

WAR and GOLF

By C. Kent Bradley

Prolonged European conflict will cause scarcity of some course products, but we are in better position than in 1914

WITH Europeans throwing things at each other, we may consider the possible effects on the golf industry, and specifically in this article, golf course maintenance costs. Reviewing golf's history during the last World War, interviews with golf supply manufacturers and dealers, and with some personal predictions thrown in, eventualities may be considered, should Europe dig in for a prolonged scrap.

A major war affects the countries of the world, both belligerents and neutrals. We may, within reason, expect scarcities in some lines, and total unavailability in other supplies. Today, however, we are in a better position as regards our domestic goods, than we were in the period of 1914-20. Our home-grown grass seed, especially bents, render us a better supply, and better strains, than we had 20 years ago. There is, however, a possibility of some fields being plowed under, and planted to cereal grains and other agricultural products. Ocean freight rates and war risk insurance premiums will increase and this rise will be passed on to our club-consumers.

Mercury Costs Rise Fast

Shortages of foreign materials will be largely in peat moss, potash, natural nitrates, New Zealand grown seed, tool steel, fungicides and rubber. At this writing, dealers report price rises on lead arsenate, tires, garden hose, seed, fertil-

izer constituents, tractors and mercurial fungus disease controllers. One brand of the latter that sold early this spring at \$1.30 a lb., is now marked up to \$2.55 per lb. Mercury is used extensively in munitions, marine paints, and in the making of wool felt.

Shipments have practically stopped to the U. S. of Cal-nitro from Norway, German potash and urea, Chilean nitrate of soda and baled peat moss.

Modern chemistry is able to extract domestic potash from borax deposits. DuPont produces "Uramon", containing about 42% nitrogen, and "Neoprene", artificial rubber. We have enormous deposits of peats in Florida, Maine, Michigan, New Jersey and many other states, that compare very favorably with imported baled peat.

Smart Clubs Place Orders

Dealers are quoting cash prices, subject to immediate acceptance and delivery. Smart club officials are placing next year's orders now, and storing their needs for the 1940 season. They plan to send their superintendents to the GSA conference and equipment show to be held in New York City, February 6-9, 1940, so their men can discuss maintenance strategy with others familiar with emergency conditions.

For some years past, greenkeepers have been concerned as to the welfare of labor-

ers released from course work during the winter months. Now with many factories putting on extra work shifts, some greensmen are leaving course work before they are released by the clubs. These men, many of them skilled in various trades that have been used to advantage by clubs during depression years, will affect labor costs in golf maintenance. Not only will club payrolls rise, but there will be the added cost of training new, and often less capable, men in golf course work. This cost is at least 10%, on the average, of a workman's first season's wages, and does not include damage done to turf and equipment while being broken in to maintenance routine.

200 Greensmen at Arlington Meet; May Enlarge Event

SECOND annual turf meeting sponsored jointly by the USGA Green Section and the Greenkeeping Superintendents Assn., was held Friday, September 22, at the Arlington turf garden. Over 200 visitors were present, representing golf courses and parks over a large area extending as far west as Iowa, and from New England to Florida in the East. Greater part of the day was spent on the Arlington experimental farm, where the turf investigations are conducted by the Green Section in cooperation with the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

In the morning there was a comprehensive review of all the investigations in progress on the turf garden, including the many selections of bents, bluegrasses, fescues and Bermuda grass; the fertilizer experiments with both bents and bluegrasses; the soil texture experiments; the chemical control of weeds; and the chemical sterilization of soil. There were exhibits of a great variety of grasses used for turf purposes in the various sections of the country; of the seeds of many different grasses and weeds; and of numerous fertilizers. In the afternoon time was allowed for informal discussion groups.

To enhance the general interest of the meeting other investigators at the Arlington farm gave interesting demonstrations of their work. These included exhibitions of dust explosion, of the effect of length of day on the growth and development of plants, and of plastics.

At the noon hour lunch was available on the grounds. Relaxation was furnished at intervals during the day by appropriate

competitive sports not soon to be forgotten, such as a relay race in hand weeding and a grass cutting event. In the late afternoon the meeting adjourned to the Capital G&CC, where the experimental greens were rated by each of the visitors and the fairway experimental plots reviewed, after which the meeting closed formally with a dinner in the clubhouse in the evening.

The interest of the visitors was evidenced by the fact that many of them stayed over until the next day and came back to the Arlington farm for a continuation of the discussion of the experimental work there and of their own special problems. The hope has been expressed repeatedly by visitors from various sections of the country that the turf meeting will not only be made an annual event but that it will be expanded into a two-day meeting.

Los Angeles Open Is First of California Tourneys

RETURN of the annual Los Angeles Open golf tournament, established, managed and sponsored by the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, to private courses for the next four years at least, has been announced by Clifford L. Rawson, jr., secy.-mgr. of the Junior Chamber. The tournament, which has been held on the Griffith park municipal courses in Los Angeles the past three years, will be played in 1940 over the north course of the Los Angeles CC, Jan. 5-8. In succeeding years the tournament will be played over the courses at the Riviera, Hillcrest and Lakeside country clubs.

Thus, the tournament, for which the *Los Angeles Times* guarantees the prize money of \$5,000, returns "home" in 1940 inasmuch as the Los Angeles CC was the site of the first annual Los Angeles Open in 1926. The tournament also was played at this club in 1934-5-6. Under the private club system the tournament will revert back to qualifying rounds, with 128 players, and ties, starting the first day's play in the tournament proper.

The Los Angeles Open is the first of the series of tournaments on "California's Golden Golf Trail." The schedule:

Jan. 5-8—Fifteenth annual \$5,000 Los Angeles Open.

Jan. 11-14—\$5,000 Oakland Open.

Jan. 17-21—\$5,000 San Francisco Match play.

Jan. 27-28—\$3,000 Bing Crosby invitational, Del Mar.