

## JAPANESE ARCHITECT TOURS THREE CONTINENTS

Sees Many Top  
Courses in the  
United States

The USGA unofficially celebrated Japan Day recently when three citizens of that country paid a visit to "Golf House" — Seiichi Inouye, noted golf course architect; Takeshi Nakagawa, of New York, who served as interpreter for Mr. Inouye when necessary, and Takeaki Kaneda, of Tokyo.

Mr. Inouye and Mr. Kaneda were on separate missions and by chance met at "Golf House". Mr. Inouye is on a trip to North America, Europe and Asia to visit famous courses to supplement his already vast knowledge. Mr. Kaneda, a member of his country's team in the Second World Amateur Team Championship, was here to confer with Joseph C. Dey, Jr., USGA Executive Director, about the official program for the Third World Amateur Team Championship. It will be played October 10-13 at the Fuji Golf Course, Kawana, Japan, a course which Mr. Inouye will be in charge of during the match.

Mr. Inouye's journey is to consume more than two months. His trip is being sponsored by Baron Oukra, Chairman of the corporation which owns the Kawana course, and Shigeo Mizuno, president of the Sankei newspaper in Tokyo.

In this country Mr. Inouye visited Pebble Beach, Augusta National, Pinehurst, Baltusrol, Shinnecock Hills, Bethpage State Park and other courses. Messrs. Inouye and Kaneda collaborated to present several interesting facts on golf in Japan. The first course was built in Japan by the British about 1902-1904, near Kobe. In 1946 there were about 17 courses in operation; now there are 300, and



Peter V. Tufts, right, manager of Pinehurst Country Club, N. C., shows the club's five courses to Japanese architect, Seiichi Inouye.

Photo by John G. Hemmer

50 more are being planned. Mr. Inouye has designed 20 of the present courses. Mr. Kaneda said that all of the 300 courses are privately owned and only about 10 are open to the general public. There are approximately 200,000 golfers in Japan. Public interest is being whetted by a great number of driving ranges, and municipal authorities may be forced to provide additional public facilities. There are 500 driving ranges in Tokyo, almost all indoors.

Fees present differing aspects at different courses where taxes are levied by local governments. There are three classes of taxes, and the range is from 70 cents to \$1.50 per round. For example, the better clubs

charge about 60 cents for green fee for members and tax is \$1.50; A guest pays about \$1.20 for green fee and \$1.50 tax. The two men estimated the average income of Japan's golfers to be \$100 per month.

Improvement in transportation has contributed materially to the growth of golf in Japan. Mr. Inouye said that in the United States builders can pick their spots for courses but that his country is 85 per cent mountainous. He also pointed up a difference when he said, "All courses in Japan are built with an aim toward champion-

ships — yours are built for fun, some for championships. A golf course is an Oriental luxury." He said the average course in the States appears to be about 6,400 yards while in Japan the average is 7,000 yards, even though the average Japanese golfer is not considered to be a long hitter.

Most Japanese courses have two greens on each hole and are alternated summer and winter or at any other time it is necessary. *Zoysia Japonica*, a grass that had its origin in Korea and used somewhat in the United States, is on all Japanese greens.

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