

most of the men, and it is not often that the same men return the next year, thus making it necessary to train a new gang. Yet it is the cry of most grounds committees to pay the lowest labor wages and expect good results. From my experience of twenty years with labor on golf courses, I believe it is better to pay a couple of cents more per hour than the average laborer receives than to pay a couple of cents less. The extra cost will pay the club in the end. There are two or three new golf courses in this vicinity which cost from \$75,000 to \$150,000 each to build. Not one of these has a greenkeeper. Either a millman or one of the farmers who sold the ground to the club has charge, because the club will not give a greenkeeper an adequate salary or furnish him sufficient funds to keep up the course. Anyone who knows anything about the running of a golf course knows how soon \$4,000 or \$5,000 can be spent without obtaining any good results, with the present price of grass seed, fertilizers, and labor.

---

### The Care of Golf Course Machinery

L. A. FERGUSON

We note that there is a tendency lately to bring to the attention of those charged with the upkeep of golf courses, the advisability of keeping mechanical equipment in good operating condition, and those responsible for starting this movement are to be commended.

The development of golf in the last few years has made many great changes in grass cutting methods. A quarter of a century ago the idea of keeping large areas of grass in good condition was scarcely thought of. Really fine work was done only on certain limited areas, which could be generally classified as front-door yards, while today many large clubs, country estates and public parks are mowing as much as one hundred and sixty acres of very finely cultivated grass, used as fairways, lawns or parade grounds. In short, grass cutting is now an industry, and a man's-size job if properly done.

Mr. Marshall deserves particular commendation for his remarks in the November issue of *THE BULLETIN*, and if every greenkeeper would take his statements seriously there would be much less annoyance and delay caused by so-called "defective equipment," and the results obtained would be more satisfactory all around.

Responsibility for the condition as it has existed undoubtedly rests as much with the manufacturer and dealer as with the user. Some manufacturers have allowed their products to go out into the field with very little instructive literature, many seeming to think that their obligations were entirely fulfilled by furnishing a price list of repair parts. Dealers many times appear to have felt that when the outfit was safely delivered on the club grounds that their responsibility ceased.

The fact remains undisputed that every club today has a considerable investment represented in power-driven machinery of one kind or another, and this machinery should be given a chance at least to deliver what is in it, and the only way this can be done is by keeping it up to par at all times. The interests of the maker and user are mutual, and both should foster a spirit of cooperation.

One of the most important points to be handled is that of lubrication.

Any machine needs lubrication to function properly; and the more attention given to this matter the better the operation of the machinery. Proper means of lubrication should be provided for all moving parts, and suggestions should be given as to the correct lubricant to be used. In return for this the user should carry out these suggestions.

Keeping the equipment clean is another vital point. No piece of apparatus can perform properly that is covered with a month's accumulation of grease and dirt. Grit will get into bearings and shorten their life. Oil holes will become stopped up, so that regardless of the amount of oil used it will not reach the point for which it was intended.

Adjustments are also very important, particularly with grass-cutting units. Bearings should be gone over carefully at stated intervals (every day is not too often) and all wear taken up. Adjustment of revolving cutter blades should also be checked up, and the blades kept in such condition that they have an even contact with the bottom knife throughout their entire length.

At times it is necessary to touch up the blades with a file, or grind them with emery and oil. If there is a competent service man in the vicinity, it is always advisable to let an experienced man handle such matters, but the lack of an expert need not entirely preclude the possibility of taking care of minor repairs. All lawn-mowing equipment is comparatively simple, and an inexperienced man with a little practice can turn out a very fair repair job.

If in doubt at any time as to what is the correct thing to do, write to the maker. He is, or at least should be, very glad to render any assistance within his power. Even if it takes a little time to get the information, it is much better to correct a difficulty a little late than to pay no attention to it.

It is not the purpose of this article to outline a lengthy course of procedure, as the various types of machines used make the field too broad. It is simply to get users of such machinery as is always in evidence around a golf course to think of it as a piece of machinery which represents an investment of the club's money and to encourage a disposition to protect that investment and show as much economy in its upkeep as is possible under the conditions, which we all know are very severe at best.

#### Some U. S. Golf Association Decisions on Rules of Golf

**Question.**—A player prior to taking his stance steps on a small bush, bends the bush back, and plays his ball while standing on the bush. Has he the right to do this?

**Answer.**—The player has no right to step on the bush, as this was an indirect manner of improving the lie of the ball and was unnecessary in taking his stance. See Rule 15.

**Question.**—If a ball lies in a bunker within twenty yards of the hole (said bunker being included in definition of ground within the twenty yards), and after being played strikes the pin, does this alter the case and waive the penalty of two strokes in medal play competition?

**Answer.**—No; the fact that a bunker is within twenty yards of the hole does not alter the case and does not waive the penalty. See Rule 32 and footnote.

**Question.**—Can a player either in match or medal play lift a ball from a hoof-print in the fairway and drop it without penalty, for a better lie?

**Answer.**—There is no ruling which allows a player either in match or medal play to lift a ball from a hoofprint in the fairway and drop it without penalty. See Rule 6.