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Court Upholds Solution of Course Race Problem

By FRANCIS GEORGE

The Miami Springs (Fla.) CC, like other southern municipal golf courses, had a race problem. H. H. Arnold, its supt., solved the problem in a manner that has been tested in court, is workable in practice and is so fair that Arnold has been able to overcome almost all opposition by showing objectors his records.

The Miami municipal golf course is supported solely by green fees, and it must be used by 200 golfers daily in order to break even. For a time Arnold threw it open to both colored and white golfers but white attendance dropped so seriously that he could not continue. He kept records of the number of players by race and during a typical week in April only 82 colored golfers used the course ranging in number from 52 on Friday to 6 on Sunday.

Arnold then adopted the rule that colored golfers exclusively will use the links one day a week, white the other six. Arnold's attendance records show how

many use the course; as soon as enough colored players use it to pay for their day, which they do not yet, he will allot them another day, and if enough come and white attendance declines he will allot additional days based on ratio of use.

This scheme has been held constitutional and not illegally discriminating for municipal facilities. Private clubs can make any rules they choose, but municipally owned golf courses must not discriminate, but if they are fair, and Arnold's records show that he is, they can segregate where it is necessary to the survival of the club.

(Rice v. Arnold 1 Fla. 45 So. 2d 195)

GOLF COURSE ACCOUNTING

(Continued from page 53)

However, it might not be true in the case of seed, chemicals, etc. Suppose, for instance, that, in order to protect the club against an expected price increase, the committee, in December, 1951, buys all or a large part of its needs for 1952. Which year's expenses should be charged — certainly not the 1951 expenses. How, then,

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