



**H**ALF of the 205 citizens of Palermo, N. D. are on relief, Time magazine reports. With 102½ residents needing a piece of government dough, the town is promised a new golf course and bird sanctuary, instead of replacement of a burned schoolhouse. Citizens squawked.

There have been other complains about building golf courses on public funds, an operation favored because it can use much manual labor. Having courses built and then revert to weeds is not going to help the golf business any, but there are plenty of spots where new golf courses would be extensively used.

The game and the business of golf is missing one of the greatest chances it ever had for expansion in this country because of the lack of an authoritative survey showing where there are a logical locations for public courses in industrial, rural and resort territories.

Club, ball and equipment manufacturers' associations, the PGA and the USGA should get together on this. GOLFDOM has a lot of data that will help.

So long as we submit no facts showing where courses can be spotted to help relief, provide communities with self-supporting recreation plants and help our own game and business we'd better not call the brain-trusters boobs for they have a comeback to make us feel silly.

**K**IRKWOOD and Hagen plan to start toward the Far East around November first on a combination golf exhibition, golfing and fishing trip around the world. Their last stop before returning to the U. S. will be 1936 British Open.

Sarazen and Didrikson have talked about making an exhibition tour of the British Isles and a few spots on the continent in 1936.

Both teams intend to take a lot of movie film on their travels.

**L**AWSON LITTLE'S record string of Amateur victories has had a strong, favorable influence on pro sales of instruction. Little probably has had as much pro

instruction as any top-grade amateur ever had. His frequent statements about going to Tommy Armour for some pro instruction to tune up for championships has given pro tutoring considerable advertising.

With Little running his consecutive string of National Amateur championship match victories to 31 this robust young pro protege has answered the old amateur line that used to make the pros bleed internally: "I never had a lesson in my life."

**B**ERT SHELDIN, greenkeeper of the Country Club of Cleveland for 38 years got—and richly deserved—the plaudits of players and press on the condition of the course over which this year's National Amateur was played.

The present course of the Country Club is only about five years old and is in superb shape, especially considering its age, weather and the pest conditions of the summer, and the maintenance budget. The way in which Bert and Bill Burke, pro at the club, operate together in coordinating turf management with fine playing condition for the club members and guests, is something worth extensive imitation by golf clubs.

House operation during the tournament was the smoothest handling of large crowds this observer has seen during any tournament.

R. K. Siegenthaler, the club's manager, was handicapped somewhat by lack of bar facilities for such an event, but the customers never knew it. This Siegenthaler-Burke-Sheldin combination makes a team that for ability, performance, mutual helpfulness and harmony is a sure tip-off of a high class club.

**P**ROS continue to get good publicity from the back of admission tickets to the national championships. The back of the tickets at Cleveland bore these official-ly endorsed paragraphs:

Patronize Your Pro

"America leads the world in the manufacture of fine golf balls and clubs.

"Since his instruction and leadership are of great importance in making golf a more enjoyable game to play—patronize him for instruction and supplies."

**P**ROS have begun to blow foam off of steins discussing a proposal that's to come up during the annual PGA meeting. The resolution which will come up in due order is to hire a dictator at 15 grand per annum, which is big corporation dough.

It's a matter of apprehension because of the generally tough luck dictators have been having. Huey Long took the count from a slug, the code authorities were tossed out on an infield tap by the U. S. supreme court, Mussolini was thrown for a 25-yard loss on first down by the League of Nations and only Squire Landis survives. The Squire has weighty problems like deciding whether Alabama Pitts can be transferred from Sing Sing to the Albany ball club and whether Umpire Moriarty's remarks to the Cubs would be O.K. for a national hook-up.

If the pros' problems are like baseball's, maybe it could use a Squire Landis. Otherwise the boys' 15G's could be safely and sanely tested for a year on the solution of their marketing and educational problems along some definite, sound prepared plan.

A long term contract on a dictator is something the PGA already has paid to learn about.

It seems like the PGA has been advancing nobly under the present operating scheme, and if you doubt it you'll probably get a convincing answer in the financial report treasurer Jack Mackie and president George Jacobus will submit at Chicago.

**C**OMING from far and near to make up the near-million-dollar gate of the Louis-Baer fight were many gentlemen sportsmen at whose golf clubs greenkeepers, pros and managers are wondering how they will be able to finance their families through the winter.

The Louis end of the 11 minutes and 50 seconds of fighting was \$217,000; the Baer cut, \$150,000, and the gentlemen sportsmen who contributed didn't complain. But listen to their howls to scare their home club greenkeeper when he asks for enough money to have his family live respectably. The manager and pro income is low enough at many clubs legally organized "not to operate at a profit," but generally, the pay of diligent, studious and

conscientious greenkeepers and their staffs at golf clubs is something that is nothing for the gentlemen sportsmen to brag about.

When the panic hit, golf club employees' salaries were cut sharply with the promise of readjustment when times improved. At many clubs times have improved but officials have changed and the old promises are not known to later officials.

One of the first details of budgeting that can be wisely and honorably handled at many clubs is that of increasing salaries, or making arrangements that will keep present salaries as a minimum and allot increases based on the gross income through the 1936 season.

**T**OMMY ARMOUR, pro at Medinah CC (Chicago distr.) for the past three years has signed a contract for five more years there. A pro contract for that length of time is news, but the action of the club in advising the press of this new long-term contract is news on its own account. It indicates the possibility of the right sort of a contract being mutually satisfactory to club and pro and doing away with the uncertainty that generally worries both club and pro these days.

Again, GOLFDOM suggests that the PGA confer with club and association officials in formulating standard contract forms that will eliminate a lot of the present vagueness in pro and club working arrangements..

**I**T BEGINS to look from attendance figures at the national championships like the panic is over for the USGA.

The Open at Oakmont drew a gross gate of \$23,792 against \$7,968 last year at Merion. The Public Links tournament was the second largest in USGA history. The Amateur drew a lot better than any other since 1930. No official dope is available yet but we'd guess that the gate wasn't far from \$16,000.

**W**M. KEATING, practical greenkeeper authority of the Des Moines (Ia.) G&CC is a staunch advocate of fertilizer test plots. Keating keeps his fingers crossed on the exact interpretation of results without complete tests and expert consultation, having had some mystifying results from his own tests.

But Keating does maintain that fertilizer plots are the strongest way to sell members, officials and committees on the

need of fairway fertilizer. Bill puts some test plots right across fairways out of shot landing areas, and of this practice says: "When members see ribbons of heavy, rich grass across fairways and compare these with fairways that have no fertilizer they get a plain demonstration of the value of plant food to grass. The test strips also help to remind them that their greenkeeper is on the job looking ahead and carefully testing.

Keating also operates a fine bent grass nursery from which numerous clubs in Iowa have been satisfactorily supplied. One section of this nursery is devoted to tests.

Although the five fairway plots have been established only since the beginning of the 1935 playing season, the results of fertilization have been so plain that much talk of members and guests has been devoted to the test strips.

**ROBERT DARROW**, plant physiologist of the University of Chicago, one of Dr. E. J. Kraus' bright young men, has become associated with the USGA Green Section's Midwest garden operation.

Darrow will devote his time to contacting greenkeepers and chairmen in extension work of the Green section, getting close-ups on the practical problems at the courses and bringing to the field those answers that are being worked out by Monteith, Tregillus and others at Washington and Mill Road farm.

**FRED HOERGER**, talented supt. of the Miami Beach Bay Shore Co. courses, La Gorce and Bayside, now is in the fourth year of applying sulphate of ammonia to a course through the fairway watering system.

Hoerger mixes 200 lbs. of sulphate in 10 or 15 bbls. of water and then feeds this solution into the fairway irrigation system at a slow rate. The 200 lbs. of sulphate is applied with about 150,000 gals. of water. This amount of sulphate is used every night the course is watered—at intervals from about October 1 to May 1. Phosphate is applied every second year.

He also has had great results with the African bent brought to this country by associates of the Green Section. He says it is easy grass to keep in good playing condition but needs fairly heavy topdressing at the start to make it spread out. It

improves quickly during the first few weeks of January which makes it a great grass for greens in Florida. He's had very few attacks of brownpatch on this grass. It was due to his faithful, expert attention that the African bent samples sent by the Green Section to Florida have been preserved and flourish.

**YOUNG** pros wanting to make the winter tournament circuit to get the valuable playing and instruction experience of this golf college, are advised to look into the method employed by Tommy Shannon. Tommy is the live and competent pro of Glen Oaks at Farmington, Mich.

He sold shares in his tour and turned his winnings back to refund subscribers. Naturally a kid like Tommy bucks such hot competition his chances of paying off 100% with prize money are remote but he learns a lot that he brought back for the improvement of his members' games, their pleasure and the club's profit.

Tommy started out with his wife and 2-year-old son in a car and trailer. The trailer broke down 600 miles after the start, so Tommy's family went back home, and Tommy travelled the rest of the circuit alone.

After the winter circuit Tom made a complete report in writing to the fellows who bought shares in him. Shares were sold at \$10 each. There were approximately 80 shares sold. That \$800 is about the minimum on which a fellow can make the complete winter swing. The club got some fine publicity from newspapers all over the country on the subscription plan.

**HARRY KRUEGER**, manager at famed Minikahda, cashes in on the drawing power of the Minnesota football team by staging football feature nights after each home game of the Gophers.

An attractive folder giving the schedule of Minnesota home games and details of the Minikahda parties is mailed to the members.

**IS THE** golf business coming back?

Here's an answer: Toro Mfg. Co.'s July sales were 100% ahead of last July; August 66% ahead, and September showed an increase. Toro business by months has shown an increase over the same month of the preceding year every month since August, 1933.