involved in various operations of course work such as tees, greens, fairways, traps and rough. Then there are the costs of fertilizer, seed, motor equipment and equipment repairs, gasoline, oil, hardware and many other items of material and service to keep the course in playable condition throughout the season. A record of unit costs is a basis for a year to year budget record for comparative costs of operations.

## Establish Unit Costs

Establishing unit costs will prove the only fair means of comparing the cost of operating one course with that of another. This explains the reason of present cost variations. The differences that are found to exist may be accounted for in the unit system to the end that extravagances or excessive cost or inefficient management may be identified.

These costs are entered in the club ledger and a monthly report given to the greenkeeper for his monthly records to the ground committee.

The course maintenance account ought to be as simple as possible showing the unit cost of the things that are absolutely necessary and are common to all golf courses, and those that are simply desired for convenience or for

## WHY GOLF IS BENEFICIAL

We understand that the American Medical Association has offered \$50,000 for the capture, dead or alive, of the unknown author of the following:

"Public is better because of golf, not that golf itself is healthful. Quite the contrary. Golf increases the blood pressure, ruins the disposition, spoils the digestion, induces neurasthenia, hurts the eyes, callouses the hands, ties kinks in the nervous system, debauches the morals, drives men to drugs, drink and homicide, breaks up the family, turns the ductless glands into internal warts, corrodes the pneumogastric nerve, breaks the edge of the vertebrae, induces spinal meningitis and progressive mendacity, starts agina pectoris, and breeds wind on the stomach.

"But golf keeps the doctors out in the open air, and that gives the people in the hospitals and sick rooms a chance to get well. Public health is better because of golf, generally speaking." Which all reminds us of a story:

Doctor to nurse in the hospital ward: "How are the patients this morning?"

Nurse: "Twelve of them are dead, doctor."

Doctor: "But I gave you medicine for thirteen."

Nurse: "Yes, I know, doctor, but one refused to take it."—Buzz Saw.

comfort but are not absolutely necessary. There can be no comparison of costs of the maintenance of golf courses that is worth the trouble of making, without a standard method used by all clubs.

In conclusion permit me to say that nothing is of greater importance than a trained and efficient crew of workmen in the economical management of a golf course.