

# P. G. A. PERFORMANCE WARRANTS praise to pros FOR WORK ON BUSINESS PROBLEMS

By HERB GRAFFIS

**A**TENTION has been called to one phase of the professionals' progress "onward and upward" that seems to this third man in the ring to warrant a righteous squawk on the part of the P. G. A. officials.

This particular aspect of the pro situation calls for considerate and thoughtful action instead of the too general practice of swinging freely with sweeping indictments of the pros and centering the yowl on the P. G. A. Early in the affairs of this country a bright foreigner by the name of Edmund Burke interjected into a spirited argument the sane statement, "you cannot condemn a nation." To carry this on somewhat further, "you cannot condemn a profession." And to bring the matter right down to cases, it seems to me that the pro generally, and his P. G. A., are being dealt with unfairly by a too prevalent policy of criticizing harshly the entire group because of the faults of an exceedingly scanty, misrepresentative few. As far as this minority is concerned, it is being brought to the human minimum by the unceasing efforts of the P. G. A. officials, who are doing one magnificent job as unpaid workers, spending all the time they possibly can spare working out the policies and practices of a business that sprang, almost overnight, into a major play industry.

Naturally, as the professionals appointed representatives, the P. G. A. is in focus for the constructive criticism that every organization desires and needs, as well as for the gratuitous inane advice and sniping of those who can't resist the temptation to talk vacantly and out of turn. But, as one prominent P. G. A. official puts it, "If some doctor out in Painted Prairie, Neb., gives a patient a dose of poison by mistake, the whole country doesn't hop on the American Medical association. But let one pro go sour out in the sticks or in the big towns and you'd think from some of the unthinking critics that the P. G. A. was his mentor in dereliction."

There are no axes that GOLFDOM will grind except for the common good of the game and the substantial advancement of its upright commercial interests. If our observation and judgment convinced us that the pro situation generally needed an overhauling we would risk our dough and even friendship in justifying the existence of this journal by jumping right into the clean-up.

## Give the Boys a Hand

But the contrary case is true. Considering that the P. G. A. is only 12 years old and that its business problems on a big basis date back only about a half a dozen years, you can see great cause for cheering in comparing the progress of the P. G. A. with that of other business organizations whose members have plenty of money, lots of business experience, and can have their organization activities helped by the employment of a goodly staff of paid experts.

The club officials and the manufacturer who will sit down and look over the situation on a basis of comparison with other business histories, will get up and grant the P. G. A. a staunch helping hand.

How many know that the P. G. A. has a delinquent list and uses every power at its command to keep the credit of its members 100%? The mere existence of this list is no reflection upon the professional. What industry hasn't such a list? I dare say that in no other business having such a high percentage of small individual merchants, will the credit situation be found as clean as it is among the P. G. A. members. The critic or bystander who blabs out an all-embracing reflection on pro credit is still fast asleep.

To the glory of the pros it must be said that they are not pussy-footing. The troubles of the pro leaders started when the game began its amazing, speedy growth several years ago. Then there was created a demand for more pros that could be supplied by the limited trained man-power available. You take the young men who

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have been trained under the old-timers today and you'll find fellows who are worth to any club twice the money that will be asked by some fellow whose lack of experience and eagerness to be known as a "pro" makes him a temptation to the unknowing club official.

This is one of the problems that is before the P. G. A.: To educate clubs to the value of a good pro. In working out the solution that involves better and more profitable service to the club and a good income to a good man, the professional organization of course could make use of constructive and informed criticism. However, there's no place in the scheme for contentious individualities in any planning for the good of the game.

To the pros, themselves, we'd say, "Join your sectional P. G. A., and if you have a good idea or a load of woe on your chest, speak it out and get action at headquarters. Belly-aching just for practice does no one any good." And to the club officials, who are the powers that be, we might suggest they take an interest in P. G. A. activities and policies that they become acquainted with a vital factor in the good of golf.

## Here Are Some Resolutions or the New Season

I resolve to swear off on the following thirty-four weaknesses:

1. Looking up.
2. Coming up on my toes.
3. Hurrying shots.
4. The old slice.
5. That terrible hook.
6. Playing with stiff arms.
7. Using the old baseball swing.
8. Stopping the club as it hits the ball.
9. Losing balance when I swing.
10. Relaxing the grip.
11. Retarding the follow through.
12. Trying to kill the ball.
13. Finishing on the right foot.
14. Teeing up before my opponent drives.
15. Playing with a dirty old ball.
16. Hunting for balls in the rough.
17. Playing into others.
18. Talking while my opponent plays.
19. Walking ahead of opponent.
20. Taking up too much time on the course.
21. Refusing to let others pass.
22. Being careless on putts.