



There are 387 red, green and blue flags on this huge map used by the National Golf Foundation to record the interest and activity in new golf course construction in the United States. This is the record for the first nine months of 1953 and represents 48 new courses completed and open for play, 115 under construction and 224 other prospects or projects being planned.

### Big Interest in Planning and Building New Courses

**W**HEN all of the reports are in, 1953 will be pegged as a big year for golf. Active participation by President Eisenhower and his love for the game has been a healthy stimulant and a contributing factor in creating new interest. A most noticeable increase in women's play is another noteworthy barometer giving support to spot check reports that play in general is up from 10 per cent to as much as 30 per cent in some areas.

The most significant trend, however, is the genuine interest and activity all over the country in planning and building new golf courses. Tabulation of reports by the National Golf Foundation show 48 new courses have been opened for play in the first 9 months of 1953. Another 115 are under construction and there are an additional 224 prospects or projects being planned. This is the greatest activity since World War II and possibly since the 1920's. Foundation figures for 1952 show 38 courses opened for play, 18 under construction and 51 in some stage of planning.

As encouraging as this new golf course construction activity may be, it must be

pointed out the sum total of all courses in the U. S. still falls short of the total reported in 1930 and current activity must be doubled or tripled to approach the pace set in new construction during the '20s. Approximately 3700 courses were built from 1920 to 1930 at which time there were 5856. Today the total is 5049. During the '30s many courses were lost or abandoned so that by 1941 there were only 5209. World War II took a heavy toll and although 4809 were reported in 1945 there is evidence the total was below 4700.

There has been a slow, steady growth since the war in spite of ever expanding metropolitan areas and the alarming loss of courses to real estate developments, shopping centers, express throughways, airport expansion and school sites.

The growing interest in the game and the growing population create ever increasing demands on present facilities—so much so the statement has been made 1000 new courses opened tomorrow would play to capacity. What is the answer? More golf courses. Planning and building information can be obtained from the National Golf Foundation, 407 South Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.