

and wherever you have a concentration of sufficient population to support golf courses you have inevitably a city. It has been estimated that a municipal golf course may, in the course of a year, serve a clientele of, roughly, 2500 persons, some of whom will choose to play golf regularly; possibly a third are regular golfers who play two or more times weekly, and many others who play infrequently, once a week, once a month, or so. With the many other recreation activities competing with golf for public attention, only a fraction of the population can be expected to be interested in pursuing the game of golf. Some of these will choose to play under private club auspices. Apparently, therefore, it would require a considerable population in a city, say, 10,000 or 15,000, before a municipal golf course could be entirely justified from the standpoint of cost and ability to largely maintain itself.

We might consider, therefore, the question of how many golf courses a city should have from the standpoint of cities exceeding 20,000 in population, of which there were in 1948, 1071. Since numerous cities have more than one course, a few as many as 4 to 7, and many with 2 and 3, it is a fact that more than half of the cities of over 20,000 population in the United States today have no municipal course.

Presently there is no satisfactory basis upon which to determine a reasonable standard of provision for municipal golf. No city of any considerable size has yet sufficient municipal golf courses to say that the public need has been satisfied, and with increased leisure and inevitable expectation as a result of improved technology, it can be expected that interest in the playing of golf will increase rather than decrease in the future.

Los Angeles, which has 7 municipal golf courses, one to be completed soon and placed in operation, and additional municipal courses maintained by a few of the satellite cities and the county, is convinced that if the number of courses were doubled there still would not be sufficient to take care of the present demand. For example, on a fair Sunday as many as 300 to 400 people are turned away from the municipal golf courses because of their inadequacy, and this condition being well known, numerous persons refrain altogether from taking up golf and pursuing it as a regular recreation because of insufficiency of municipal facilities or privately operated public golf courses at which the playing privilege

may be enjoyed at comparatively nominal expense.

Accordingly, one would say, in answer to the question, How many courses should a municipality have, it should have as many as possible for there is no likelihood of any municipality being able to outdo itself in the matter of providing adequately for this most valuable recreational activity.

Thus it will be seen that golf occupies a unique place in the planning of municipal recreation facilities in modern cities. If golf is to become a pastime and sport available to large numbers of urban dwellers, it must inevitably be accepted as an object for city planning, and golf courses must increasingly be provided through governmental action. Private courses will of course continue to cater to those who can afford the high cost of golf when exclusive playing privileges and superior accommodations are provided. These courses, however, must be supplemented by public courses whose development in regional parks may continue to be justified not only because the players may continue to pay for the playing privilege and in proportion as they use the courses, but also due to their value in landscape adornment, in the relief of urban congestion, and in their value in fire prevention. All of these conditions and values taken together amply justify a progressive policy on the part of American cities in the acquisition of regional park lands for many uses, including the playing of golf.

N.E. WIS. GOLF BOSSES MEET



Officials of Northeastern Wisconsin golf clubs held their annual spring conference at Butte des Morts GC, Appleton, May 3 and re-elected M. A. Carroll, Oshkosh, pres., Dan Steinberg, Jr., Butte des Morts, sec'y-treas., and Frank Cornelison, Oneida Riding & GC, Green Bay, dir. at large. (L to R) Carroll, Frank Boex, Oneida, Heber Pelkey, Butte des Morts, Cornelison, and Steinberg.