Public Links '32 Report Permits Interesting Analyses

By JACK FULTON, JR.

NNUALLY the Public Links Section of the U.S.G.A. issues its municipal golf course booklet. Analysis of the 1932 report containing detailed statistical information on municipal links in 210 cities, discloses some interesting figures. There are 323 courses included in the book, of which 173 are 18-hole layouts, 134 9-hole layouts, 10 27-hole layouts, 5 36-hole layouts and one 6-hole layout.

Average operating costs on these courses are as follows:

9-hole	courses		*					è		\$ 7,166
18-hole	courses	*								18,290
27-hole	courses									31,235
36-hole	courses		i.	ı	ı	ı	i.		ú	36,450

For purposes of arriving at an average operating cost, the figures given for 18-hole courses were divided by two by the writer in order to find the cost of maintaining 9-holes of each layout. The 27-hole and 36-hole link's costs were similarly divided by three and four. A total of 531 9-hole units are thus arrived at and the average cost of operating these units figures \$8,786 per year or approximately \$1,000 per hole.

A number of the 9-hole courses are apparently very unpretentious affairs, since the average cost of maintaining 9-hole courses runs under \$800 per hole. The 18-hole layouts are on the average more elaborate, hence more expensive to maintain, running approximately \$1,100 a hole, while the 27 and 36-hole links average around this same figure.

Among other information given by the Public Links book is the year in which each of the courses reported was opened. The diagram accompanying this article presents this information in graphic form and offers an interesting picture of the tremendous development in municipal golf course construction which has taken place in the past ten years.

From 1895, when the first municipal golf course was built, until 1914—a span of 20 years only 37 municipal golf layouts had been constructed; the next six years alone showed 39 new courses. Beginning with

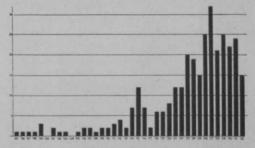


Chart showing increase in municipal golf course construction from 1895 to 1932. See text

1921, the major development in municipal golf began: there were twelve new courses opened that year and the same number in 1923 saw twenty new municipal links; in 1924 there were nineteen. 1925, construction dropped to fifteen courses, but 1926 more than made up for this by the opening of twenty-five new links and 1927 became the year of greatest municipal golf course construction with thirty-two links officially opened that season. No year since has equalled 1927's record, although each of the years that followed brought the opening of not less than twenty-one new layouts. There are fifteen courses opening or scheduled to be opened in 1932, according to the information available to the Public Links Section at the time its book was brought out.

In addition to the tremendous volume of municipal construction occurring in the United States since 1921, at least half a hundred of the golf courses which had opened for play previously have since that time radically remodeled and lengthened their links so that the construction picture during the years 1921 to 1931 is not complete unless the remodeling activities are also kept in mind.

Professionals are reported at 201 or 62 per cent of the 323 courses. Seven out of ten of the 18-hole courses have a pro on the job while only five out of ten of the 9-hole layouts have a man hired in that capacity.

Statistics are given on the number of rounds of golf played in 1931. In many cases it is apparent that no accurate record is kept of the number of rounds of golf and accordingly some of the returns are obviously estimates and possibly sufficiently incorrect to throw off the averages. The actual figures, however, result as follows:

		Number of courses	
		reporting	
9-hole	courses	94	35,690
18-hole	courses	141	51,920
27-hole	courses	9	100,400
		5	109,300

Multiplying the above average number of rounds by the full number of courses given in the Public Links report the following total number of rounds played in 1931 in these 323 courses gives these totals:

9-hole	courses					.4,782,460
18-hole	courses	×				.8,982,160
27-hole	courses				*	.1,004,000
36-hole	courses		ı			. 546,600

Reducing these figures to 9-hole rounds, there were apparently 26,195,980 of them on the 323 courses. This figure is indicative of the tremendous volume of play municipal golf courses experience.

The Public Links Section of the U. S. G. A. doesn't claim that its list of municipal golf courses is complete and according to GOLFDOM's course records this is true, as GOLFDOM lists 543 public layouts in the United States as against the 323 included in the U. S. G. A. Public Links booklet.

Boasts Portland (Ore.) Is World's Greatest Golfing City

columbia c. c. (Portland, Ore.) presents the first issue of a handsome house organ, The Columbian. The magazine, in explaining why the club "believes that Portland is the greatest golfing city in the world," says that membership of the city's eight private clubs at the end of 1931 was 2,460, and 302,763 rounds were played on Portland's three municipal courses during the year. There are nine daily-fee courses in Portland, on which play statistics are not given.

Portland's population, according to 1930 census, is 301,815. With suburbs included, the figure is 378,728.

California Pro Writes Golf Teaching Primer

HAROLD SAMPSON, pro at Burlingame (Calif.) C. C., has written a golf instruction book that he frankly calls a primer. It's a book for the pro rather than for the pupil, but this will foster rather than limit a good public sale at its price of \$2.50.

Sampson's book undoubtedly will arouse much healthy debate among the pros as it is concerned with the methods a pro should employ for effective teaching. The fellows will argue plenty about a number of recommendations made by the Burlingame blond, but all of them must admit that he has done pro golf a lot of good by pioneering in an instruction method book The idea behind the book fits in exactly with the pros' school plan sponsored by Pres. Charles Hall of the PGA. When the public learns from such evidence as the Sampson book how much attention pros are giving to bettering the effectiveness of golf instruction there will be more lessons sold.

Sampson's *Primer of Golf Instruction* will prove a valuable aid to the younger pro who frequently finds himself bewildered on the lesson tee and needs exactly the sort of dope Sampson has handed out from his experience. Older professionals who have read the book rate it highly as something that reminds the pros that instruction service means not only knowing how the shots are to be made but how to get this knowledge adopted as part of the pupil's regular performance.

With instruction again taking prominence in the pros' scheme of things entire and in his economic plan, Harold Sampson's book is most timely and valuable propaganda for the pro.

Even if the author were not a pal of ours, which he is, we'd say Sampson's Primer of Golf Instruction was a book worth the money of the other pros.

PROFESSIONALS can often arrange to run a window display in the bank where they keep their shop account. A judiciously selected assortment of clubs, bags, balls and accessories has considerable attention value when tastefully arranged in a window and the publicity to the pro and the shop and lesson business which results will more than pay the pro for any effort necessary to get the display installed.

Toil and \$400 Cash Put Course

in Montana Sagebrush

By WENDELL W. WILLIAMS

CAME TO POLSON, Montana, last July as one of the advance members of a well-known construction company which was to engage in a major project near that diminutive city. I dreaded the move intensely for one rankling reason, it being that there was no golf course nearer than 75 miles from our camp, and it was a private club with full membership. It was, therefore, with a sudden quickening of the blood stream, that I heard one of my fellow employes casually mention shortly after our camp was completed that we should build a course of our own. "God knows." he said, "there's plenty of room to lay one out." There certainly was! Miles and miles of rolling, sage-infested prairie.

Seven miles southwest from Polson, we built our construction camp on the Flathead river. It was in the direction of the rolling hills and sagebrush south of camp where my companion waved an airy hand when he said:

"Why not build a golf course over in there? Plenty of room—wonderful topography."

However lightly the remark was made, it implanted within my brain the germ of an idea. I passed the thought on to one of the officials. Rather than laugh it off as I had feared, he listened with an attentive ear. "Go ahead and work out the details," he said. "It will be a fine thing not only for our employes but the residents of Polson."

So, in company with a few others who professed interest, I trudged over the rocks and sage to a high promontory, from where



One of Polson's sand greens. Note sagebrush in background

we tentatively laid out the course. Then we walked to the various points we had noted from the hill and made closer selection of the places where greens would be most advantageous. Don't think for a moment that the prospect looked sunny. Far from it! It was with sinking hearts we noted the immense boulders strewn through the future fairways; the tough, spreading sagebrush; the cattle and horse droppings dotting the entire section and dating back, perhaps, for hundreds of years; the buffalo variety, at least.

Time or Cash Pays Initiation

We talked the matter over with townsmen, many of whom had never played or even seen a game of golf. Here we received a surprise, for they fell in with enthusiasm and promised support. upshot of several conferences, it was decided that those of us at the construction camp who were sufficiently interested should go ahead and devote our spare moments to constructing the course. Strict account would be kept of the time involved, and all who worked would be credited in the time book on a 50-cents an hour basis for their labor, the amount thus earned to apply on their memberships. Or the sum of \$15, the agreed membership



Golf flourishes wherever golfers are. This green nestles below towering badlands

fee, could be paid in cash and no labor furnished.

The weather was warm for March and it was deemed advisable to go ahead with the work and postpone organization until after completion of the course. On March 25 then, about 20 volunteers turned out for the first evening's work. None of the town people was evident and we decided to go ahead and handle the work alone. These people, you see, had not yet been touched by the golfer's bug.

One of the engineers in camp with a penchant for golf donated his services, staking out the fairways, greens, bunkers and tees.

Green Gangs

The nature of the climate made grass greens impracticable. We agreed on a cinder base and a topdressing of sand. There was a hill nearby which we had noted produced a very fine grade of pure, white sand. Five men were told off as the "sand gang." One had his own truck and we rustled a bunch of burlap bags to transport the sand. These boys left at once for the first load. Another member of the bunch had a truck and he with four additional helpers was designated as boss of the "cinder gang." They departed for our boiler house with its mountain of cin-

ders in the rear. Those of us who were left comprised the "excavation gang." One man, who was appointed boss, cut the green. We had decided on a 30-ft. putting green and using a shovel trimmed square at the base and sharpened, attached to a 15-ft. quarter-inch rope, he circled around from the center stake, cutting the turf to a depth of about 2 in. The rest of us followed up with No. 2 shovels, skimming the sod. We tried to maintain a depth of 2 in. as nearly as possible, although at times it was difficult.

Sand Green Construction

The poorer sod which had been removed was piled up to form the nucleus of the bunker. The finer pieces were piled neatly near the bunker location and when the green was completely excavated, one man pieced them together carefully over the dirt and sod base. By this time the "sand" and "cinder" gangs had arrived with their material. Cinders were distributed evenly by means of a straight edge timber, pulled around with the center stake as a pivot. When thoroughly levelled they tamped by huge hand tampers which we had made ourselves with flat pieces of steel to which long scrap steel handles had been welded. This was followed immediately by a sound rolling with two heavy hand rollers, borrowed from the City Water department. When this had been done to our satisfaction, the sand was spread on, using the same method as with the cinders and it also was well tamped and rolled until the green presented a smooth, gently sloping surface. About 20 sacks of cinders and 30 of sand were used on each green.

Next came the oiling. From the garages in town we had coaxed and in a few instances, purchased, enough waste transmission case drainings to apply about 3 barrels of oil to each green on the initial oiling. This was sprayed on by means of an oil pump with spray attachment which connected directly to the standard metal oil drums. As early darkness set in, we stood back dirty, greasy, immensely tired—but happy. Number One green was completed. It had been done in the 2½ hours between the time we wiped our stubbly chins after a hearty feed in the camp mess hall and 8:00 o'clock, the hour of darkness.

This March 25 was a Wednesday. We finished 2 more greens that week. Saturday night the boys all wanted to go to town so nothing was accomplished that

evening, but Sunday morning bright and early we were hard at it again—hauling, tamping, rolling and oiling. We put in 8 solid hours that Sunday besides having the aid of a few of the more ambitious town folk who came out rather from curiosity than a genuine desire to help.

Thwarted the first part of the following week by heavy rains, it was Friday before any additional work could be done. Perhaps it was just as well. Most of us were office men and entirely unused to the rigors of pick and shovel and hand tools. We ached thoroughly and our hands were sore from many blisters. But by the following Wednesday, April 1, we heaved a sigh of tired but complete satisfaction. The ninth hole was finished. We had worked later those last few nights. Someone had uncovered an old carbide lamp and we worked by its light until as late as 9:30.

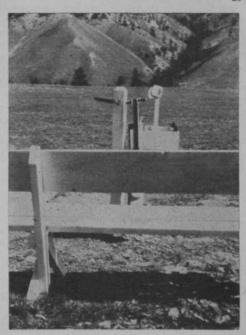
Clean-up by Night

Thursday, April 2, someone got the bright idea that an Easter Sunday opening would be auspicious. But there was a vast amount of work to do! We looked at each other in dismay. There were all the fairways to clean, sagebrush to dig and burn, manure to haul away, rocks to be dug out, markers and tees to build.

For the tees, a 6-foot square frame was set in a suitable spot and filled with the material which had been dug out to make it level. On top of this we tamped in sand. A considerable amount of painting had to be done as well. In one thing we were fortunate; our flags, purchased from an eastern firm, would arrive that evening on the local passenger train.

Those last few evenings were a nightmare of activity. Every available man, both from the camp and in the city was called upon, even begged to come out and Twenty men were strung do his bit. across the fairway with garden rakes. Five men went ahead cutting the sagebrush down with mattocks; 5 men did nothing but dig out rocks with crowbars; truck drivers hauled the rocks to a distant coulee: a wheelbarrow gang hauled off the fairway the piled debris of sage and manure, old grass and other burnable material and touched a match to it. A high wind was of material assistance, fanning the flames so that the debris burned to the ground.

We hired 2 carpenters who did nothing but cut and paint markers and posts to hang the green cleaners on; construct the



Eighth tee at Polson. Note the homemade bag-rack, sand box, and bench

tee boxes and paint them; build the sand boxes.

When darkness fell, which it does quickly in Montana, every man who had an automobile available drew it up on the fairway until there was a line of cars from one side to the other. Lights were turned on and cars moved up as the rakers advanced. It was a weird sight, these grimy men wielding garden rakes across the deep swales and sizeable buttes. A drizzling rain set in but no one minded. The golf course was the thing!

Cost \$400 in Cash

Our books show that the total cost of the course was \$1,000. We had a membership of 75. Four hundred and some odd dollars were paid in cash by those who were unable or did not care to work. The remainder of the "grand" represents work donated at 50 cents an hour, rental of equipment such as trucks, extra tools, etc. After paying for all materials used in construction there still remained a comfortable bank balance with which to pay an old caretaker to roll the greens and care for the course. This was augmented by occasional green fees.

The golf course had been completed in the brief space of 11 evenings and 2 Sundays. Without undue egotism it can be said the course compares favorably in construction and surpasses in scenery any in the state.

On Saturday, April 4, we climbed to a gentle knoll-the same one where we had first scanned the tangle of sags spreading out in every direction-and surveyed our handiwork, and to those of us who love golf and have fair imaginations, there was nothing lacking. Long stretches of clean, rolling fairway, green with spring rains; snappy white tee boxes, sand boxes, yard posts, markers and cleaners, were in place and ready for use. What had once been typical Montana prairie was now dotted with specks of white here and theregently waving flags, well painted equipment. Greens were compactly rolled and oiled. Everything was in readiness for the morning's play.

INSURE FOR GREENS

Tucson Finances Grass Greens with Insurance Plan

TUCSON G. & C. C. after 18 years of play on the desert is making ready to put in a new 18-hole grass course.

To accomplish this the club has instituted a financial tournament that is attracting wide attention. A campaign to raise the necessary finances is being conducted much as any golf tournament only it is being played with green dollars instead of white balls. The committeemen are organized into twosomes and there are to be four rounds with the teeing off for each round at special tournament luncheons held at the Pioneer hotel, Tucson.

At the end of the first round \$30,000 had been chalked up and as they teed off for the third round the score showed over \$50,000. The condition of the times seems to be no barrier to the golfers of Tucson who confidently expect to make par for all four rounds. They have already announced, as this is written in the first week of May, a 19th hole dinner as the culminating event of the tournament.

The financial plan is unique, though it has had quite a record of achievement for the financing of fraternal organizations throughout the country. The club arranges through a local bank, acting as trustee and the Lincoln National Life Insurance Co. for the placing of endowment insurance on the lives of all subscribers in an amount

of \$450 for each \$300 subscribed. Thus the subscribers' money paid in as convenient over a period of years is loaned to the club for its improvement program and is returned to the subscriber or to his beneficiary through the means of insurance which costs the club about half normal rates of interest.

For instance: Mr. Golfer subscribes for \$300, electing to pay \$30 down and \$10 per month for 27 months. He is covered with \$450 endowment life insurance and the trustee bank issues a trust certificate to him for that amount. He makes his payments to the bank where it is placed in a trust fund for the special use of the club.

If Mr. Golfer dies after paying \$100, the insurance company sends to the trustee the \$450 out of which \$200 is taken to satisfy the balance due on the subscription and the \$250 residue is paid to the beneficiary named by Mr. Golfer. Had the subscription been paid in full then the whole \$450 would go to the beneficiary. On the other hand should Mr. Golfer meet with reverses and not be able to complete his payments, then what he had paid would be treated as an outright contribution to the club and the insurance protection can be cancelled.

The plan, according to its sponsors, seems to fit the special financial needs of country clubs. It has an appeal to the member who has the guaranteed insurance return regardless of his membership in the club.

Clever publicity is being used to promote interest among the old members and prospective new members. One folder in vivid two tone green is entitled "Old Enough to Be Green," and contains the significant statement, "Tucson Country Club has come to the turning of the ways. It will either completely dry up and blow away or it will rebuild, water and grass a new golf course that will add untold prestige to the city."

Another piece of literature is headed, "This Is Your Bag of Clubs." It is a sales manual for the guidance of the solicitors who are playing the twosomes under set rules.

A broadside folder is mailed to all prospects. It too, is in green and shouts, "Fore!!" declaring that this is the greatest tournament in the history of the club—that there will be "No scratches! No handicaps! No picking up! No conceding of putts! No gallery! We are out to beat par and par in this tournament is \$100,000."

NO QUESTION THIS IS THE

FINEST HOSE BUILT

THERE may be room for at least a discussion on clubs, course engineering, or even the annual dues. But there is no questioning the quality of this hose:

Goodyear Emerald Cord is the finest hose on the market. It is so designed and built by Goodyear, out of years of hose-manufacturing experience.

It is built of double-double cords, enclosed and meshed in specially compounded Goodyear Rubber. It has an extra strong body to hold the pressures, an extra strong ribbed cover to withstand scuffing, and it lies flat and kinkless.

As for looks-no clubhouse lawn but feels adorned with this bright emerald

hose.

Goodyear Emerald Cord Hose is the first choice of many fine clubs the country over. We would be glad to refer you to them, or to give you specifications and other information about Goodyear Hose for Golf Clubs direct on your request to Goodyear, Akron, O., or Los Angeles, Calif.



GOOD YEAR

THE GREATEST NAME IN RUBBER

Mailman Is Our Pal, But He's Not

the Only One. Look!
I believe GOLFDOM is doing a great work. It is invaluable to me in my position as general supervisor of the Collier Hotel courses at Boca Grande, Useppa Island and Punta Gorda, Florida, and at Radium Springs, Albany, Georgia. JOHN LAW KERR.

Your magazine contains more real information about golf in general than any other magazine published.

DR. CHAS. G. SHOLER, Grn. Chm., Ruth Lake C. C.

Hinsdale, Ill.

Ending my term as chairman of grounds and greens of the Edgewood Valley C. C., I want to thank you for sending me GOLF-DOM these past two years. It has been of great benefit both to the groundsmen and to myself. I hope that my successor shall N. J. McLEOD, receive same. Edgewood Valley C. C.

Chicago, Ill.

The articles in GOLFDOM are very good as they explain both sides of important matters very thoroughly. There are very good suggestions in each issue to increase sales in the pro shop. Pros like myself study each copy as soon as it is received. HENRY NABHOLTZ,

Professional, Five Point G. C.

Sharon, Pa.

I have derived more benefit from GOLF-DOM than all other magazines combined. HARRELL BUTLER.

Professional Dornick Hills C. C.

Ardmore, Okla.

I would be very unhappy to lose my issues of GOLFDOM. It keeps me well posted on everything. JACK CLOTHIER.

Rockford, Ill.

GOLFDOM contains lots of good stuff. I feel that I am soundly convinced on some things that were doubtful in my mind before seeing them in GOLFDOM. At some time or other you seem to have covered all subjects of interest to the pro. I certainly like to read it.

> SPENCER MEISTER, Professional, Aurora C. C.

Aurora, Ill.

I personally get lots of information from GOLFDOM each month. I route it through the Board of Directors and all committees and then leave copies in the clubhouse for S. B. MARTIN, members.

Professional, Hot Springs C. C.

Hot Springs, S. Dak.

I think your magazine is the finest help the pros and manufacturers have. This applies also to the greens end of the game. Keep up the good work as I know the pros in New England are with you one hundred per cent. JACK TWISS.

Wachusett C. C.

GOLFDOM leads all other magazines in helping the pro and greenkeeper. I think It is the best book published on golf and would feel lost if I did not have GOLFDOM to fall back on.

TOM LUNDY, Greenville C. C. Greenville, Miss.

I read GOLFDOM every month and wish to congratulate its editor, Herb Graffis, for R. A. TYRELL, his great work. Saranac Lake G. C.

Ray Brook, N. Y. West Boyleston, Mass. * * *

To my notion GOLFDOM is the only practical magazine. I insist on my assistants each reading it. JERRY GLYNN,

Professional, Olympia Fields C. C.

Olympia Fields, Ill.

I consider GOLFDOM the most valuable help in club and course operation; your articles from practical men of experience have proven invaluable to us and your advertising keeps us well up on equipment progress and materials.

* *

COLLIN ARMSTRONG, Grn. Chm., Cazenovia G. C.

Cazenovia, N. Y.

May I again express our hearty appreciation of GOLFDOM? We look forward each month with a great deal of interest to its arrival. It is a tremendous help in keeping our various employes and shop attendants abreast with the times.

FRANK S. DIX, Manager & Professional Spring Lake G. C.

San Marcos, Texas.

I appreciate your magazine very much. When we are in the market for anything of importance we try to use GOLFDOM'S advertisers for our purchases.

E. J. BEITLER, Big Ben G. C.

Uhrichsville, Ohio.

I consider GOLFDOM the finest magazine for pro benefit.

GEORGE R. JACOBUS. Professional Ridgewood C. C.

Ridgewood, N. J.

I could not function nearly as well without your magazine and I not only profit by it, I enjoy it. ARTHUR FRANK,

Grn. Chm., Mt. Vernon C. C.

Tuckahoe, N. Y.

Gallery Revival Stirs Playing Pro To Tournament Planning

By HERB GRAFFIS

Fresh Meadow C. C., June 25.

A FEW MINUTES ago Gene Sarazen patted into its snug harbor his 286th stroke of the National Open tournament. The new champion came up the last hole surrounded by the wildest gallery seen at any American golf tournament, a gallery that pushed around the marshals, the coppers, thundered and stomped over the club officials and stampeded onto the eighteenth green, leaving the champion a space the size of a telephone booth for his concluding putt.

On the tanned pans of the distinguished Tack Ramsay, Bob Cutting, Herb Jacques and others of the U. S. G. A. presiding elders, there are refined, but ear-to-ear grins as the cashiers count up the gate receipts. The gallery income brought reminiscences of those good old days when Robert the "Mint," of points south, was drawing them in.

There have been plenty of other minor indications that golf interest this year is defying the depression and that exhibition and tournament golf can be played on the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

Smart and foresighted playing pros have observed the signals of fair weather ahead and have started thinking seriously about taking advantage of this prospect. Earnest confabs in the locker-room at Fresh Meadow indicate that something definite will be done soon about the tournament bureau activities of the P. G. A. for the coming year.

Just who will head the tournament bureau is the major problem confronting the P. G. A. officials and the playing pros. Bob Harlow, the master impresario whose efforts brought the 1931-32 winter season of the playing pros into a substantial success when the swing was threatened with almost complete collapse, now is handling L. A. Young's stable of talent. Harlow knows more of what it's all about than the rest of the country combined, but even if available on a loan basis for tourney management probably would be unaccept-

able because of any manufacturing connection. Francis Powers and Hal Sharkey, newspapermen, have been mentioned by the playing pros as men for the job and others whose business demands preclude the possibility of acceptance have been approached to handle the situation.

Sales Management Needed

The playing pros realized what they need now is not only publicity but energetic advance selling and sales management. Despite positive evidence of gallery interest being high, there probably will be some of the tournament fixtures go by the boards unless the people who have conducted these affairs are given some treatment calculated to restore the enthusiasm that was responsible for the establishment of these tournaments. In this connection it is obvious that one of the first moves is for the PGA to get its sectional officials located in winter tournament territory active in a tournament selling campaign.

This isn't the only detail in which the tournament plans should take shape by beginning at home. Efforts of southern California professionals had a vital part in the inauguration of the winter tournament schedule and these able pros probably will play an important role in whatever plans are made by President Charles Hall, Business Administrator Gates, Chairman Alex Pirie of the Tournament committee and others of the pro association.

To be blunt about it, the other detail where home work of the pros should begin is with the players. Pro tournament golf is a tough business for the pro business man. He is the simon-pure amateur in reality, for his expenses are not paid and he has to gamble for his income. But actual figures on last season's schedule show that 25 of the touring pros won \$1,000 or over and that figure is better than staying at home and having all of the money go out. For those stars who constitute gallery attraction and make the

HOL-HI arithmetic

