

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR GOLF?

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THERE has been no noticeable increase or decrease in the play at either private or public golf courses so far this year, at least not to my knowledge. The ups and downs of the individual clubs would about average up. Some clubs, in holding their individual club tournaments, have been very surprised at the entries, and have gone so far as to add additional affairs for the tag end of the season. I have seen several such announcements in the Metropolitan district.

Gasoline and rubber rationing have made some difference. I know of several cases where members have transferred their allegiance to a club nearer home, but I also wonder if common sense should not have dictated such action long ago. We are all prone to continue to do a lot of things that are not too sensible, simply because we haven't been forced to change our mode or methods, and then when we were forced to it, have discovered that it was not so bad after all. I hear of a lot of cases where men have doubled up and taken turns driving to the station to catch the 8:15, or whatever it is, instead of each driving their own cars as they used to do, and it works out swell; a lot of them found their neighbors are not so bad when they know them better. Clubs I have visited lately seem to have ample parking space in the areas that used to be crowded, but there seems to be the same number of players on the course and around the house.

No Rakes

About a week ago I was a guest at a certain club whose course I had never played before. At dinner that night, I was asked what I thought of the golf course, and I answered most truthfully that I thought it was exceptionally fine. It really is a lovely and most interesting course. However, I had only one criticism to make—every time I went into a trap, I found my ball in a heel-print, and I mean heel-print. They were not left there by the foursome ahead of us, or the one ahead of them, but were unmistakably of some days' standing. And on not one single trap did I find a small rake to encourage my leaving the trap in as

good, if not better, shape than I found it.

The man who brought up the question to begin with, at once took issue with me, and said it could not be done. I think I convinced him it could before I got through, but if I did not, then in my opinion he would make a lousy member for any club.

I remember very well a club up-state where I was a member, and a beautiful course it was, and still is. If another member saw you walk on and not replace a divot, believe me you soon heard plenty about it. If a member saw a guest do it, he did not say anything to the guest, but he immediately called the caddie for it, and while the guest was not spoken to, he saw to it that the caddie did it from then on. And the same goes for the traps. I do not like to wind up in a heel-print in a trap, and so I do not want to be blamed for someone following me doing so. Practically every member of that club felt that it was HIS course; he was proud of it, he was going to take care of it and use it properly, and he demanded that you do the same.

Members Can Aid

Some time ago, I was a guest at another club, and as I walked up on the second tee, I read a nicely painted sign with a few "don'ts" on it. One had to do with dropping waste paper on the course, tossing aside empty cigarette packages, etc. I watched from then on until the last hole was played, and I never saw a single piece of waste paper or such like anywhere. Now, the cooperation of the members eliminated the labor that used to be necessary to take care of that. It is their club, and they would prefer that the available funds be spent for the upkeep they couldn't do themselves. It required no great effort, just a matter of education. Just a little of what common sense we all have, but so often fail to use.

I am going to say one thing more, and perhaps a lot of people wouldn't like me if they heard me say it, but I'll say it just the same. Too many, far too many, golf clubs elect a president or a board member simply because he is the most



Women Caddie for Docs'; Fee Is \$500 War Bond

WOMEN members of Meridian Hills GC, Indianapolis, Ind., caddied for the club's doctor members one of the early fall Wednesday afternoons; Wednesday being the doctors' half-day off (if they can get it) in Indianapolis, as in most other cities.

Each doctor was to buy at least one \$500 War Bond from his caddie. More than \$20,000 in War Bonds were sold on the Meridian Hills course that day to

doctors and other members and guests playing.

The event was developed into a very lively radio bond-boosting feature by Station WIRE of Indianapolis Broadcasting, Inc., broadcasting interviews from the course.

Bill Dean, publicity director of WIRE, had artists paint caricatures of Hitler and Hirohito on each golf ball used in the event and the "Smack the Axis" theme was given a complete workout.

popular member of the club, or because he happens to be the head of some big concern or enterprise, and therefore must be a capable fellow.

In either case, does it naturally follow that he knows anything about running or managing a golf club efficiently? And the important man, who has such a big job in a big concern, probably has plenty to do to hold onto that job, especially these days, without having the time or the inclination to run his golf club also.

In such clubs, I think they had better get wise quickly before it is too late, put in office fellows regardless of their looks, who know a little about running a club, and are able and will give the job enough time to make sure it is done. Too many clubs have gone along with a lot of unnecessary expense and abuses, which these same officials would not tolerate in their own businesses. They can be done away with for the duration with the cooperation and education of the membership, and when the war is over, I'll venture the prediction they will keep most of the changes or reforms in effect, because they will have learned they did not hurt so much after all. They

usually don't as soon as you get used to them.

You and I believe sincerely that the successful prosecution of the war must come first, and it will, but I have yet to see where it is necessary to close up the golf clubs. They should be kept going, and kept up as far as possible, because they will be wanted afterwards, and if they are closed up in the meanwhile and allowed to go to seed, it will cost a great deal more to bring them back. We do all we can, and most willingly, to provide recreation for the boys in the armed services, and golf certainly has done its share in this respect this year, and will continue to do so.

And for the man who has to stay home for one reason or another, isn't he entitled to certain hours of recreation, and doesn't that recreation allow him to go back to his job later refreshed and fit for the task? And where can he find more healthful exercise than out in the air on a golf course?

I think the prospects for 1943 are all right for any golf club that faces those prospects in a sane and sensible manner.