

WE didn't FOLD

California Proves That Harder Work to Continue Golf Strengthens War Effort.

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★ SUCCESS OF this year's Los Angeles Open and of the San Francisco Open surpassed all hopes and gave substantial evidence that golf under wartime conditions need not slump and must not slump.

Decision to conduct the events came in the face of opposition and criticism. The events could have been abandoned and probably nobody, even the earnest advocates of wartime golf tournaments, could have questioned the judgment in folding up. And cancellation would have been the easiest way out for the committeemen who had the duties of tournament organization and management to add to their other wartime jobs.

But—and wisely so the results show—it was decided to go ahead with the tournaments. Possibly the decision was subconsciously influenced by Californians' determination to not let the Japs or Nazis frighten us but to bring extra energy into the jobs that have been made sidelines to the biggest business of all—Victory.

If we hadn't been able to honestly convince ourselves that golf play in big events, club affairs or private rounds wasn't definitely helpful to war effort, we'd have had no tournaments. This certainly isn't one of the parts of the country where a visitor could say "you wouldn't know a war is going on." You hear and see the planes roaring overhead, you see and hear armies of war industry workers with their faces bearing the signs of intense application to their jobs, and you see and hear thousands upon thousands of young men in uniform preparing to shove off for action in the Pacific, or coming back from battle areas.

We have had along the western coast Jap attacks of various sorts. Our sons, like those of you in other sections of the country, are either in the services or in training schools for servicemen, if they're old enough. In every way we know there's a deadly war going on and there can be no fooling about it—or no ducking it.

In fact we are so close to war, so keenly conscious of it, and so persistently reminded of it, that despite the balm of our marvelous climate, we might be highly susceptible to war nerves. But the truth is that Californians, established and temporary, are taking the tremendous added labors and responsibilities of war work in remarkably calm and effective stride.

After talking to hundreds of golfers and pros, asking them to give opinions as unbiased as humanly possible, I've con-

cluded that the great drive to golf in California has been a major reason for the Californians not blowing their tops under war strain but doing far more and better work than they've ever done before.

Golf interest in southern California is keener than ever before, and I've been in golf in this state as an amateur and pro player since 1915. The public courses are crowded and the private clubs are operating in the black. My own club, Wilshire, has more members than it's ever had before and the bulletin board shows new applicants every day.

The biggest annual wages the nation's ever paid has a lot to do with the situation, of course, notwithstanding the taxation headaches. We pros could sell more than we ever can get in our shops. Our lessons have been, in most cases, in record numbers. The ball shortage is worrying us, but that's to be expected and is receiving our vigorous efforts.

As the California pro looks about him he is impressed by the thought that no place, of the remaining places in which to spend money, can the spender get greater value than he gets in revived energy and spirits at the golf course. That realization has had a deep effect on California pros in making them more than ever before determined to see that their members get what they need. What they need—whether the members know it or not—is a change of pace from the terrific grind of war effort. The reason they've got to have it is that the human being can stand just so much without going into a slump. A slump is something this nation can't afford in wartime.

I am disposed to believe that golf has had more to do with California's excellent wartime labor and labor-capital relations than generally is realized. Most of the strikes throughout the nation that I've read about seem to be the result of irritation beyond the capacity of keeping the head and staying on the job for the fighting men. Judging from the executives of war plants I've seen close-up, they are under more of a strain and get less recreation than their employees. No excess of earning power can ease that strain.

Consequently, when the employees' nerves are frayed you may be sure that the boss also has an aggravated case of raw wartime nerves; hence the tensities and unreasonableness that result in strikes. When men get out into the air

and onto the grass and whack around the course for a while they're much more inclined to give the other fellow a break and keep united behind the kids who are being killed to save them.

Wartime golf in California has met its challenge. Its victory in demonstrating unsuspected strength and value to a nation that must be put and kept at the physical and temperamental peek has given California pros the profound belief that they're also very much in the business of helping to win the war. Being in that business, they have to—and are—working harder and more effectively than they ever did before in their lives.

Aussie Golf Paper Completes Its Twenty-first Year

★ Congratulations to *Golf in Australia* which completed 21 years of publication with its issue of January 15, 1944. The magazine is down to 10 pages and cover now, the smallest size in its history. Like *GOLFDOM*, *Golf in Australia* is restricted by paper shortage and advertising reductions. But it carries on aggressively and confidently, presenting a highly interesting publication.

Golf in Australia has been very active in marshalling the hospitable Australian golfers to extend welcome to their courses to American servicemen. The cordiality of that welcome is attested to by letters from American fighters who have been made to feel very much at home by their Australian hosts.

To C. A. Shepherd and Jack Dillon, particularly of *Golf in Australia's* staff, American golfers want to send word that none of us ever overlook a chance to repay them and their fellow Australians for their courtesies to our fellows. Our hearts, hands, homes and clubs welcome the Anzacs when they're visitors in this land.

"Golf Club As a Business" Second May Booklet

★ Retain directors for at least five years unless they fail in performance, is advice given to clubs in the second booklet of George S. May's American Golf Foundation.

Set up an organization chart definitely fixing responsibility for all directors, officers and club employees, operate the club as many months of the year as possible, and sell limited classes of memberships restricting days of play and other club privileges, the Foundation's latest brochure also recommends. Financing recommendations are given, too. A copy of the booklet will be sent to club officials or directors free on application to American Golf Foundation, 2600 North Shore ave., Chicago.

Watch Layering, Fertilizer Excess in Topdressing

★ GREENS ARE TOPDRESSED primarily for three general reasons,—to keep the grass growing in a healthy, vigorous condition; to create a true putting surface; and to provide a surface sufficiently resilient to hold a pitched ball. To keep grass growing well there must be continuous soil connections between the growing grass on the playing surface and the soil and subsoil of the green.

Such connections are necessary in order that water falling on the green may penetrate well down into the soil and in turn be drawn up by capillary attraction to the roots of the grass plants as the surface is dried out.

Layers of any materials such as organic matter arising from matted turf, sand, clay, peat, or muck, break these soil connections and therefore interfere with the normal movement of water up and down in the soil.

Material applied to the surface of the green as a topdressing should be of the consistency of sandy loam and should be well brushed or if necessary spiked into the turf to maintain a good soil connection between the surface and the soil beneath. The application of pure materials such as sand, peat, muck, or the like, should be avoided. When they are needed to improve the soil texture of the green they should be mixed in the compost with soil to give the topdressing the consistency of sandy loam. The consistency of topdressing material used in successive applications should be as nearly constant as possible over long periods of time.

Layers also result when heavy applications of topdressing are made on matted turf without first removing the mat of excess stolons and leaves by vigorous and repeated rakings and mowing. The topdressing cannot be worked down into such dense growth and therefore covers the mat like a blanket, resulting in the formation of a layer of organic material which interferes with the penetration of water into the soil.

The acidity of the topdressing material should be determined and properly adjusted if too acid. Where coastal sand is used it should be made certain that it does not contain enough salt to be toxic. Also the material should be composted long enough or with enough of a nitrogen carrier to kill the weed seed. If fertilizer is to be applied at the same time it can be incorporated in the topdressing before it is applied in order to reduce the number of operations. However, over-fertilizing should be avoided. In planning the fertilizer program, therefore, the fertilizer content of the compost should be taken into consideration before additional fertilizer is applied.—*USGA Turf Topics.*