U. S. PROFESSIONALS TO SEEK BRITISH TITLE

At one time or another representatives of the United States have captured the highest honors in all branches of athletic and sporting endeavor. On the track, through the field, in the ring and in and on the water they have brought glory to themselves and to their country. But among all these there is one prize that has resisted their efforts and that is the British Open Golf Championship.

When Jim Barnes and Walter Hagen, two of the United States' leading professionals, failed last spring it was shown conclusively that isolated individual competitors were under a severe handicap in such a huge field of Britisher determined to retain their laurels against all invaders. Then what is the solution? The only practical way is to send a representative team which will be large enough to provide that atmosphere of comradeship and moral support which is so essential in such a competition.

Invasions of our championship have seen both the National amateur, open, and women's titles carried across the seas, Harold H. Hilton of England capturing the amateur honor in 1911 at Apawamis while at this time Edward Ray, also of England, is taking back with him the open title which he won at Inverness this season. The women's national laurels have been captured by Britisher on three occasions. Mrs. J. V. Hurst, formerly Miss Dorothy Campbell, triumphing twice and Miss Gladys Ravenscroft once. But as is well known the success of the United States players in foreign lands has been established. The Canadian open title has been won by players no less than five times, J. H. Oke winning in 1904 at Montreal, Daniel Kenny in 1910 at Lambton, George Sargent in 1912 at Rosedale and J. Douglas Edgar in both 1919 and 1920. Then Miss Stirling annexed the Canadian women's title last month which added to her United States title makes her truly the American champion.

Abroad United States players have made enviable impressions. Only this year Walter Hagen won the French open title, the best previous effort being fifth position secured by J. J. McDermott in 1911. The French amateur championship, however, has been won twice by players from this country. In 1911 an all-American final was provided when Charles "Chick" Evans, Jr., our national amateur champion, defeated John G. Anderson, the popular New Yorker, at the thirty-eighth hole while in 1914 Francis Ouimet brought back the title to Boston. But try as we have, the British amateur and open titles keep eluding the efforts of our best.

Gardiner nearly broke the hoodoo in the Amateur this year when he reached the final only to lose out in a great match to Cyril Tolley. Several efforts have been made in the British open but the most successful were those of J. J. McDermott and Jim Barnes, the former finishing fifth in 1911 and the latter also being placed in the same position this year.

GOLF ILLUSTRATED has conceived the idea and is prepared to father the movement explained in letters reproduced on this page and we have received not only the sanction of the P. G. A. but their hearty endorsement and promises to give it every encouragement. It is up to every player in the United States to help us make this a success. If everyone gives a dollar sufficient will be raised and this provides an opportunity for every patriotic golfer in the country to send a team to England in whose honors he will share.

Get in touch with your club secretary. Keep him on the jump after the other members so that the fund may be closed by Dec. 1st. Mr. Golfer, this is your chance, do not dub the shot.