

P. G. A. Calls Halt on Playboys Getting Right Men in Wrong

By HERB GRAFFIS

PROFESSIONALS competing in Open tournaments in which the P. G. A. tournament bureau has any voice will have to take the veil and wrap this symbol of virtue so closely around them that it becomes, to all appearances, part of their hides.

Charles Hall, president of the P. G. A., made this forecast in simple Anglo-Saxon words at a recent conference of P. G. A. officials. He outlined the reason for the forthcoming drastic edict in pointing out that professional golfers tournament conduct puts the entire pro body on the spot so far as public opinion is concerned. If the P. G. A. membership must innocently suffer from the misbehavior of a few of the frolicsome or the fiscal featherweights, the P. G. A. is going to have something to say and do about this acceptance of responsibility, Hall declares.

"Even preachers can go wrong without having all the country's clergy condemned," commented the vigorous and hard-boiled Hall, "but unbecoming performance of a pro golfer, no matter how infrequent, provokes adverse public comment that the other substantial professionals have to share. We were burdened with implied responsibility for the travelling caddies and for that account have ruled them out. Although the P. G. A. roster does not include all those whom the public considers as pros, we intend to make our action on control of tournament personnel such that it will be far reaching. The ensuing benefits will be enjoyed by the clubs and galleries together with the professional who really is representative of the principles of the P. G. A.," the pro's chief promises.

The tournament player as a public character is exposed to enlargement of his faults and an entirely subconscious acceptance of what innate merits he possesses. For that reason the pro who takes an unmanageable divot out of the alleged McCoy made available by a home-club host, or whose checks are played with too much of a back-spin, is hastily pronounced true to

type by the drumhead court martial of limber-tongued know-alls robed in their judicial Mother Hubbards.

Four instances of sterling semi-public souses were reported during the Open swing just ended. The benders were scarcely out of the vertical as judged by the standards set at almost any convention of solid law-abiding business men. Only one of the prominent victims of wines, liquors and cigars was a P. G. A. member, but the public doesn't know that, hence the mark is checked up against the association.

The pro organization is seriously considering furnishing to all groups holding Open events, a list of tournament playing members for whose conduct the P. G. A. stands sponsor. Others who are permitted to play in such events are accepted by the promoters of the events on the promoters' own responsibility. In the event of a P. G. A. member misbehaving, his name will be withdrawn from the accredited list for a length of time in keeping with the character of his naughtiness. The proposed procedure will be somewhat similar to organized baseball's practice of benching a player for marcelling the umpire with a bat, or other outbursts of sheer animal spirit.

If the wanderer from the middle of the ethical fairway persists in being a bad boy, he will be doing a neat job of forfeiting his P. G. A. membership, the association's officials state.

Quality Pros, P. G. A. Desire.

The decision to exercise control over the tournament personnel was prompted by no "holier than thou" attitude, but was directly caused by the P. G. A. intention to make the public realize that simply because a man isn't an amateur doesn't mean that he is a pro, as rated by the exacting appraisal of the P. G. A.

Making this distinction a matter of public knowledge and appreciation was one of the cardinal purposes of the Pirie regime and when Hall took the helm as president of the association the roster was at the point

of purity permitting the officials to get tough when any member was guilty of conduct reflecting upon the profession. It is properly a matter of glowing pride to the pro organization that discipline of its personnel is something that rates more time in talk than it requires in practice, but they are overlooking no chance to make it known that the P. G. A. will stand for only the best in professional athletics.

There are some unique slants to this business of having the pros stand out as the Little Sir Galahads of athletics. The boys, it appears, are having the public push them over backward in trying to get straightened out about the popular misconception that the pros' rallying cry is "Hae ye gah a bo'lie?" One of the pro officials relates that a puritanical body strenuously protested against pros playing in the Agua Caliente tournament. The basis for complaint was that drinking and card playing and horse racing went on down there and true sportsmen wouldn't be parties to luring folks to such satanic pastimes. After lengthy deliberation this official came to the conclusion the pros might as well take the Agua Caliente \$25,000 and risk hereafter on sole blistering fairways, otherwise the newspaper men, the transportation company officials, and that part of the merry villagers who follow the crowd to play, would be in hell all by themselves. And what would hell be without a pro telling some pupil to hold his head steady day after day?

That shows the sort of things the pro organization is up against in being considered notaries to the chastity of those whose living depends on hacking the 1.55-1.68 into circular confines.

So it begins to look like a practical halo will be worn jauntily as part of the pro tournament costume in the near future. The P. G. A. in endorsing the style doesn't want to appear as a reformer, but as a reasonable ruler and a protector of the discreet and dependable professionals.

ALAYER of top-soil four inches thick is sufficient for creeping bent but make sure the base is free from stones and large roots that might interfere with changing the cup.

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PUTTING greens flat as a table-top are monotonous; greens with slopes so steep a ball cannot stop on them are unfair. Moderation in putting green contour, gentle slopes and low hummocks are the thing.

BIRD FERTILIZER FACTORY MAKES INTERESTING STORY

New York City.—Greenkeepers and business men are finding the details of fertilizer manufacture by the white-breasted black cormorant of the rainless islands off Peru's coast as interesting as agricultural experts and ornithologists found that story.

A good-sized book, "Bird Islands of Peru," by R. C. Murphy, holds the reader's attention as it tells how these Peruvian birds contribute to fertility of far-off lands. A recent issue of "The Grace Log" gives some concise, interesting details of guano supply from these bird havens. The Nitrate Agencies Co., dealers in the U. S. supply of this fertilizer, was able to make a contract as sole importers of the product only after a several years' conservation campaign by the Peruvian government assured the future of the birds and the guano deposits.

One colony of these birds consumes nearly 1,000 tons of fish daily. The Nitrate Agencies Co. use this Peruvian guano as the base in compounding a balanced, complete golf course fertilizer.

U. S. RUBBER MAKES PRO-BOOST ITS NATIONAL AD THEME

In a bulletin to its salesmen, advising details of the company's 1931 advertising campaign, the United States Rubber Co. says, in part:

"This year in a series of smashing display advertisements—big ads packing a real punch—we will have three major issues to put across."

After telling of the work to be done in reaching the largest possible number of golfers, pros and golf officials, the bulletin states as the third purpose of the campaign:

"To plug the pro's game—to force an increase in his sale of golf balls—by telling millions of readers to 'go to your pro—he knows.' This slogan will be featured in every consumer advertisement."

BARRETT TELLS OF ARCADIAN NITRATE OF SODA

New York City.—An interesting little circular from the Barrett Co. tells of Arcadian Nitrate of Soda, made at Hopewell, Va., by the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. The process consists of producing ammonia by combining nitrogen of the air with hydrogen obtained from coal, the ammonium nitrogen then being converted to the nitrate form and combined with sodium from sodium carbonate to make sodium nitrate.

The product is guaranteed to contain 16 per cent nitrogen, equivalent to 19.45 per cent ammonia, all water soluble and available to plants. It is stored and shipped in 100-lb. and 200-lb. moisture-proof bags.