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P. G. A. Names A. R. Gates Its Business Pilot

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ON MARCH 17 signatures were affixed to a contract covering engagement of Albert R. Gates as business administrator and legal adviser of the Professional Golfers Association of America. President Alex Pirie and Jack Mackie, treasurer, were the pro officials handling this historic formality. The contract was signed at Mr. Gates' office in Chicago, following several conferences in New York and Chicago between the new pro administrator and the P. G. A. officials.

Engagement of Gates brings into the pro situation at an important time the services of an able organizer and administrator, who is one of the most prominent figures in amateur golf officialdom. The Chicagoan served as secretary of the Western Golf Association during 1906 and was elevated to its presidency in 1907. He also served as president of the Western in 1907 and in 1921 and 1922. During his presidency of the Western he earned the reputation of being an able and firm protagonist of the principles of his organization's cause, and though those hectic days saw some conflicts between the U. S. G. A. and the Western, the calm good judgment of the new pro regent had much to do with bringing about the unity and harmony now prevailing. Gates is highly regarded by the officials of all the amateur bodies and the pros who have had an opportunity to become acquainted with him during his twenty-five years' activity as a golf club and association official regard him as

ideally qualified for the strenuous responsibilities he has undertaken.

Picked from Scores of Men

Signing the Chicago lawyer marked the conclusion of a still hunt that Pirie, the P. G. A. president, has carried on extensively since the engagement of a business administrator was authorized by the 1929 convention of the P. G. A. There were a number of applicants for the position, some of them well known in professional golf ranks, but it was the concensus of the P. G. A. convention that the man needed for the job was one whom the job would seek, rather than one who made a bid for the spot because of its rewards of money and glory. Gates, a successful corporation lawyer and a substantial business man, is very much in the prime of life and at the point where he is qualified by temperament and finance to give himself unreservedly to a cause in which he long has had a lively interest. The happy combination of circumstances seems, from every angle, to provide the pros with just the sort of a man they have been looking for ever since the idea of a pro golf business administrator was first suggested by GOLFDOM.

In the selection of Albert R. Gates, GOLFDOM shares with the pros hope and confidence that the pro organization now is in such shape that it can prosecute its many ambitions to a satisfying fruition. When the business administrator idea was

proposed in these columns the pro reception was lively and far-reaching. The elected officials of the P. G. A. who have devoted many valuable and tiresome hours to attending to the organization's detail work saw in the prospects of aid from an experienced, active and well-known figure, the logical chance of speeding their progress toward their aims. The rank and file of the members were prompt to see the possibilities of help from such an organization expansion, as attested by scores of articles prominent pro business men have written for this publication.

Big Job Ahead for Gates

The new pro administrator, whose five-year contract becomes effective May 1, 1930, has a man-sized task cut out for him and he knows it as well as the pros. In the first place, when the Atlanta convention raised the national P. G. A. dues to \$50 in order to finance the constructive work the organization hopes to do for its members individually and collectively, "histing of the ante" was bound to keep some of the boys out of the fold for the time being, at least. The pro officials state that the new discount agreement secured from the manufacturers by the committee appointed at Atlanta already has warranted the increase in P. G. A. dues, for the added income from the new discount scale will considerably more than pay the raised dues for any pro, even if he is doing the minimum amount of business at his club.

Since the Atlanta convention an arrangement has been made with a large insurance company which will give the boys more insurance and put the benevolent fund in stronger shape without increasing the "take" from the members.

Employment Work Planned

The P. G. A. already has started to take some concerted action on the matter of employment and is working on the platform that P. G. A. membership, under the performance of the business administrator's office, will be "sold" to club officials as such strong evidence of a pro's qualification for a job that it will be an essential for a man who is seeking employment at a good club. In this connection, the P. G. A. officials think the increase in dues to \$50 probably will complete the last few details of the job of house-cleaning that has been going on quietly and effectively during the last four years, and will result in a standard of membership that can be set forth as uniformly the highest of any profession in this country. These are

strong words, but the P. G. A. officials are willing to stand pat on them, and state that the work already done in this direction has resulted in making P. G. A. membership primary identification of a first-class man.

National headquarters of the P. G. A. will be moved to Chicago and Gates takes office the first of May, in order to be centrally located for service to the nation's pros.

To present the details of the P. G. A. policies and procedure in connection with the operation of the business administrator, President Pirie started on a series of visits to P. G. A. assemblages, beginning with a session at Pinehurst during the North and South Open.

In addition to closer correspondence contact with the pros, amateur governing bodies and club officials, the P. G. A. under the new deal with the business administrator proposes to have field men covering the territory, as more intimate and practical help for the P. G. A. members.

Cleveland Greenkeepers Stiffen Membership Qualifications

AT THE March 3 meeting of the Cleveland District Association of Greenkeepers, which was held at Hotel Hollenden, the matter of a change in the by-laws, requiring a more stringent examination and a longer term of apprenticeship or experience than that now required for membership in the local organization, was discussed. Further action on the matter was deferred until the next regular meeting, April 7th, so that all members could be notified of the proposed change.

After the business session, two very interesting papers were read. One by M. D. LaMoreaux, of Kirtland C. C., on the methods tried and used by him in the eradication of dandelions. The other was read by Chris Bain, president of the local organization, on plant life.

Chicago Managers Stage Merry Stag Party

SPRING Stag of the Chicago Club Managers' association was held at the Hamilton club March 25. There was a good turnout and a grand time h.b.a. The entertainment warranted the event's gay and unique advance bulletin, a questionnaire which was a gem of specialists' work.