

A Challenge to Golf

By ROBERT E. HARLOW

★ When the wars end it will require a tremendous effort to establish the art of nice living. As time marches on it will bring about more and more of a people's world and those who have discovered some of the finer things of life should make an effort to distribute their knowledge of what constitutes pleasant living.

Post war golf will present an opportunity for providing a share in creating something better in the way of recreation and companionship for the people of the world. It would be well for golfers to consider now what part they may properly take in the rebuilding of the peace on earth.

Golfers are among the most influential members of practically all American and British communities. To them will be presented a wide field for action, in bringing the glorious game of golf to an ever-increasing number of their own people, as well as to those in other lands who have never enjoyed the satisfaction which golfers know.

Now is the time for golfers to investigate the facilities in their own communities for providing golf for all who would find pleasure in the game. In the surge of people for a better life, golf should have an important place. For this purpose golfers should take enough interest in their local politics to see that the building of municipal courses is not neglected. There will be vast expenditures of public money for civic institutions in a post war world, and a rightful portion of such investments should be in golf.

America, upon which the world looks for leadership in post-war affairs, will find a ready and interested audience in the department of international sport. The manufacturers of golfing equipment, and the golf architects, should organize for the purpose of sending golf missionaries to

foreign countries to establish this fine game.

Wendell Willkie in his book, *One World*, spoke of the work of American missionaries in fostering good will for America in far-off lands. It has been this good will which has been a powerful factor in helping America and our Allies in winning the war.

The present world conflict has taught us that sportsmanship is one of the things which is lacking among the people of some nations. It has shown that nations in which sports have been prominently featured have a much keener feel for sportsmanship, even in the sorry business of making war, than among nations where sports have been neglected.

Germany and Japan know very little about sports, in comparison to the vast numbers of Americans and Britishers who have played friendly competitive games for many years. Most of the lessons in sportsmanship learned by the young men of America were learned on the baseball diamond, the football field, the golf courses and in various other competitions in which the rights of the other fellow are properly respected.

It is obviously going to be a tedious job of making the world so unselfish that nations will not rise against nations. One of the first lessons in International friendly relations can be accomplished through sports; not the sort of International sport represented by the highly competitive Olympic Games, but by the general participation of the young people of nations in games in which sportsmanship is taught.

Golf presents a favorable medium for spreading the gospel of sportsmanship among peoples because it is a game which is enjoyed by young and old, a game which requires only a relatively small investment by individual players provided courses are

publicly owned and operated. Elaborate club houses and expensive courses are not required. The game may be enjoyed when holes are laid out over the natural contour of the land. Nine holes, or even six holes, would be enough to start the game in many communities here and in foreign lands.

Up until this date no effort of any consequence has been made to convert the world to golf. Only in America and Britain has golf begun to develop into a people's game. The little golf played in other countries has been confined to a few private clubs, far too expensive for the people. These clubs have been located only in large foreign cities and were patronized by British and American diplomats and a handful of the wealthy people among the citizens.

Your correspondent has never heard of any attempt whatever to introduce golf to the people of a foreign land.

Russia, with its vast space, should present an especially attractive field for the development of golf in a big way. The Russians, along with their tremendous war effort, gave considerable time to sports, and mountain climbing, skiing and some other popular forms of sport were encouraged by the government and were enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of the members of the Soviet Republic.

Golfers could make a great gesture following this war if they organized and sent a commission of golfers, with an architect, professionals and equipment, to introduce the game in Russia. The Golfer's Handbook, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, which lists the golf courses of the world,

does not show a single golf course in all of Russia. This is a real challenge to American golf.

As for our own country. The pattern of past-war golf has already started to shape itself. Before the war golf was gaining ground as a people's game. There is every reason to anticipate that this movement will carry on at a vastly accelerated pace during peace. America, like Russia, is a land of great open spaces. The land is available and the people's appetite is whetted.

Our amateur and professional teams have only begun the series of International matches which in a post-war world can contribute to peace on earth. It should be noted that America and Great Britain have engaged in more International sporting competitions than any other nations; and that in the last two great conflicts, these two nations have been allies. It is not beyond reason to consider that our mutual love of sport has contributed to our friendship when the world has gone to war. It is unthinkable that America and Great Britain could be anything but friends. Sport has contributed to the state of mind which exists between the two powerful nations.

We must give sport to the whole world, and no game presents a better opportunity for such a purpose than golf.

Let us not dwell too often on the physical benefits of golf to a nation. Let us think of the spiritual benefits of a game which can aid in teaching the world sportsmanship and companionship, both of which are anti-war.



SUNSHINE, FRESH AIR, RELAXATION—LET-DOWN THAT BUILDS 'EM UP

Bigger galleries followed the tournament rounds this year. Below: McSpaden awaits his turn to putt in Chicago's Victory Open at Edgewater GC.

