## Japan Plans Golf Boost やへ as National Asset 11 By HERB GRAFFIS

THIS spring the Japan Golf association, comprised of the 15 active golf clubs of the flowery kingdom, will be host to Walter Hagen and Joe Kirkwood as part of the plan to make golf not only the national game of Japan, but a considerable factor in the international relations of its business men. Expenses of the distinguished duo will be split by the association clubs, with the clubs getting whatever gallery money comes in.

Already golf enjoys lively popularity in Japan, and the nation's only public course is to be extended from 9 to 18 holes this year. This public course is at Tokyo and is located at a race track which is used only about a week a year. The green-fee is a dollar daily. Pioneer of the Japanese private courses is that of the Tokyo club, this having been established around 1910. The membership roster of the average Japanese golf club is about 1,000, but only approximately 15 per cent of each club's membership actively participates in golf. The average membership fee is \$500, and memberships have no equity interest in the club's property or have any surrender or transfer value. Even with this restriction, most club members belong to several clubs. Membership in the clubs is not confined to the Japanese, the alien element, especially the Americans and British, being active.

Originally introduced to Japan by resident Britons, golf already has produced in that country some rising sons in pro ranks. Last year two of its native pros entered the Hawaiian open and acquitted themselves creditably up to the putting point. Three putts were the nemesis of the Japanese pros in this event, and the reason, according to Keech Fukagawa, Japanese golf enthusiast, lies in the slow greens to which his pro compatriots were accustomed. Damp weather, adds Mr. Fukagawa, figures prominently in Japanese golf, it being responsible for making drives approximately 10 per cent shorter than they are in the usual American climate. However, he states, the only time when the

## To the right, Japan's welcome to Hagen and Kirkwood.

Japanese can't enjoy golf is about seven days a year, due to light snow. Jap Handicaps Good

The game has taken on so well that although the country now has only about 1,500 players the average handicap scope at the Japanese clubs is between 8 and 16. In the Japanese - Hawaiian matches, Fukagawa says. the Japanese team never has lost, although it has split even in the windup of some of these annual events, and he hastens to inform that the Hawaiian team, headed by Francis Brown, is a noteworthy troupe of sharpshooters.

The wealthy Japanese has nothing to do in the line of work, so he has plenty of time for golf, to which he applies himself

with commendable scoring results. The caddies are wrapped up in the game, so it probably is a matter of no great time before municipal courses will be available in Japan. These courses undoubtedly will get a good play from the university students, to whom the facilities of the private courses are not now available. The private courses permit guest and women's play only during week days.

Courses now in Japan are divided among five cities, and the average yardage is about 6,600. The courses are difficult because of the hilly topography, says Fukagawa, who tells of one course having 10 blind holes. This particular Japanese golfer and business man is visiting the United States in the interest of his operations as a manufacturers' representative at Tokyo. He got

## Is It The Pro's Business To Make Money?

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Manufactured by THE GENERAL TIMBER & LUMBER CO. 7102 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio one good tip-off to the carefulness with which American business houses handle export business when he learned what had happened when his American golf connection, the L. A. Young Co., got an order for a set of Hagen matched clubs to be supplied to His Imperial Highness, Prince Chichibu, brother of the emperor. Having the pro policy of fitting the clubs to the player keenly in mind, the Young oufit was up against it until some bright boy in the organization thought of digging up the prince's picture in a newspaper office. From this pictorial data, measurements of a proper set of clubs were determined.

## Managers Keep Dutton Jumping to the Rostrum

LENRY R. DUTTON, secretary of Club H Managers association of America, recently addressed the Boston branch of the International Stewards on "Food Control" and its advantages to the steward if properly presented to him in the light of a means by which, through cooperation, the results of his work may be more easily and satisfactorily obtained. An appreciation was also injected into the address for the splendid ideals which characterize the stewards who are members of the International Association and recognition of the fact voiced that the steward, where he is an efficient one, contributes the greatest number of factors to the success of club food service.

The following Thursday afternoon, Dutton appeared before the Hotel Extension course pupils at Boston University, delivering a lecture entitled, "The Business Side of Restaurant Operation." This covered such details as restaurant systems from the time of purchase till delivery of the dish in the dining room; explanation of the various forms used and an argument in favor of food control and its advantages.

February 11, the managers' association secretary and the organization's vice-pres., Tom Jones of the Harvard club, addressed the members of the Rhode Island Chapter of the national association of Club Managers of America, at the Biltmore Hotel, Providence, R. I., on matters pertaining to the association's welfare and future.

GOLFDOM welcomes letters from greenkeepers, managers and pros on their business operations.