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ash on fairways. He recommended that
nitrogen fertilization be restrained, par-
ticularly on putting greens, since heavy
fertilization produces the type of turf
which was likely to suffer from disease
and mechanical injury. Prof. White also
called attention to the need for further re-
search on plant and soil problems.

Prof. H. B. Musser of Penn. State consid-
ered briefly the breeding work being con-
ducted in an attempt to produce strains of
turf grasses which are more resistant to
disease and tolerant of soil conditions,
than any strain now available.

John Anderson of Crestmont G. C. rep-
resented the National Greenkeepers’ asso-
ciation, and conveyed a message from
Colonel Morley.

Pittsburgh District Clubs Weather
Tough Year

HARD-HIT SPOTS GET BY O. K.

MOST seriously affected by business
depression are the golf clubs in
territories where there is one predomi-
nant industry. Pittsburgh, dependent
mainly on steel, and Detroit, the automo-
bile capital, are two of the hardest hit
golf club areas in the country.

John Camozzi, veteran manager in the
Pittsburgh district, tells a bluntly honest
tale of how Pittsburgh district house busi-
ness was hit, but stoutly maintains the sit-
uation had some benefits, and is showing
marked improvement.

TO DETERMINE the trend of country
club operation during the season re-
cently closed and to forecast its future
is a tremendous task, even though one is
recording observations for only one dis-
trict. While one is tempted to be entirely

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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Western Pennsylvania is one of the major golf club districts in the country, with 85 large and small clubs within an area of 150 miles of Pittsburgh. In this section it is our observation that clubhouse operation since last spring has distinctly felt dwindled incomes. We speak of the matter generally, for there are a few clubs, and a select few, which can honestly say they kept their heads above water through the present depression. The Pittsburgh Field Club, which I am honored in managing, has been fortunate enough to be included in this group. We have succeeded in staying in the black in the ledgers.

The trend downward in western Pennsylvania does not appear to be serious and it is our belief that this sector ranks among the topmost in weathering the storm.

Curtailment of service within the club has been marked at several country clubs. If financial conditions throughout the country improve within the next year, a calamity in country club life will have been averted. If financial conditions continue to hover at the bottom of the well, so to speak, country club operation can not hope to escape further reductions.

At this time clubs that are on the ragged edge are making a valiant effort to ward off defeat, and their victory depends entirely on the general financial situation.

First attempts to meet this situation came last year when a number of country clubs devised new ways and means to bring money into their coffers. They offered new membership plans for golf or non-committal, as it is a most delicate subject at this time, it would be unusually interesting if frankness could be observed and a comparative record be made from each particular district.

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It may appear inconsistent that several of the larger clubs made extensive clubhouse alterations. One of the clubs has spent more than $500,000 in capital improvements to their clubhouse and another one is contemplating improvements on a large scale. But clubhouse renovating and similar improvements can hardly assist to the generally necessary degrees in adjudging operating expenses for the clubhouse itself. However, in view of prevailing low building costs, the clubs in very good financial shape have an attractive opportunity for desirable remodeling and rehabilitation.

Just as it has been our unbiased observation that the trend has been downward for the 1931 season about to close, it is our optimistic prediction that an improved condition throughout this district, and throughout the country, may be expected within the next twelve months.

BELL IS TORO NEW MAN IN K. C.

Kansas City, Mo.—D. B. Bell, formerly division sales manager for Huey & Philip of Dallas, Tex., Toro representatives, has transferred here, where he will operate the Toro distribution and service business and that of other lines previously handled by Whitney Goit. Bell and his staff will occupy the Whitney Goit quarters at 1919 Baltimore ave. on a long term lease.

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Los Angeles, Calif.—Worthington Mower Co. of Stroudsburg, Pa., has appointed California Garden Equipment Co., Ltd., 1795 Pasadena ave., Los Angeles, distributor for southern California.

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