

GOLF IN WARTIME

By ED. DUDLEY, President

Professional Golfers' Assn. of America

EIGHTY to eighty-five per cent of club members are in the service, production, Red Cross or other similar war relief societies. Almost every club has put on tournaments for the selling of War Bonds and Stamps or raising money for war benefit organizations. The taxes clubs pay to federal, state and local governments amounts to a huge figure. Golf's primary contribution is that it provides a place for families to gather and keep themselves in good physical condition as well as relieving their minds of constant war strain.

The golf club is an institution in its community. By all means it should continue to operate in order that our men, women and children will be strong and healthy and will weather this storm. There is no better place for exercise and relaxation than at the club. For this reason, and many more, each member should exert his every effort to keep his club in operation.

Naturally, if it wasn't for the members there wouldn't be any clubs. The real and true member will stick. He owes it to his family, his nation and to himself. The club affords him the exercise and relaxation his body demands to keep Home Front production up. There is no question in my mind about his buying War Bonds and Stamps. He is one of the regular purchasers and is doing his share. Then too, he has furnished sons and daughters for both the fighting and home fronts. He pays his bills in a way that keeps the wheels of our nation rolling.

Pro's Duties Are Obvious

The golf pro is well aware of his duties on the home front. He must see that his club and its members are well taken care of. He must get them out on the course in good spirits, to relax and get much-needed exercise. He must run tournaments on the week-ends, sell bonds and stamps and stage exhibition matches for war relief. He canvasses his members for all old golf balls to be reconditioned because he knows if this is done there will be enough balls to play with for the duration. It is the pro's job to see this through and he will do it. Transportation can be arranged with a little thought and effort. Many clubs have found means of getting their

members to the clubs by using horse-drawn vehicles.

Manufacturers have given their plants over to war production. They are doing a big job. Their only golf business left is making old balls over so that there will be enough for the clubs and players. They have also rendered another valuable service—planning an industrial recreation program for plants that are interested in keeping fighters on the home front in good shape to produce.

Associations—The national golf associations along with all of the sectional, local and state organizations must carry-on with their job in helping clubs, Red Cross and other war benefit organizations to keep golf alive and keep this country as it should be for our boys when they return. All associations, no matter how large or small, should do and are doing everything in their power to keep clubs surviving.

The radio and press has helped tremendously and it is our sincere hope that their co-operation and splendid work will continue in the future.

Impressive Fund Total

As close as we can check, golf is in second place as far as raising funds for war effort. Taking into consideration that there are just a few over three million golfers that played last season this shows what can be done and I want to congratulate the golfers of the U. S. Every golfer, association, club, pro and manufacturer pitched in and did his bit. All of our leading players, amateurs, professionals, along with radio and screen stars, helped to make this possible.

Plans are set up for a number of local matches to be staged in the various PGA Sections for War Relief and bond selling. The American Red Cross, USO, and other organizations, will give us their full support. Our star players, amateurs (men and women) and professionals, will find time other than their war work, to play in matches when called upon. Betty Jameson, Patty Berg, Babe Didrickson and a number of other women stars will be glad to play. McSpaden, Armour, Hagen, Sarazen, Wood, Nelson, Kirkwood, Dutra, Dudley, Demaret, Hines, Diegel, Revolta and several others, have done and will do

a lot more for the war effort by participating in war relief matches. Lieut. Bud Ward and Corp. Pat Abbott have received permission to play in such local matches that are staged for war relief. It is preferable that the matches be staged over the week-end and, of course, at a club which is easily accessible.

Many clubs will invite service men on leave to a round of golf. Likewise, there are a number of USO centers where playing equipment can be had by these service men for the asking. All PGA members are behind this plan 100% and will do everything to see that the boy in uniform is made to feel right at home.

Caddie Program to Start

Our most recent move, which I think is very vital other than "all-out" for the war effort, is the Caddie Welfare program. This phase of golf has been sadly neglected in a good many sections and at clubs throughout the country. Our young boys need training and we feel that the PGA working along with the Western G.A., can help in this picture and aid the youngsters from 12 to 17. Boys in high school and grammar school should keep themselves fit during these times by staying out in the open. Caddying would be to their advantage. During the summer vacation, there are a number of boys who come out to the clubs but may have to wait several hours for a job. The PGA and WGA are working on a plan whereby some form of recreation will be provided at the club for the boy while he is not caddying. There is a big job to be done for the caddie and there is no better time to inaugurate it than at the present.

During the past year, golf has been seriously handicapped by an adverse psychological influence, due to the fact that many who wanted to play the game and get beneficial exercise were afraid that they would appear unpatriotic by doing so. This was a stigma that for some reason did not appear to attach to any other game.

The PGA cancelled all tournament play in order not to impede the will to victory in any way. But I have never felt that it was unpatriotic for people to get relaxation and open air exercise. For that reason, I made an effort to get in contact with a representative of the Government in order to find out just what official reaction would be to this situation.

I saw Paul V. McNutt, Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, and explained this matter to him. Mr. McNutt was sur-

prised to learn that this psychology prevailed. He said that he had never before heard that this was the feeling.

Mr. McNutt pointed out that there was a physical fitness division in the Offices of Defense Health and Welfare Services of which he is a Director. He pointed to the emphasis which the armed services place upon physical fitness through recreation and exercise. While certainly professional sports can never expect any kind of favored treatment either in draft deferment or in competition with essential or war-time industries, recreational sport as such, he felt, would be a good thing.

This, of course, does not mean that they should disabuse transportation privileges, for it is of paramount importance that transportation remain primarily for winning the war. But if country clubs can provide horse-drawn vehicles to get their players to the courses, or if people can reach them by public conveyances, there is no reason why they should not play in their spare time. Only in their spare time, of course. The war effort comes first, but don't be afraid to get out and exercise and relax on the golf course at the right time. Our enemies are great believers in physical fitness. And we have always been the most physically fit of nations, as witness our Olympic Games record. Let us remain so, but never forget that our prime aim in life is to win the war—and win it as soon as possible.

Don't feel that it is unpatriotic to play golf.

Chicago Managers Relax—Chicago District Club Managers' Assn. held their annual stag at Medinah Club, Chicago, March 26. The evening gave the managers and their purveyor friends a chance to get together and enjoy a few hours relaxation. That kind of get-together was quite a change from the serious managers meetings to discuss management problems that are getting more acute.

Gardens for Caddies—Remember the caddies in Victory Garden plans. Some of these youngsters may welcome the opportunity to bring home some garden produce as well as earn cash from the golf club. Victory Garden work, will give them a hand in war production while awaiting their call to caddying assignments. The caddie section of a club Victory Garden would have great publicity value for the kids and the club.