

available stocks of good balls largely with pros.

In some cases pros have rationed their stocks among members rather than keep pro capital tied up but the pro knows that when the boxes of balls are in members' possession that will mean a reduction in sales to members later on. The private club pro couldn't wisely load up for speculative purposes. If the war lasts and there is a ball shortage the private club pros who boosts the retail price of balls to a long margin over his purchase price is risking the loss of his job as a profiteer. The same member who would buy steaks and butter and gas without coupons during a war or be a good customer of a bootlegger during prohibition suddenly would get a hell of a spell of "crime must go" if he thought his pro was holding him up on a hard-to-get new golf ball.

Golf clubs, due to a prolonged strike in a large shaft manufacturers' plant, haven't been available in any marked surplus quantities this year. As a matter of fact, three lines of irons have been far behind in deliveries. Hence the club situation has not favored hoarding or speculative buying.

Prices of clubs are going up but the smart businessman pro doesn't think he should go off the deep end in tying up his capital in stocks of clubs for a possibly long period of wartime control. The pro without much capital to tie up won't be able to get shipment of much club stock anyway.

Manufacturers' orders of leather, nylon and canvas seem to assure that there won't be any trouble in getting golf bags for a year. There's no telling what the situation would be if the government should divert this material to its own use.

Thus the high spots of the supply situation for golf clubs appeared near the end of July. There hasn't been any indication of "scare" buying by clubs, pros or course superintendents but there has been ordering and stocking, as far as limited stocks allow, on a rather reasonable basis, considering the circumstances.

What Are Clubs Doing?

Private golf clubs and daily fee courses face the prospect of wartime conditions in much better condition than they were in when World War II started. A great many of the private clubs in metropolitan districts have waiting lists and their financial statements are sound. In making postwar improvements from 1946 on they seldom stretched thin.

Operating costs of courses and club-houses have been high, although considering the heft of the dollar of recent years the operations have been more economical than ever before.

In the larger metropolitan districts the private clubs haven't got a fairly large

percentage of members belonging to several clubs as was the condition prior to World War II. That condition accounted for a painful decrease in duplicate membership at some fancy clubs, in the New York metropolitan district especially.

One new factor in the private club situation in metropolitan areas is the large number of young men from 30 to 35 who are highly desirable private club members but who haven't joined on account of high prices and waiting lists. It may be that such members will be welcomed in at favorable terms even though the volume of play may distress some elders who hate to wait on a tee.

Women's play has increased greatly since the end of World War II. Junior play, and the golf instruction of youngsters at courses, in schools and colleges, has increased so tremendously that it doesn't seem possible many courses should want for traffic.

There is a shortage of good fee courses and public courses. Obviously the character of the game makes it fill a need for physical and mental conditioning in tense times.

Private and fee course officials and municipal course management are showing far more of a disposition to look ahead and plan ahead than they did in 1941, 1942 and 1943 when failure to recognize the trend and beat the gun with their own plans led them into difficulties.

Now foresighted officials are wisely considering what might happen during the showdown between the pursuit of happiness and the bossy ideologies. That's one of the surest signs that golf will weather the storm—if, as and when the communists decide to force a big storm—and by sound foresight contribute to putting and keeping the nation strong.

Draft examination figures show there's vast room for physical and psychiatric improvement among the young in this country. Considering the fine showing of amateur and professional golfers and caddies in World War II golf demonstrated itself to be a first class conditioner.

Hartman Heads Iowa Greenkeepers

J. S. Hartman, Mason City (Ia.) CC was elected pres., Iowa Greenkeepers' Assn., at the association's annual meeting, held at Des Moines G&CC. Walter Fuchs, Cedar Rapids CC, was elected vp., and Roger Fritsch, Homewood GC, Ames, was re-elected sec.-treas. There were 62 members present.

H. L. Lantz of Iowa State College reported on the turf research work at the Ames gardens. Lantz said U3 Bermuda did not withstand the winter but the reason may have been late planting.