

on its East Course April 27th last, but both Gerstell and Valentine were careful to keep their own counsel. What they foresee in the near future is a saving of more than \$1,000 per year on upkeep. As

a matter of mature precaution, however, they took no chances on letting the good news leak out at least until after their budget for 1939 had been approved and passed by Merion's Board.

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## \$1,000,000 Course for Cleveland

By J. Noble Richards

Commissioner of Recreation, City of Cleveland

“A golf course that has everything,” accurately describes the million-dollar, 36-hole public golf course under construction on the outskirts of Cleveland, as a part of the city's development of a greater recreational system. In the last few years, with the help of WPA labor, Cleveland has made remarkable strides in the expansion of its park and recreational facilities. New playgrounds have been built, lighted ball diamonds opened to the public, a winter sports center started, many new tennis courts made available and the scope of the recreation program greatly enlarged. The new golf course is a part of this program and will serve the public of the south and west sides of the city.

For over 20 years a 36-hole course known as Highland Park has been operated for the public on Cleveland's east side, but the constantly increasing number of golfers and the inavailability of

this links to the populace of the south and west sides made it imperative to construct golfing facilities near these sections of the city. In 1938, there were 95,000 paid admissions at Highland Park. Every weekend last summer thousands of Clevelanders swarmed the links and play was slow and difficult because of the crowds.

It was this condition and the need for a course near the other sections of the city that prompted the department of parks and public property, of which recreation is a division, to obtain a Federal appropriation for the new course. An ideal location for the links was found on property already owned by the city near Brecksville, about 18 miles southwest of Cleveland's public square. About 325 acres of rolling, partly wooded land had been partly used as an emergency nursery, but in recent years it had been abandoned. Although neglected the land could not be better suited for a golf links.

Biggest open money tournament of the summer, the \$10,000 Dapper Dan affair, at Wildwood CC, Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 10-13, will give its net proceeds to charity. The Dapper Dan organization is composed of sportsmen who are quick to kick in for charitable causes.

Gently rolling hills and beautiful scenery in every direction afford a natural terrain for a golf course. Plans were prepared, under the guidance of A. H. Alexander, Cleveland, chief landscape architect of the city. The project was approved by city and federal authorities and in November, 1938, 3,000 WPA workers were busy grading fairways and leveling greens.

The course will consist of four 9-hole courses, each complete within itself, but so laid out that the circuit of the entire 36 holes may be made without traveling over the same ground. The first nine holes will have a par of 35 and normal yardage of 3,269 yards. Par 36 has been set for each of the other three sets of nine holes and they are 3,469 yards, 3,305 yards and 3,460 yards each. All four nines may be lengthened for championship play by the use of back tees.

#### Install Fairway Watering System

One outstanding feature of the Brecksville golf course will be the watered fairways. Two streams run through the land and these will each be dammed to form reservoir ponds. Pump houses, well hidden from view, covering pumps and pressure tanks, will be erected at each pond and sprinkling equipment laid in the

entire structure will be finished. Included will be a dining room, lockers, showers, and social rooms. Eventually a swimming pool and tennis courts will be built near the clubhouse and the entire aspect will be that of an exclusive country club. Near the site of the clubhouse a practice green and short fairway are being laid out.

When completed, and it is hoped that the golf plant will be ready for use in the late summer of 1940, it will rate with any golf course in this section of Ohio.

### Better Service Booms Small Club Income

BETTER meals are having a decided effect in building up country clubs out of the metropolitan territories, so observes E. W. Sherwood of the Hillside GC, St. Cloud, Minn. Sherwood as pro-greenkeeper, and his wife in charge of clubhouse operation, have done excellent constructive work in club upbuilding, so Sherwood is qualified to speak on what increases club membership in towns where the country club has had tough going.

"Even in the smaller communities families are getting the habit of 'eating out' more often, and a club that provides them with interesting menus, superior food and smartly trained service, soon gets the women of the community boosting the men into joining," Sherwood says. "The problem in the clubhouse is the same as on most of the smaller town courses—