

## USGA MEETS

### Annual Report Indicates Ruling Body's Financial and Roster Miseries Are Now Under Control

NO particularly violent fireworks to evoke oh's and ah's from the nation's golfers illuminated the forty-first annual meeting of the USGA, held January 5 in New York City, although definite improvement from the depression low, indicated in the association's financial report, and signs of a halt in the wave of member club resignations gave cause for a few sighs of satisfaction that the worst was over, as far as the well-being of that body is concerned.

Gross income for the year amounted to \$99,115.22 as compared with a gross of \$78,878.02 for 1933, an improvement of some \$21,000. Disbursements remained about \$80,000 for both years.

Biggest jolt to income was from member club dues and interest on investments. Whereas in 1933, the association took in \$30,889.89, its take for 1934 amounted to only \$26,021.69, a drop of \$4,868.20. On the expense side, elimination of many Green Section projects reduced the cost of this most valuable activity from \$29,354.13 in 1933 to \$14,396.45 last year, a saving of \$14,957.68.

Cash receipts from tournament gates indicated the healthy revival in golf interest last year. Admissions in the previous season to the Open, Amateur and Women's amounted to \$12,031.59; in 1934 no gate was collected at the women's tourney, yet admissions amounted to \$13,153.25. Greatest improvement was in the Open figures, which jumped from some \$5,600 to \$8,000. Program advertising hiked nicely from \$7,300 to \$11,400.

#### Member Resignations Halting

The membership situation of the USGA is reported as of November 30 of each year. At that time in 1932, the number of clubs in the association was 1,138. In 1933, the association lost 283 clubs through resignation and suspension for non-payment of dues, leaving a total membership of 855. Last year, 26 more clubs were removed from the roster, leaving 839 in good standing, but since 1934's change was less than 10 percent of the 1933 total, it was regarded as not distressing. There is every reason to believe that the member-

ship report due this fall will show a nice gain in this department.

Highlights of the meeting other than those outlined above were the formal expression of sympathy over the death during the past year of Ganson Depew, chairman of the Public Links Section and the Green Section committees; the report of the Rules of Golf committee, wherein it takes cognizance for the first time of the widely varying ways in which clubs allocate handicap strokes; and an interesting report by the General Counsel, Morton G. Bogue, on "Golf Law in 1934." The Rules of Golf committee's recommendation relative to handicap strokes will be found elsewhere in this issue. The Bogue report will appear in a later number of GOLFDOM.

The resolution of sympathy over the death of "Ganse" Depew reads as follows:

"The officers and Executive Committee of the United States Golf Association desire to inscribe upon the records an expression of their deep sense of sorrow and loss occasioned by the death of Ganson Depew.

"We, and all those interested in the game of golf, will remember him as one whose influence upon the game has always been for its good, always supporting and aiding the development of Golf in the United States towards its highest standards.

"He was loved and venerated by those fortunate enough to know him, not only for his valuable assistance to this Association, but for his unflinching interest and helpfulness in whatever concerned the best interests of the Game.

"As a companion, associate and genuine sportsman his death is deeply deplored.

"We, therefore, wish at this time to express our sorrow at his loss and to tender his family our sincere sympathy in their bereavement."

Officers and Executive Committee personnel for the year 1934 are as follows:

President, Prescott S. Bush, Round Hill Club.

Vice-Presidents, John G. Jackson, Deepdale GC. A. M. Reid, St. Andrews GC.

Secretary, Frank M. Hardt, Merion Cricket Club.

Treasurer, Harold W. Pierce, The Country Club, Brookline.

Counsel, Morton G. Bogue, National Golf Links.

Executive Committee, George W. Blossom, Jr., Onwentsia. Prescott S. Bush, Round Hill Club. Edward L. Cheyney, The Country Club (Cleveland). Charles L. Dexter, Brook Hollow. H. Chandler Egan, Cypress Point. Paul P. Farrens, Alderwood. Perry E. Hall, Gulph Mills. Frank M. Hardt, Merion Cricket. John G. Jackson, Deepdale. Harrison R. Johnston, Minikahda. Harold W. Pierce, The Country Club (Brookline). A. M. Reid, St. Andrews. R. Arthur Wood, Exmoor.