

Investigation discloses that social memberships in country clubs are unquestionably easy to dispose of if proper care is exercised in selecting only the most desirable prospects—much easier than equity golf memberships.

The question of permitting social members to play golf on payment of green fees, such play being limited to week days only, is one that each club must determine for itself. The income thus brought in appears at least preferable to granting tournament privileges, and makes it possible to realize a more constant flow of income from operations.

If anyone believes it is easier to maintain a full membership in the present economically unsound club organizations—with the cost of golf mounting and the membership price declining—than it is to sell a supporting number of auxiliary memberships, we fear he has not a clear vision of the present trend. Some road must be discovered to reduce cost of golf and through this reduction the financial emancipation of modern golf clubs.

If yours is a ranking club its facilities can be made salable to ranking people, thousands of whom desire a spot in the country where family and guests can dine, dance or swim in the atmosphere of country club life among their social equals.

Greenkeepers, Pros, Managers in Joint Meeting Nov. 16

REPRESENTATIVES of the greenkeepers', pros' and managers' associations will meet at Boston, November 16, in the first formal session of the joint committee on club operation formed at the conference officials of the three associations held at Long Vue club, Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 24. The P. G. A. of America annual meeting will start on that date, and the National Association of Greenkeepers will have their executive committee meeting at Hotel Statler, Boston, November 16 and 17.

Assured presence of the entire committee indicates that the club operating heads will make a concerted effort to pass on to club officials definite facts and figures on the lessons of 1931 operation. This year's problems were severe for all departments of golf club operation and by handling them successfully the operating executives learned much of value in club policies. Just what specific lessons were most important will be decided by the joint committee and a report of its findings and rec-

ommendations probably will be sent to the president of each American golf club.

One of the major ambitions of the committee meeting is to promote closer cooperation between the department heads. Lack of informed and harmonious contact between some department heads is deplored as a detriment to profitable club operation and to the increase in earning power of each of the department heads involved. The initial meeting at Pittsburgh did much to clarify the atmosphere of suspicion. Causes of conflict were considered frankly and to such excellent general effect that a number of clubs may attribute their satisfactory operating and financial showing this season to a better understanding between their operating bosses.

Attention will be given at the Boston meeting to operating statements of representative golf clubs with a view to making comment and recommendations based on the analysis of experts in the course, house and pro departments.

Golf Is Busy, Paying Business at Public Parks

PUSH IS GIVEN to the extension of golf in public parks by the authoritative figures for 1930 appearing in the 1931 *Yearbook* of the National Recreation ass'n, 315 Fourth ave., New York city. A total of 233 municipalities report 312 golf courses, of which 160 are 18-hole courses and 152 nine-hole. Income from the nine-hole courses reporting is \$781,343.38, which exceeds the operating costs by \$192,056.94. Income from the reporting 18-hole courses is \$2,544,200.43, which exceeds the operating cost by \$769,720.12. This excess is not to be pro-rated as 67 courses reported income and 63 reported cost of operation.

Participants per season at the 65 18-hole courses giving this information were 5,110,142, an average of 78,617 rounds per reporting course. Average length of season at the 18-hole courses was nine months and three weeks.

At the 55 nine-hole courses reporting the amount of play, there were 2,410,409 rounds, an average of 43,825 rounds per course during a season reported as averaging 8.27 months. There were 87,668 fewer baseball participants than golf participants, although 4,322 baseball diamonds were reported.

Golf courses and stadiums were the only public recreation plants having income exceeding operating cost.