



## Happy New Year!

*GREETINGS golfers! Here's that the New Year will bring health, happiness, prosperity, and a full realization of your fondest hopes and desires—especially with your game. Our best resolution for 1928 is to make an earnest effort to be of genuine help in the matter of reducing scores, where possible; where that is not sought, we shall attempt to present the newest angles and best thought on the world's greatest game, in a manner consistent with its dignity. Right now, however, we sincerely wish you a real Happy New Year—and may all your drives be long and straight!*

**I**T IS PLEASING to note that the editorial suggestion made in our July issue to abolish the silly habit of conceding putts has borne fruit. At that time we made the point that "There is no golf player in the world today who is so good on the putting green that he can afford to lose a large percentage of putting practice that he is deprived of with an opponent who picks up his ball whenever he pleases, or knocks his opponent's ball away from the hole and concedes the putt \* \* \* play the hole out, concede no putts—and play the game." The New Jersey State Golf Association at its recent annual meeting passed a resolution condemning the practice of conceding putts, and requested that the U. S. G. A. take appropriate action to see that the practice is stopped. Before the greatest annual meeting in the history of the Metropolitan Golf Association, the matter was brought up and discussed by Colonel Gray, Findlay Douglas, vice-president of the U. S. G. A., and Jerome Travers, and resolutions were passed calling on the U. S. G. A. to abolish the practice. A great day's work!

**I**N connection with the editorial suggestion originally made by GOLF ILLUSTRATED that golf courses make some provision for emergency landing for airplanes, the Director of Aeronautics, Department of Commerce, reports that golf clubs in the following sections have made their courses available for landings: Demopolis, Alabama; Bisbee, Arizona; Hot Springs, Arkansas; Del Mar and Pasadena, California; Glenwood Springs, Colorado; New London, Connecticut; Wilmington, Delaware; Bartow, Crooked Lake, Hampton Springs, Ormond and St. Augustine, Florida; Millidgeville and Moultrie, Georgia; Bloomington, Illinois; Auburn, Indiana; Hutchinson, Kansas; L'Anse and Lansing, Michigan; Excelsior, Maryland; Manchester, New Hampshire, and White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Ernest L. Jones, Chief of the Air Information Division, Department of Commerce, says, in connection with our efforts to aid in the development of commercial aviation: "This Department will be only too glad to cooperate in every way with any

clubs desiring to set aside a certain portion of their field for the landing of planes. This could best be done by some official of golfdom-being a contact officer between this Department and the golf clubs throughout the country. Upon receipt of information that certain clubs are setting aside areas for landing purposes, this Department will publish this news in bulletin form and distribute it to aviators and the aeronautical industry throughout the country."

**I**SN'T the matter of Robert Tyre Tones, Jr., accepting a home in Atlanta, Georgia, a purely personal affair with Mr. Jones? While it is indeed regrettable that such a sterling golfer should be led by over-enthusiasm of admirers into a situation that might cause even a thread-like cloud to bedim a brilliant record, it still remains purely a personal matter with Mr. Jones—and possibly the sponsors. The facts, as we understand them, are: A group of admirers desired to express their collective feeling in a substantial and material way and decided to present Mr. Jones with a home. A sum aggregating \$50,000 was subscribed by the group. A dinner was given at which the gift was symbolized by a check for \$50,000 which was presented as an appreciation of Mr. Jones as "a sportsman, gentleman and golfer." The check could have represented a statue, a library, a miniature golf course, a gold loving cup, or a dozen other things, but in this particular instance it represented something more useful. Mr. Jones handed back the check and said he would prefer that the donors supply the house. The point has been internationally raised that the acceptance of such a gift might have a bearing on Mr. Jones' amateur standing. The definition of an amateur is: "One who, attaining the age of sixteen years, has not: (a) Carried clubs for hire; (b) Received any consideration, either directly or indirectly, for playing or for teaching the game, or for playing in a match or tournament; (c) Because of his skill as a golfer, received after the 31st of December, 1922, a salary or remuneration, either directly or indirectly, from any firm dealing in goods relating to the playing of the game; (d) Played for a money prize in any competition."

The magnitude of the gift has been discussed broadly. It might be noted in this connection that, according to report, one of the first to approve the plan was a member of the Executive Committee of the U. S. G. A., who headed the list of subscribers to the fund, and who certainly assured himself that to make such a gift was perfectly proper.