

The manager of another internationally known golf club was highly successful in the hotel business prior to entering club management. It might be guessed that due to his hotel background he'd flatly favor tipping.

Lowers Service Standard?

However, it's his observation that tipping definitely interferes with developing and maintaining at a club the highest type of service. Nevertheless he thinks that conditions over-rule him on this matter, and that he simply has to do the best possible under the circumstances.

He remarks:

"At our club we have a Christmas bonus for all employees; therefore, tipping is prohibited. However, these days, some people want better service and are willing to pay for it. Naturally the older employees get to know who's who and believe me it demoralizes the service.

"We have given this matter quite some thought and have considered various bonuses, percentages, incentive pay, 10 cents per person and what not.

"None of these things are satisfactory and the only solution, as we see it, is to continue for the time being, trying to make the best of the situation and as more help becomes available, weed out the 'weak sisters'."

Highlights of USGA Annual Committee Reports

★ **AT U. S. GOLF ASSN.** annual meeting, New York, Jan. 12, committee reports released contained following highlights:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Renewed U. S. championships but doubted possibility of renewing Walker and Curtis cup international matches this year. . . . **USGA** has 589 18-hole private member clubs, 104 9-hole member clubs and 58 public links clubs; 569 east of Mississippi and 178 west. . . . Plans to expand Green Section with regional tie-ups. . . . Censured pro disregard of 14-club limit and stymie in match play, and urged all players abandon wartime improved lie procedure.

CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE—Set dates: Open, Canterbury GC, Cleveland, June 13-15; Amateur Public Links, Wellshire GC, Denver, July 22-27; Amateur, Baltusrol GC, Sept. 9-14; Women's Amateur, Southern Hills CC, Sept. 23-28. . . . Condemned "preferred lies," laxity in observing rules, use of lined and punched iron club faces, carrying of more than 14 clubs, and elimination of stymie in match play. . . . Commented "there is no more reason for the waiving of this (stymie) rule than there would be in giving a player the privilege of removing his ball from a divot hole that his ball found after a tee shot straight down the center of a fairway."

RULES OF GOLF COMMITTEE—No changes in rules.

AMATEUR STATUS and CONDUCT COMMITTEE—Twenty-one reinstatements to amateur status and 6 applications denied.

IMPLEMENTS and BALL COMMITTEE—Arranged with Illinois Institute of Technology to set up ball testing machine for testing synthetic balls. . . . Said "The ball used in the USGA championships will be decided upon by the Executive committee as it must be a ball available to all contestants." . . . This rules out use of pre-war rubber balls in any USGA national championship this year unless rubber balls are available to all players.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE—40 clubs added or reinstated: 16 clubs resigned, 4 disbanded and 20 dropped from membership.

GREEN SECTION COMMITTEE—Dr. Fred V. Grau appointed full-time director of section. . . . Plant materials in garden at Beltsville have been maintained and added to. . . . During the year 60 shipments of grasses were made to clubs. . . . Since Aug. 1, 1945 Green Section mail has been heaviest in the quarter century of the section. . . . Said "Decentralization has been adopted by the Green Section as a policy on the basis that frequent local assistance, by properly trained men, is more valuable than occasional long-distance help." . . . "The practice of changing the chairman of the green committee each year has had a seriously depressing effect on the upkeep of courses. The retention of a good chairman for long periods has been most frequently mentioned as a cure for some of the difficulties of golf course supts." . . . "Education is needed to place the profession of green-keeping on the high level which it merits, to raise the level of salaries for the position so as to encourage young men to train for the position with reasonable expectation of reimbursement for the expense and time required for a course of training and education."

PUBLIC LINKS COMMITTEE—Contemplates an educational campaign on etiquette of the game, among public course players. . . . To campaign for more members in USGA Public Links section.

HANDICAP COMMITTEE—Resumed study of problem of devising uniform handicapping system which USGA may recommend to its members. . . . Believes it possible to devise a course "difficulties" rating system which will not be dependent on individual judgment.

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE—Revised and printed second edition of "The Conduct of Women's Golf."