

Chaplain Lauds His Pros —Suggests Amateur Counsel

By REV. JOHN B. KELLY

(Chaplain, Metropolitan P. G. A.)

GOLF is the modern sport of the world's rulers—the pastime of Presidents and Kings. It is a national game in the true sense of the term—not a sport of spectators, but of participants. If it can be said truly that money talks then this game has an eloquent story to tell of American devotees who have spent four and one-half billions of dollars in its charms. The guardians dedicated to the protection of these billions are the professional golfers of America.

The golf professional occupies a position of unique dignity as the tutor of Presidents and potentates along with the prelates and dignitaries of religion who sit at his feet as avid disciples seeking the principles of orthodox stroke-making. Scientists who discover and reveal secrets of cosmic order, or of powers to be harnessed for the necessities and comforts of all their fellowmen, become schoolboys once again drinking in his exposition of principles and theories that will, they hope, aid them in breaking the century figures scarring their score-cards. Emperors ruling over industrial domains that are conquests of the five continents seek him out as their master. Leaders of society's inmost elite-men and women who determine the current modes and manners of civilization's millions seek out the pro to obtain from him the correct gesture in transferring a tiny sphere from sand-trap to cup on the waiting green.

The professional golfer of America is today conscious of the dignity of his calling and of the resultant responsibility to meet the demands of his office. He has formed an association for the purpose of promoting golf interests in the country while arranging for the protection of its members who meet regularly to apply constructive measures of group action, and to apply to the best advantage the funds collected for benevolent care of needy and deserving members.

The professional golfer wears a title which very naturally suggests comparison with other bodies of gentlemen known as "professional men." The lawyers, physicians, engineers, and other possessors of collegiate honors are they who make up the roster of a nation's sons in honorable professions. The golf professional of America has taken only the first steps toward the realization of his ultimate hope of attaining definite standards to be demanded of each member. The leading spirits in the profession will demand a certain minimum count to be earned before giving the individual aspirant the recognition of full membership. He will be given certain counts for proficiency in playing the game, others for his ability to impart the principles of correct play to his pupils, while still others will be given for his business and club of applied knowledge in operation and promotion ability. He may see the day when he will be promoted or demoted in accordance with the results of regularly recurring examinations supervised by a duly appointed board.

The amateur and the professional in the golf sphere have more in common than in most sports engaging general national attention. As said before, golf is a participants' sport. The professional is an amateur in the sense of a sport-lover, but the amateur can be in no way a professional receiving financial emoluments such as fees, salary, or cash prizes.

The golf professional is therefore an indispensable factor in the golfing life of the amateur. The American pros are busily engaged in corporate activity to promote the spread and fascination of the game. Methods of teaching, merchandising, club construction, standardization of the ball, and the principles of course architecture are all part of the programs at present pursued by the P. G. A.

For the very highest scale of golf promotion in the country I would recommend

that the national professional body enlist the active interest of a carefully selected group of amateur enthusiasts as patrons and advisors of their organization. There are many of the foremost figures in the commercial and industrial spheres who are sufficiently interested in golf as a powerful factor in keeping America healthy in body and wholesome in soul, who would consent to act as patrons to the professional body. These gentlemen would render invaluable services. They would also serve as judges of individual achievement contributing to the promotion of golf by the individual professionals.

The Business Administrator already engaged by the professional body would find his efficiency greatly enhanced by regular and intimate association with this amateur body of sport patrons, and he would be in an even stronger position to elevate the body as a whole to a dignity, putting all its members on a plane with the best in other of America's honorable professions.

TORO SHIPMENTS AT NEW HIGH
Minneapolis, Minn.—Shipments of the Toro Mfg. Co. showed an increase of 5% for the fiscal year ending September 30th,

making a new high record for the company. Earnings were \$2.70 per share, amply covering the regular dividend of \$1.40.

The company announced the addition of three new distributors: R. L. Ryerson, Milwaukee, Wis.; E. A. Griffith, Pittsburgh, Pa., and E. B. McCartney, Garden City, Long Island. A number of new products have been added and Toro is looking forward to a successful year in 1931.

CLEVELAND District P. G. A. recently put on an interesting educational event at McKinley Masonic lodge. With Grange Alves as instructor and Art Boggs as pupil, a golf lesson was given. Jack Way talked to the assembled worthy and well qualified brethren on the rules and Bert Way spoke on the business aspects of the pros' work. The idea is one that should be far more frequently used by the pros. We suggest that pros who are members of American Legion posts, Knights of Columbus councils, Elks clubs, or other Masonic lodges suggest such entertainments to officials of their fraternal organizations, supplying the talent from pro ranks.

It makes a great winter entertainment feature.

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