**SUCCESS OF** this year's Los Angeles Open and of the San Francisco Open surpassed all hopes and gave substantial evidence that golf under wartime conditions need not slump and must not slump.

Decision to conduct the events came in the face of opposition and criticism. The events could have been abandoned and probably nobody, even the earnest advocates of wartime golf tournaments, could have questioned the judgment in folding up. And cancellation would have been the easiest way out for the committeemen who had the duties of tournament organization and management to add to their other wartime jobs.

But—and wisely so the results show—it was decided to go ahead with the tournaments. Possibly the decision was subconsciously influenced by Californians' determination to not let the Japs or Nazis frighten us but to bring extra energy into the jobs that have been made sidelines to the biggest business of all—Victory.

If we hadn't been able to honestly convince ourselves that golf play in big events, club affairs or private rounds wasn't definitely helpful to war effort, we'd have had no tournaments. This certainly isn't one of the parts of the country where a visitor could say "you wouldn't know a war is going on." You hear and see the planes roaring overhead, you see and hear armies of war industry workers with their faces bearing the signs of intense application to their jobs, and you see and hear thousands upon thousands of young men in uniform preparing to shove off for action in the Pacific, or coming back from battle areas.

We have had along the western coast Jap attacks of various sorts. Our sons, like those of you in other sections of the country, are either in the services or in training schools for servicemen, if they're old enough. In every way we know there's a deadly war going on and there can be no fooling about it—or no ducking it.

In fact we are so close to war, so keenly conscious of it, and so persistently reminded of it, that despite the balm of our marvelous climate, we might be highly susceptible to war nerves. But the truth is that Californians, established and temporary, are taking the tremendous added labors and responsibilities of war work in remarkably calm and effective stride.

After talking to hundreds of golfers and pros, asking them to give opinions as unbiased as humanly possible, I've concluded that the great drive to golf in California has been a major reason for the Californians not blowing their tops under war strain but doing far more and better work than they've ever done before.

Golf interest in southern California is keener than ever before, and I've been in golf in this state as an amateur and pro player since 1915. The public courses are crowded and the private clubs are operating in the black. My own club, Wilshire, has more members than it's ever had before and the bulletin board shows new applicants every day.

The biggest annual wages the nation's ever paid has a lot to do with the situation, of course, notwithstanding the taxation headaches. We pros could sell more than we ever can get in our shops. Our lessons have been, in most cases, in record numbers. The ball shortage is worrying us, but that's to be expected and is receiving our vigorous efforts.

As the California pro looks about him he is impressed by the thought that no place, of the remaining places in which to spend money, can the spender get greater value than he gets in revived energy and spirits at the golf course. That realization has had a deep effect on California pros in making them more than ever before determined to see that their members get what they need. What they need—whether the members know it or not—is a change of pace from the terrific grind of war effort. The reason they've got to have it is that the human being can stand just so much without going into a slump. A slump is something this nation can't afford in wartime.

I am disposed to believe that golf has had more to do with California's excellent wartime labor and labor-capital relations then generally is realized. Most of the strikes throughout the nation that I've read about seem to be the result of irritation beyond the capacity of keeping the head and staying on the job for the fighting men. Judging from the executives of war plants I've seen close-up, they are under more of a strain and get less recreation than their employees. No excess of earning power can ease that strain.

Consequently, when the employees' nerves are frayed you may be sure that the boss also has an aggravated case of raw wartime nerves; hence the tensities and unreasonableness that result in strikes. When men get out into the air
Watch Layering, Fertilizer Excess in Topdressing

★ GREENS ARE TOPDRESSED primarily for three general reasons,—to keep the grass growing in a healthy, vigorous condition; to create a true putting surface; and to provide a surface sufficiently resilient to hold a pitched ball. To keep grass growing well there must be continuous soil connections between the growing grass on the playing surface and the soil and subsoil of the green.

Such connections are necessary in order that water falling on the green may penetrate well down into the soil and in turn be drawn up by capillary attraction to the roots of the grass plants as the surface is dried out.

Layers of any materials such as organic matter arising from matted turf, sand, clay, peat, or muck, break these soil connections and therefore interfere with the normal movement of water up and down in the soil.

Material applied to the surface of the green as a topdressing should be of the consistency of sandy loam and should be well brushed or if necessary spiked into the turf to maintain a good soil connection between the surface and the soil beneath. The application of pure materials such as sand, peat, muck, or the like, should be avoided. When they are needed to improve the soil texture of the green they should be mixed in the compost with soil to give the topdressing the consistency they would be made to feel very much at home by their Australian hosts.

To C. A. Shepherd and Jack Dillon, particularly of Golf in Australia's staff, American golfers want to send word that none of us ever overlook a chance to repay them and their fellow Australians for their courtesies to our fellows. Our hearts, hands, homes and clubs welcome the Anzacs when they're visitors in this land.

"Golf Club As a Business" Second May Booklet

★ Retain directors for at least five years unless they fail in performance, is advice given to clubs in the second booklet of George S. May's American Golf Foundation.

Set up an organization chart definitely fixing responsibility for all directors, officers and club employees, operate the club as many months of the year as possible, and sell limited classes of memberships restricting days of play and other club privileges, the Foundation's latest brochure also recommends. Financing recommendations are given, too. A copy of the booklet will be sent to club officials or directors free on application to American Golf Foundation, 2600 North Shore ave., Chicago.