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Golf Boom as Extensive in Canada as in U. S.

Nearly 400,000 golfers will play between 3 and 4,000,000 rounds on Canada's 675 courses in 1961, according to the Royal Canadian Golf Assn. A total of 44 courses have been or will be opened this year. About 7,000 players are taking up the game each year in the provinces.

More than \$125,000,000 is estimated to be invested in Canadian courses and driving ranges. Of the 675 courses, 20 per cent are private, 77 per cent are semi-private and only three per cent are public. Needless to say, the RCGA points out that there is a tremendous need for public courses.

One indication of the growth in Canadian golf is reflected by Junior play. In 1954, a few more than 200 youngsters took part in the qualifying for the Ontario Junior Championship. Last year, a total of 860 competed, and it is expected that more than 1,000 will be entered this year.

Courses generally are estimated to cost

between \$100,000 and \$350,000. This doesn't take clubhouse facilities into consideration. The high for initiation fees is \$4,000, but at the same time many golfers are playing for as little as \$1.50 a round. One thing, though, that is helping to finance golf at the premier clubs is curling. A high percentage of the overhead at these clubs is absorbed by the curlers who own non-voting stock and help to swell the food and bar take with their bonspiels.

Overall figures show that it costs an average of \$150 for initiation fees and about \$125 a year for dues. The average cost of joining a premier club (there are 20 of them in Canada) is \$2,000. Altogether, players are said to spend around \$17 million a year on fees, balls, bags, clubs, shoes and apparel. This means that the average individual expenditure for these items is a little over \$40 annually.

The farther west a golfer goes in Canada, according to one authority, the cheaper it is to play golf and belong to a club. The clubhouse in the western provinces is a popular place on Saturday night since it becomes the center of social activity in many cities and towns.

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As in the U.S., quite a few courses have become casualties in recent years because their owners couldn't resist the lavish offers of home builders. But this has been somewhat offset by the fact that municipalities are waking up to the fact that providing courses is an important part of their recreational responsibilities. Don Valley, which cost the city of Toronto \$500,000 in 1956, had 42,000 rounds last year and expects 45,000 in 1961. Toronto golfers play through October, and like their U.S. brethren, line up at dawn on weekends from June through August in order to play.

Ontario is the leading golf province. It has 251 clubs and an estimated 154,000 persons playing golf. Runnerup is Quebec with nearly 100,000 persons playing at 121 clubs. Other provinces in which a great deal of golf is played are British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nova Scotia. The Canadian Ladies Golf Union has a membership of more than 30,000.

There are six major manufacturers of clubs and balls in Canada. Factory value of the equipment they sold in 1960 amounted to about \$3 million, two-thirds of which was accounted for by club sales. Imports of clubs and balls in the first nine months of 1960 ran to almost \$1.5 million.

USGA Outlines Conditions for Entry in Junior Amateur

Fifty-three qualifying sections have been established for the USGA's 14th Junior Amateur championship. The tournament will be played Aug. 2-5 at the Cornell U. course in Ithaca, N. Y.

Eighteen-hole qualifying play is scheduled for the sections on July 14, 17 and 18. From these tests, 128 players will emerge to play in the finals, which will be conducted entirely at match play.

Entries are open to boys who reach their 12th but not their 18th birthdays by midnight of Aug. 5.

No club affiliation is required. An entrant may accept contributions to his expenses from recognized golf assns. and clubs or individual members of assns. or clubs without forfeiting amateur status. The winner of the Junior Amateur will be invited to compete in the National Amateur at Pebble Beach (Calif.) GC, Sept. 11-16, and will be exempt from sectional qualifying.

Last year there was a record entry of 1,445. The 1960 champion, William L. Tindall of Seattle, is too old to take part in this year's competition.

Entries must reach the USGA office, 40 E. 38th st., New York 16, by 5 p.m. of June 28. A fee of \$2 must be included.