

LIQUOR LAWS

Statutes Are Among Problems Managers Have Since Repeal

LEGISLATION and license regulations have been giving golf club managers worries to make the additional income of liquor an added problem of no mean proportions.

O. H. Gunther, veteran manager of Westward Ho (Chicago district), makes some interesting comments on the situation prevailing with Illinois clubs.

"Old laws that have been revived since return of liquor," says Gunther, "have brought back such matters as the legal inability to collect liquor bills. Therefore the return of the coupon system is suggested. The coupon books are charged to each house account and as a house account charge are collectible. It also works out so the club is able to get money in advance to finance liquor purchases. At the old Lakeside club we would have \$33,000 as a month's charge for coupon books, and if we had been compelled to wait 60 days until our charges were collected the strain of financing liquor purchases would have been brutal.

"Another of the revived old laws makes places where liquor was purchased responsible in case of accidents involving intoxication. This is going to make it necessary for clubs to insure against suits, with the probability of a premium payment of about \$1 a year per member. I believe that insurance covering members' clubs and other property kept at the club, and against accidents while playing golf, also should be obligatory. This is a difficult matter to put over because of the failure of insurance companies to advertise the value and importance of such insurance and each of the many insurance men who belong to almost every club being reluctant to ask for a monopoly of this insurance.

"Competent, honest bartenders are at a premium. The club manager who desires to give his members the advantage of his experience in selecting superior qualities of liquor does not want substitution and can not, for one minute, stand for the subsidization or bribery of bartenders by suppliers anxious to have their own brands pushed at the expense of other brands. It is my observation that this evil is worse now at hotels and cafes than before pro-

hibition, because there are not enough good judges of liquor among the consumers.

"Fast working bartenders are especially hard to get. Our opening party at Westward Ho had almost 400 men players and many of them after their golf and before dinner wanted cocktails. Old-fashioned cocktails were in demand. You can't put on extra bartenders like you can waiters if you are going to establish and maintain a reputation for good drinks, so you must hire men who are speedy enough to handle club rush business without lowering the quality of mixed drinks.

"Club managers with whom I have discussed the liquor phase of the business agree that there has been a most impressive reduction of intoxication since repeal and a marked development of epicurean standards at country clubs."

Pity the Illinois clubs. They must dispense liquor under the most drastic control law in the U. S. Here, much condensed is part of the Illinois liquor control law:

Sec. 14. Every person, who shall be injured, in person or property, or means of support, by any intoxicated person, shall have a right of action against any person or persons who shall, by selling or giving alcoholic liquor, have caused the intoxication, in whole or in part, of such person; and any person owning, renting or leasing any building, and having knowledge that alcoholic liquors are to be sold therein, shall be liable with the person or persons selling or giving alcoholic liquors aforesaid, for all damages sustained, and for exemplary damages.

Sec. 15. For the payment of any judgment for damages and costs that may be recovered against any person in consequence of the sale of alcoholic liquor under the preceding section, the real estate and personal property of such person, of every kind, except such as may be exempt from levy and sale upon judgment and execution, shall be liable; and such judgment shall be a lien upon such real estate until paid; and in case any person shall rent or lease to another any building or premises to be used or occupied, in whole or in part, for the sale of alcoholic liquors, or shall knowingly permit the same to be used, or occupied, such building or premises so used or occupied shall be held liable for and may be sold to pay any such judgment against any person occupying such building or premises.