Dr. Steiner Reports Need of Municipal Courses

Dr. Jesse F. Steiner, author of the chapter on "Recreation and Leisure Time Activities" in the report of the President's Research Committee on Social Trends, reports that municipal golf courses have not kept pace with the demand for such facilities.

Dr. Steiner, in analyzing data from the U.S. Census of Manufacturers and Golfdom's survey of the golf market, expressed the opinion that golf was liable to remain a sport for a limited number of people. Latest of his data was obtained on the golf activities in 1930, at which time the extension of municipal golf courses by employment of welfare labor and sharp drop in club and ball prices, were not in evidence. These two factors, becoming prominent since completion of the Steiner report, already have exercised strong effect in increasing golf play among those in the lower income brackets. No special mention is made of the recent great growth in women's golf, which now figures as a highly important phase of the game.

In the report Dr. Steiner pointed out that golf's "period of most rapid growth coincided with the rise of a business cycle when plenty of money was available for recreational purposes." He mentions that it has been found necessary to curtail some of golf's extravagant expenditures.

Slowing of golf development on an opulent basis for the reasons Dr. Steiner presents already is evident in Detroit and Los Angeles especially. Newer cities whose period of greatest growth was coincident with big rise in golf, are overbuilt on courses. However, steady development of the youngsters as golfers and drastic curtailment in costs of golf promises that the situation in these communities will right itself in a reasonable time.

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