

North of the border our Canadian Professional Golfers' Assn. counterparts have a thriving organization that has been in business for more than a half century. With the focus of the golfing world directed to the Canadians and their pros by the outstanding win of Al Balding and George Knudsen in the World Cup at Rome, GOLFDOM though it might be appropriate to give a thumbnail portrayal of our Canadian brothers' organization.

Harry Obitz and Dick Farley of the GOLFDOM staff got this word portrait from CPGA, president Bill Richardson.

The CPGA is the third largest Professional Golfers' Assn. in the world of golf today. The CPGA was formed in 1911 by a handful of dedicated professionals, who had immigrated to Canada from Scotland and England.

The CPGA is made up of nearly 1,000 professionals from nine sections across Canada. Ontario is the largest with 300 members, next comes Quebec with some 245 members.

In the spring of 1967, the CPGA hired W. T. Hamilton, as its first executive director to assist the association in administering one of the first portable pension plans in the world. This means that if a professional moves from one

club to another, his pension contributions and the club's contributions move with him. The plan is voluntary with a minimum contribution of \$150 by the club; the professional then can match it or put in a more sizable amount.

When joining the association, a member holds a \$5,000 insurance policy that is paid for in the CPGA dues structure. Along with this, there is a voluntary loss of income plan available to CPGA members, also a \$25,000 accidental death policy.

I point this out to show that the Canadian professional enjoys many social benefits that his brother professional in other parts of the world may not enjoy.

In 1968 the Canadian professional played for \$140,000 on the Canadian tour. The tour is made up of 12 events, played in the summer months and covers some 3,000 miles in distance. The major sponsor, Carling Breweries, are to be congratulated for supplying the initiative and money to help golf in Canada grow on such a large scale. The CPGA plays a small part in organizing and setting up coordinated dates to help the tour flow smoothly.

Many American professionals were welcomed and enjoyed seeing Canada during the 1968 tour. One player, Dick Carmody, won the Quebec Open and helped

give the tour an international flavor. The tour is culminated in a tour championship at the finish. Twelve players play for a \$15,000 pot, these players qualify by winning a tour event, or accumulation points on a first, second, third basis. "Moe" Norman won the 1968 Tour Championship and \$3,000 first prize.

An announcement was made in Toronto on November 26, 1968, that the CPGA would support the PGA of America in their efforts to come to a mutual agreement with the tour players. In the past the PGA of America has been very helpful to the CPGA in allowing Canadian professionals to attend the PGA business schools for which the CPGA will always be thankful.

In the spring of 1969, the CPGA is embarking on its first all Canadian business school, to be held in Montreal. Canadian professionals will gain one year's credit toward membership by completing the school and passing the necessary exam at the conclusion.

I have tried to give you a brief outline of the CPGA and some of the benefits the Canadian professional enjoys. With the rapid growth of golf, the CPGA is making every effort to keep ahead of events that are making golf the most international game in the world today. □

Canadian PGA - a thriving organization



Heading the Canadian Professional Golfers' Assn. is president Bill Richardson (l.). Next to him (l. to r.) are Harry Obitz and Dick Farley, consultants to GOLFDOM.