LIQUOR LAWS
Statutes Are Among Problems
Managers Have Since
Repeal

LEGISLATION and license regulations
have been giving golf club managers
worries to make the additional income of
liquor an added problem of no mean propor-
tions.

O. H. Gunther, veteran manager of
Westward Ho (Chicago district), makes
some interesting comments on the situa-
tion prevailing with Illinois clubs.

"Old laws that have been revived since
return of liquor," says Gunther, "have
brought back such matters as the legal
inability to collect liquor bills. Therefore
the return of the coupon system is sug-
gested. The coupon books are charged to
each house account and as a house ac-
count charge are collectible. It also works
out so the club is able to get money in
advance to finance liquor purchases. At
the old Lakeside club we would have
$33,000 as a month's charge for coupon
books, and if we had been compelled to
wait 60 days until our charges were col-
lected the strain of financing liquor pur-
chases would have been brutal.

"Another of the revived old laws makes
places where liquor was purchased respon-
sible in case of accidents involving intoxica-
tion. This is going to make it necessary
for clubs to insure against suits, with the
probability of a premium payment of about
$1 a year per member. I believe that in-
surance covering members' clubs and other
property kept at the club, and against
accidents while playing golf, also should
be obligatory. This is a difficult matter
to put over because of the failure of insur-
ance companies to advertise the value and
importance of such insurance and each of
the many insurance men who belong to
almost every club being reluctant to ask
for a monopoly of this insurance.

"Competent, honest bartenders are at a
premium. The club manager who desires
to give his members the advantage of his
experience in selecting superior qualities
of liquor does not want substitution and
can not, for one minute, stand for the
subsidization or bribery of bartenders by
suppliers anxious to have their own brands
pushed at the expense of other brands.
It is my observation that this evil is worse
now at hotels and cafes than before pro-
hibition, because there are not enough
good judges of liquor among the con-
sumers.

"Fast working bartenders are especially
difficult to get. Our opening party at West-
ward Ho had almost 400 men players and
many of them after their golf and before
dinner wanted cocktails. Old-fashioned
cocktails were in demand. You can't put
on extra bartenders like you can waiters
if you are going to establish and maintain
a reputation for good drinks, so you must
hire men who are speedy enough to handle
club rush business without lowering the
quality of mixed drinks.

"Club managers with whom I have dis-
cussed the liquor phase of the business
agree that there has been a most impres-
sive reduction of intoxication since repeal
and a marked development of epicurean
standards at country clubs."

Pity the Illinois clubs. They must dis-
pense liquor under the most drastic con-
trol law in the U. S. Here, much con-
densed is part of the Illinois liquor con-
trol law:

Sec. 14. Every person, who shall be in-
jured, in person or property, or means of
support, by any intoxicated person, shall
have a right of action against any person
or persons who shall, by selling or giving
alcoholic liquor, have caused the intoxica-
tion, in whole or in part, of such person;
and any person owning, renting or leasing
any building, and having knowledge that
alcoholic liquors are to be sold therein,
shall be liable with the person or persons
selling or giving alcoholic liquors afore-
said, for all damages sustained, and for
exemplary damages.

Sec. 15. For the payment of any judg-
ment for damages and costs that may be
recovered against any person in conse-
quence of the sale of alcoholic liquor un-
der the preceding section, the real estate
and personal property of such person, of
every kind, except such as may be exempt
from levy and sale upon judgment and ex-
cution, shall be liable; and such judg-
ment shall be a lien upon such real estate
until paid; and in case any person shall
rent or lease to another any building or
premises to be used or occupied, in whole
or in part, for the sale of alcoholic liquors,
or shall knowingly permit the same to be
used, or occupied, such building or prem-
ises so used or occupied shall be held
liable for and may be sold to pay any such
judgment against any person occupying
such building or premises.