

# Olympia Saves \$4,000 Annually By Running Own Laundry

By JACK FULTON, Jr.

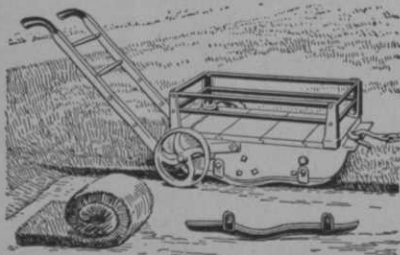
**L**EADING all other golf clubs in volume of operation, Olympia Fields C. C. in the Chicago district, with its four 18-hole courses and its palatial "million-dollar" clubhouse, naturally does things in wholesale fashion. To service the demands of its 1,000 members, the club has nearly 300 employes on its payroll, a surprising number of them tucked away in behind-the-scenes departments of the mammoth clubhouse where they never come into actual contact with the members.

Naturally, in so large an establishment it is necessary to employ the very latest in labor-saving and money-saving devices, and Olympia has installed many a piece of equipment, operates many a sub-department not ordinarily to be found except in the better-run hotels, which in final

analysis, Olympia resembles (in its house operation) more nearly than it does a golf club. Yet there are a number of these added departments which any first-class golf club could likewise install to its ultimate financial profit. For example, at Olympia there is the club laundry.

Col. C. G. Holden, manager of Olympia Fields, is thoroughly sold on the advantages accruing when a golf club runs its own laundry. He pointed out to the writer that not only is there a large saving over and above the cost of sending the club's dirty linens to a commercial laundry but there are other savings as well.

"Take added linen life, for example," he said. "Many outside laundries operate to turn work out in the quickest possible time. They employ washing compounds as strong as they think they can get away



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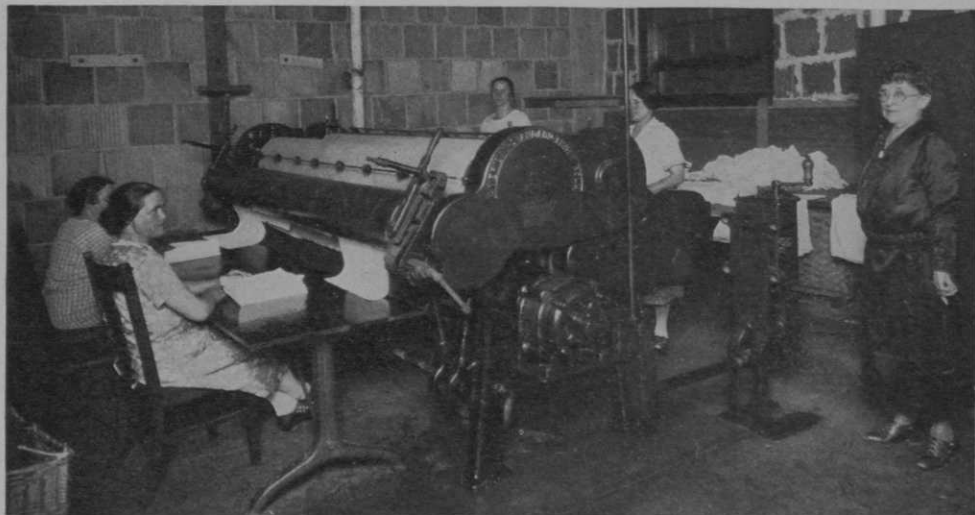
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One corner of Olympia's laundry, showing the 3-roll ironer in operation. The hand towels, being ironed and folded here, go through the machine at a rate of 250 pounds per hour

with, use bleaching powders to hasten the work, and of course, have far less interest in preserving the life of your linens than you yourself have. At Olympia, we find

our "flats" last from 13 to 15 months, a period that could not be approached by any commercial laundry I have ever heard of.



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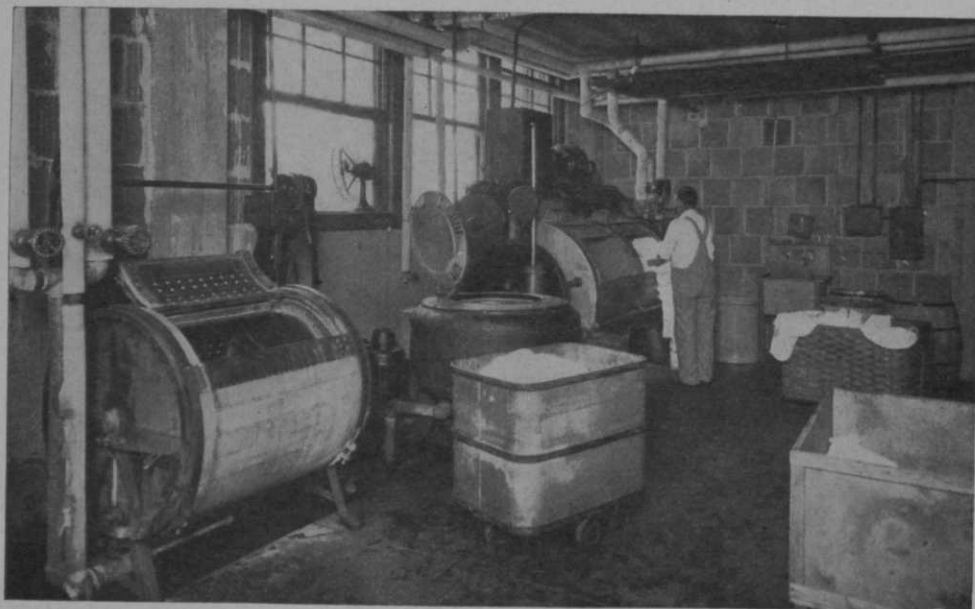
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Olympia's two washers; the one for greasy towels in left foreground, the one for ordinary wash in the back corner. Between is the centrifugal extractor

"There is another reason why it will pay any club to install its own laundry. Consider the reduction in inventory possible when you know you can pitch in and launder up fresh a supply of any item—like face towels, for example—you may happen to run short of on a busy weekend. Suppose you have had a big Saturday patronage on a very hot July day. Members have used so many face towels in the washrooms that your supply for the following day, if the hot weather continues, will be far from adequate. What are you going to do—put in a rush order for several hundred dollars worth of additional towels, with a good chance they cannot be delivered from your local jobber in time? Or pay the outside laundry overtime rates to launder your towels Saturday night and deliver on Sunday?"

"With your own laundry, the towels dirtied on Saturday are in the wash at seven o'clock Sunday morning, and within an hour thereafter a large part of them can be rushed to the linen room, cleaned and ready to be issued for use again."

Olympia's laundry is located in the basement of the mammoth clubhouse. The equipment, furnished by the American Laundry Machine Co., cost \$12,000 installed and includes:

1 42x72 motor-driven cascade washer.

- 1 30x30 motor-driven cascade washer.
- 1 30-in. solid-curb extractor.
- 1 super-suction drying tumbler.
- 1 100-in. 3-roll flat-work ironer.
- 1 coat and trouser presser.
- 1 valet press.

There are hampers, wheel trucks, work tables and other smaller items to complete the layout.

The two washers have a capacity of approximately 350 lbs. per hour, the larger one being used for all soiled items except the kitchen towels and similar extra-greasy cloths, which are handled by the smaller washer. The flat-work ironer has a capacity of 250 lbs. per hour.

"The laundry," continued Col. Holden, "is under the direct charge of our housekeeper. She manages the linen-room, is responsible for issuing supplies to the locker-rooms, bedrooms and dining rooms, and therefore knows what items are needed from the laundry to replenish heavy withdrawals and can issue orders to the laundry accordingly.

"We employ a foreman and five women workers. They report for work at seven in the morning and work forty-eight hours a week. On Thursdays and Sundays they work half a day; other days in the week they are on the job for eight hours. The "soils" of the day before are collected and

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placed in the laundry receiving bins at 6:45 each morning."

As mentioned earlier, Olympia Fields is considerably larger than the average club and for that reason the volume of work handled by its laundry is not applicable to other clubs, but the figures on the number of pieces handled in 1929 during the club's 4½ month season are interesting. The figures, as supplied GOLFDOM by Col. Holden, are as follows:

Tablecloths .....	16,978
Napkins .....	158,314
Side towels .....	5,854
Sheets .....	8,919
Scarfs .....	486
Bath mats .....	270
Pillowslips .....	5,404
Bedspreads .....	1,040
Hand towels .....	181,732
Bath towels .....	70,605
Busboys' coats .....	1,265
Dress aprons .....	576
Dress belts .....	540
Kitchen aprons .....	2,835
Dish towels .....	10,624
Glass towels .....	8,348
Cooks' towels .....	5,269
Golf towels .....	4,252
Miscellaneous .....	500

Total number of pieces..... 483,811

This amazing volume weighed 115,587 lbs. and does not include the laundering of employes' clothes and uniforms sent out to a nearby hand-laundry for washing at a cost averaging \$212 per month.

"To operate our laundry last season," Col. Holden reports, "cost approximately \$3,200. Had we sent the work to a commercial laundry, the best prices we could reasonably expect on it would have been not less than \$7,000. So you see, we can figure an annual saving of almost \$4,000 on a \$12,000 investment. That's a saving worth while!

"And any golf club can effect savings proportionately large.

"I would say the average club deciding to put in a laundry would need a small washer of 150 to 200 lb. capacity, a small extractor, an ironer of capacity to keep up with the washer and a drying tumbler. If the club wanted, it might add a coat and trouser press. This equipment should not cost over \$4,000 installed, could be operated efficiently by three people, and should result in an annual saving to the club of anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,500, not counting the added life to the elinens.