

days, \$2.50 Saturdays and \$3.00 Sundays and holidays, the depression and rate war has cut down prices until golf is being sold week days as low as 25c. The rate war hasn't been confined to fee clubs; so-called private clubs entered the competition and spread the ruination. The worst of it is that volume of play has steadily fallen off and the membership prospects of those so-called private clubs have been vanishing.

Minimum Rates the Hope

In territory like the Chicago district a minimum of \$1.00 week days and a maximum of \$1.75, up to a Sunday and holiday minimum of \$2.00 and maximum of \$3.00 would allow the courses to operate with a chance for a profit, pay their help living wages and still provide golf facilities of good character at a reasonable cost.

As long as human beings retain their shortcomings we probably will have those who figure that they can outsmart and undercut the other fellow and are willing to do that, even though the minimums suggested would permit the fellows with lower operating costs to make more money. These lower costs would overcome whatever disadvantages of location the courses with reduced overhead and operating charges might have.

In the meanwhile, unless the course owners can get together and honestly adhere to a price scale that will prevent serious damage to the business, there is going to be a clamor for a strict government code that undoubtedly will be harder on the fellows who now think they have a chiseling advantage than on the men who desire to operate fee course plants on an intelligent business basis.

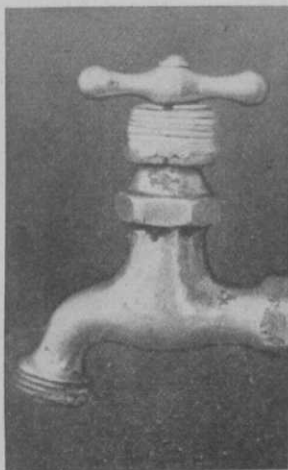
The smaller-town clubs are backbones of the social lives of their communities. They are definitely civic assets. Along comes some farmer with the idea that his pasture should be a golf course and by sticking in some holes, mowing the grass and putting up a sign that undersells the small-town country club, he gets by. The fact that he is able to operate because he does not pay his help enough to enable them to live, reflects on his value as a community benefactor, but the same criticism, unfortunately, must be applied to a number of private clubs in metropolitan districts, whose directors howl against paying living wages for seasonal work to men who have families to support in the community.

If we will sit down and figure the golf

business out on a basis of real sportsmanship in business rather than on the short-sighted and mercenary basis that we make the mistake of considering good business, many of the troubles of both private and fee courses will disappear.

Block Faucet Valves Open; Don't Remove Handles

DURING the winter it is necessary to open the valves on many outside water lines and leave them open to prevent bursting of either line or valve. Opening the valve and removing the handle and screw to prevent accidental or ignorant



closing of the valve is of course commonly done, but that is the way a good many handles and holding screws become lost and misplaced when badly needed later on. The photo shows a simple way to block a tap open, proof against everything but maliciousness.

Cut off one end of a spool so that the remainder will just slip in between the top of the packing nut and bottom of the handle when the valve is wide open. Whittle out the grooves in each half a bit if necessary to get them to hug the spindle of the valve and tie the halves of the spool in place with stout cord.

You cannot shut the valve, yet if necessary the guards can be quickly removed with most any kind of a handy tool, even a key, to break the cord.