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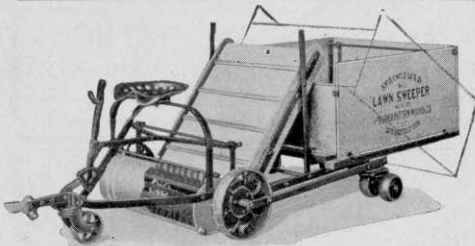
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Protecting Caddies Important Phase of Ball Marking

MORE general acquaintance with the rules of golf and the enforcement of these rules is putting the spotlight on properly identified balls from a technical angle, but the advocates of 100% identification of ownership of golf balls also are making a strong play as an ethical point. They point out that an unmarked golf ball subjects the caddie to considerable temptation. The ready salability of a used golf ball is not seriously slackened by the rules that forbid members of any club from buying balls from the caddies because there are too many casual and unattached players who are encouraging ball bootlegging by the caddies to give much hope of eradication of the evil by any method other than that of plain and proper proof of ownership on the ball.

This ball marking, when carried out by all of a club's membership, removes temptation from the caddies. Though a committeeman and player may argue to his heart's content that such a simple method will not get at the basic detail of the stolen ball problem, dishonesty, it still remains obvious that the marked ball makes theft and re-sale open to so much suspicion that the boys are not going to take a chance readily. Like the gentleman said when asked to have a drink, "I can resist everything except temptation," the caddie is not to be eternally damned for yielding to a temptation that is placed before him frequently and is so easily and profitably yielded to when the ball in his possession is unmarked.

Looking at the matter solely from the caddie welfare standpoint the club and its players are taking the right course when they insist on marked balls, best qualified students of this situation state.

Forms for the March issue of
GOLFDOM, close Feb. 25th.

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