

LABOR UP-KEEP WAR RULES Spark CDGA Greens Meeting

★ Hope of solving their most pressing operating problems brought a record turnout of green-chairmen and greenkeepers to the Chicago District golf association's first greens meeting of 1944, at the organization's headquarters, in the La Salle Hotel, Feb. 24. L. D. Rutherford, president, has inaugurated a program of lively follow-up to increase CDGA committee meeting attendance. It proved its value in more than doubling the usual attendance of green-chairmen at the February session and in bringing out a group of club presidents in addition to the consistently large number of greenkeepers. Advance notice of subjects to be discussed streamlined the program, for speedy, productive handling under the guidance of Dr. George LeMire, the district's new green committee chairman.

W. E. Ernst of the Chicago office of Veterans Employment Service high lighted the labor discussion with an explanation of his organization's functions. He suggested the employment of ex-service-men in relieving the acute shortage in course maintenance crews. The Vets' employment department, now operating under the War Man Power Commission has offices in all states, Illinois having 63.

Previous efforts were devoted to obtaining employment for vets of first world war which was difficult because most vets were in higher age bracket and labor plentiful. Today, labor is scarce and the veterans of this war are younger men. They're confused, having heard about the "big money back home," don't know what they want to do, or what they can do. It is the job of the VES to guide them.

The Veterans organization is especially interested in the type of work available at golf clubs because it offers healthful, outdoor employment to impaired but definitely useful men in an environment which serves as a fine tonic for war nerves.

To guide the department's vocational counselors, the CDGA Greens Committee will obtain from questionnaires sent each member club interested the following information: Number of men needed; type of work; hours per day and days per week; wages paid; transportation; housing and feeding facilities if any.

These men are not affected by the regulations governing essential employment and the fact that golf course work is seasonal is not a handicap to their employment.

The greenkeepers pointed out the wide open opportunity for players to do their part in helping overcome the difficulties of wartime golf course upkeep. Most common among the violations of good golf

course housekeeping sighted by the men who have to bear the brunt of the offenders' carelessness are—littering the greens and fairways with waste paper; failure to replace divots; neglecting to smooth over trap marks; dragging spike shoes, bags and flag poles on greens; permitting caddies to swing clubs on tees with the inevitable divot as a result (and players are guilty of this, too) and tramping too close to the putting cup. But that's not all these heedless hackers do. They toss burning cigarette butts on the greens, walk through sand traps, neglect to return their caddie carts and late players move sprinklers without replacing them, bending the hose to do so instead of shutting off the water at the spigot.

The following mowing heights for fairway, green and rough were recommended by the Midwest Greenkeepers Association and accepted as standard for the district: Fairways 1 1/4"; greens 1/4" and rough 2". A standard height for mowing tee turf was not set due to the variation in the type of grasses. It was left up to each club whether or not their players should be encouraged to use pegs to overcome the heavy divot damage or tees at short holes. Ray Gerber, Midwest GK president, reported progress on the practice putting greens being installed by his organization for use of convalescent servicemen at Hines and Downey hospitals, both of which projects were financed by funds from the CDGA Victory open played at Beverly CC, in 1943. There will be more and bigger Victory gardens among the district golf clubs in 1944 judging from the enthusiastic reports being received at CDGA offices. In addition to several new club gardens the increased demand among members whose clubs had gardens last year will boost their acreage between 20% and 25%.

After detailed discussion it was decided to continue the same War Rules which were formulated by the CDGA and followed by most Chicago district clubs in regulating play last year. These recommendations governing wartime play are: 1—Improve lie on fairway only by using clubhead in rolling ball into favorable position. This is to be done within a prescribed area of 1 sq. ft., if possible. 2—A ball in any trap is to be played as it lies. 3—Any member entering a trap is responsible for the footprints made by him. He should see to it that the caddie takes care of same. Traps will be raked once a week only. 4—A divot made by a player anywhere should be replaced by the player or caddie before he leaves the spot where the shot was made.