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GOLF

BY VERDANT GREENE

Several inquiries have been received since the end of last season as to what has become of the scheme proposed by a Philadelphian at the national annual meeting of 1920 for an interchange of playing courtesies between clubs. It can be stated on authority that the plan has not been officially shelved, nor is it likely to be. It will take a long time to formulate its possibilities which depend in a measure upon bringing all the clubs of the country into one class of membership in the national body. The rank and file of players feel, however, that other matters of less importance have been given preference in official consideration. The idea itself was by no means new, having been proposed in several less comprehensive forms for nearly a decade. William H. Beers, the publisher, probably did most to theoretically elaborate the innovation which he had linked up with a magazine for its promotion. He had mapped out, in short, a golf service bureau stretching from coast to coast, by means of which upon payment of fees somewhat smaller than a charge to duly introduce guests, touring and traveling golfers could play at almost any club without going through the endless red tape, often productive of so much delay that the attempts are given up in despair.

In that connection it would make interesting reading if some of the contortions strangers have made in trying to secure courtesies at the Garden City golf, the National and several other courses could be put in print. The flaming swords set up at the gates of Eden after Adam had been driven from the garden were not to be compared with the obstacles encountered even by folk of influence, armed with letters of introduction who thought a primrose path lay before them.

Despite the wave of democracy that is sweeping through sport, following the melting pot of war, it is quite unlikely that all the bars would be taken down completely in the furtherance of playing privileges. If they were men and women unable to gain admission to certain organizations would thereby secure occasional entry through such exchange of courtesies. Clubs like Pine Valley of Philadelphia, Old Elm of Chicago, and Garden City of New York, have never admitted women, while a few like Fox Hills of Staten Island, finally capitulated, principally in the interest of the wives of members. Manifestly such limitations would have to be respected in the interchange of courtesies. One of the biggest snags otherwise to be encountered would crop up in racial objections. At the outset in considering the plan it was realized that the number of courtesies extended to each individual must be limited at every course in order to prevent congestion at the better clubs and to avoid creating distinctions, also that a distance limit of say fifty to seventy-five miles should be imposed as is the rule on non-resident membership to prevent the privilege of reduced dues being abused. There isn't the slightest doubt, however, in the minds of several past and

present national officials, that despite the obstacles to be overcome, within a few seasons any club member in good standing, provided his or her organization has country-wide affiliation will find paid-up cards sufficient passport for entry to almost any club in the land.

Fred J. Wright's announcement, this week, that he would play abroad on the United States team recalls a widespread blunder that was made in several reports of the tri-state team match, at Merion, last October, in which Jess Sweetser won on the twentieth hole, by way of revenge for his defeat at Wright's hands in the national championship at Roslyn, three weeks earlier. As a matter of fact, Wright lost simply because he allowed the setting sun to get in his eyes, showing a lack of judgment thereby that justified his defeat. I happened to be in the gallery which fortunately was on neutral ground and consequently proved of judicial temper. In the latter stages of the round, although seemingly ideally matched, Wright was rather expected to win. Young Fred, who holds the Bay State title, is considered outside home territory the foeman most worthy the steel of Sweetser, Intercollegiate champion, with the possible exception of Rudolph Knepper of Sioux City, who will soon come into closer Eastern alignment through entering Princeton.

Quaint old Amagansett, Long Island, ten miles east of Southampton, almost within bird's-eye view of Montauk Point, is to have a nine-hole course, which some day will be doubled. The soil there is equally ideal with Shinnecock Hills and one need not be a prophet to forecast a great future for the new links. When Fort Pond Bay, six or seven miles beyond, becomes the landing point for European steamers, the new course will be the first encountered by travelers bound west. The charms of Amagansett, fully ten years ago attracted more than one western land syndicate, but the town has long needed better golfing facilities than have been afforded nearby at Bridgehampton.

MAPLE SUGAR RESERVE

A lake of maple syrup—148,000 gallons of it—enough to float thousands of griddle cakes, was stored up from last year in the warehouse of maple product makers and dealers when the Bureau of Crop Estimates made a survey this spring.

The report also supplied rocks for the maple sugar lake in the form of 318,600 pounds of maple sugar. Altogether there was the equivalent of 1,500,000 pounds of the sugar stored away and yet this was only four per cent. of the 1920 production.

Had not another shortage of granulated sugar been feared, it is not likely that this much would have been carried over, the department of Agriculture says. With reports from the maple forests promising a banner year for the production of the better half of "hot cakes," those places where the man tosses 'em around on his griddle in the front window ought to show increased business next fall at cheaper prices.



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