

P. G. A. Re-elects Officials at Annual Meeting

By HERB GRAFFIS

THAT the Professional Golfers' association of America is highly pleased with the progress and policies of the administration it has enjoyed for the last two years was made evident at the organization's annual meeting held at Hotel Hollenden, Cleveland, November 19-20. Headed by Alex Pirie of Old Elm (Chicago district) the pros re-elected their entire national staff. Others re-elected were Willie Ogg, vice-president; Jay A. Patterson, vice-president; J. B. Mackie, treasurer, and Joseph R. Mitchell, secretary.

The meeting was generally considered by far the most successful the pro body ever had held. Dues were raised to \$10 in order to finance part of the ambitious plans the pros have for their organization. The slight raise will help somewhat to care for the amount of headquarters clerical work demanded by the functioning of the body, but is manifestly insufficient to care for the employment of a managing director to relieve the elected and unpaid officers of their arduous and exacting burdens in association work. The idea of a managing director as suggested by GOLFDOM in its September issue was given favorable consideration but action along this line was postponed until the association's finances would permit.

California picked another tournament plum at the meeting when the P. G. A. voted to award its 1929 tournament to La Cumbre at Santa Barbara. Date for the tournament will be announced later although it undoubtedly will be in the late fall and will launch the California season with a bang.

Every sectional P. G. A. body with the exception of the northern California and the northwest Pacific coast was represented. The meetings were of an executive character but the news of general interest was freely handed out to the press. The type of men appointed by the pros to attend the meeting as truly representative of their profession and the character of such proceedings as became known to the reporters was impressively convincing that the pros' interests are being han-

dled by men who are fully aware of the responsibilities and the demands of the changing times. So far as the pros themselves are concerned the Cleveland meeting demonstrated that all that possibly could be done to advance the cause of this element of the golf world was being handled by capable and conscientious men, and whatever shortcomings there may be cited by pros who are not active in their sectional bodies, are either the result of limitations of money and the demands of other essential duties of the P. G. A. division and national officials, or, in the last analysis, the absence of co-operation from many pros who are either indifferent or unreasonably critical.

To this reporter it was a matter of regret that such a meeting as that at Cleveland could not be attended by club officials and other powers in golf so they could get an accurate and convincing picture of the high calibre of the pros who are picked by their fellows as the men who reflect properly the character of the tribe. It would have done the pro cause a lot of good and correct the erroneous and lamentably unjust impression that prevails too generally.

The pro has suffered, among other troubles, the same misconception of his ilk as has the plumber, who arose in wrath a few years ago after the jokesmiths had put him in bad. You will note the falling off of the once great crop of plumbers' jokes.

One pleasing indication at the meeting was the evidence that a group of men whose main motive was the promotion of the game and the preservation of its high principles of sportsmanship, had prospered materially. Each one of the pros in attendance was obviously a man of such financial stability that he could well afford to let association affairs go along as best they might without him, for he alone had nothing especially personal to gain or to lose. The attitude of the meeting and its attendants was distinctly one of helping the pro who needed and deserved help, no matter what sacrifice was involved in time and effort on the part of the P. G. A. officials.