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U. S. G. A. and P. G. A. Go Into the Business Together

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SIGNS point to a welcome extension of U. S. G. A. interest in golf's business activities. President Ramsay's move to help the pro employment situation and the prospect of more intimate participation of greenkeepers in the Green Section's work, forecast by Ganson Depew, head of that section, at the Greenkeepers' convention, promise better business at the golf clubs.

The united attack of the club managers'-greenkeepers'-professionals' organization officials on golf club operating problems, made at the Mangers' convention, points to a further need of the U. S. G. A. partnership with club department heads.

OPENING of a strenuous campaign to make plain the qualifications and identity of competent professionals is the most recent P. G. A. achievement engineered by Charles W. Hall, president of the pro organization.

Hall, enlisting the interest of the U. S. G. A. in the pro plan, had his efforts promptly rewarded by the following notice sent to U. S. G. A. clubs on the golf association's stationery, and signed by its secretary, Prescott S. Bush:

TO MEMBER CLUBS:

The attention of clubs is called to the fact that the Professional Golfers association, First National Bank building, Chicago, Illinois, maintains an employment bureau which will be glad to furnish, upon application, the names and qualifications of golf professionals available for club employment.

It is recommended that all clubs making changes in their professional staffs or requiring information of this character, com-

municate with the Professional Golfers association on the subject.

Hall, during a conference with H. H. Ramsay, president of the U. S. G. A., presented the P. G. A. idea of definitely aiding clubs with pro vacancies by making available to them a choice of professionals meeting the strict requirements of the P. G. A. Ramsay heartily endorsed the plan and made it possible to carry it on, so far as the clubs are concerned.

It is the first positive advance that has been taken toward a solution of the pro employment problem that will be mutually satisfactory to both the clubs and the pros. In the case of P. G. A. members, only those having Class A qualifications will be submitted as endorsed applicants for the vacancies. This requires a background of five years' training, inasmuch as three years' apprenticeship in the shop and two years as a P. G. A. probationary member are required for a Class A card.

Substantial professionals, whether or

not members of the P. G. A., are hailing the Ramsay-Hall agreement as the most promising solution of today's toughest problem in pro ranks. Under the present conditions, leaders in pro ranks complain, any sharpshooting or fast-talking male is liable to jump into a pro job, despite his lack of qualifications, simply because he will work for less money. This has resulted in the clubs that were unfortunate enough to hire the pseudo-pros getting soured on the whole deal. Club officials didn't know how to discriminate between the real pros and the false alarms.

Now, through the U. S. G. A. participation in the P. G. A. effort to fit the right man to the right job, it becomes strictly up to the P. G. A. to see that the highest standard of professional ability and performance is established and maintained. Hall, on behalf of the pro organization, has assumed a responsibility that is far-reaching and serious. The acceptance of this responsibility is evidence that the P. G. A. efforts of the last few years have reached the point where the association can stand sponsor for the pros who are under its banner.

Problem Is Delicate

What effect this agreement will have on the employment of professionals not sponsored by the P. G. A. is causing lively debate in pro ranks. There are some good pros who are not P. G. A. members. That is admitted, as is the fact that some of the P. G. A. members live up to the letter but not the spirit of the qualifications. But in the latter respect, the P. G. A. officials can put up an excellent case of having their roster as right as it is possible to get in this world of human beings. They maintain that they'll stand comparison with the personnel of any organization of strictly professional men, and be a long way from found wanting. The P. G. A. officials do believe, confidently, that this enlistment of U. S. G. A. co-operation is going to be a strong force in bringing the first-class, qualified pros into P. G. A. ranks, and cite records to show that comparatively few of these pros who can pass the tests are not, at present, members.

The U. S. G. A. letter, while significant and very helpful to all concerned, will not provide an immediate answer to the pro placement difficulty. It will take plenty more work on the part of the P. G. A. and further aid from the U. S. G. A. to get the clubs to use the P. G. A. employment bu-

reau, and it will take some smooth steering by the P. G. A. to make the bureau work out happily. Some of the pros undoubtedly will emit baseless complaints of favoritism, despite the fact that the applying clubs will be supplied with an impartial list of names of men qualified for the job. It may be that some of the sectional P. G. A. bodies will want to keep their men in their own sections. But, regardless of the details, the initial outcome of the session between Ramsay and Hall is something for which the pros have hoped, not only as a positive push toward the solution of their employment situation, but as an indication that the P. G. A. can count on the U. S. G. A. officials for lively co-operation for the good of the game.

New Catalogs Vital Aids to Good Greenkeeping

ARRIVAL of the time when the post-man gets hunchbacked bringing in new catalogs prompts the suggestion that the greenkeeper who hasn't a properly maintained and handy catalog file is overlooking a sure help to efficient course management.

The manufacturers and supply houses who are responsible for these catalogs have gone to a lot of trouble and expense to present to greenkeepers a vast amount of definite and detailed information that assures satisfactory buying. In many cases the supply houses have had made to their order special items of equipment to fill needs expressed by expert greenkeepers and have induced makers of supplies to make changes in their products that would fit the materials exactly to the golf field.

Before us are representative catalogs of early season publication; Toro Mfg. Co., Stumpp and Walter Co., J. Oliver Johnson, Inc., New England Toro Co., and Golf Course Supply Co. Starting on this list and adding to it the names of other manufacturers and distributors, the greenkeeper can spend a little of his time during the next few days to no better advantage than checking up on his receipt of catalogs and writing his other suppliers in the event their 1931 catalogs have not been received.

The assistance of a complete catalog file in making out the budget, making emergency purchases or considering more effective operation is a weighty factor in good greenkeeping.