SYMPOSIUM—THE FORAGE PROBLEM

1. THE LARGER ASPECTS OF OUR FORAGE SUPPLY

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This address will consist mainly of comments on a series of charts which will be shown. Many of the charts will serve to bring to the attention of agronomists some of the major problems on the matter of forage. These charts are to be published in the 1923 Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture, illustrating an article on “Our Forage Supply.”

An agronomist’s attitude toward the facts will depend on whether he believes or doubts that the farmers have found the best possible solution of the problem of production, when all the factors are considered. Either attitude is germane to discussion during the symposium.

Whether or not American agriculture as it exists is what it should be, deserves consideration, particularly as forage and livestock make up its largest portion. The dinosaur and the Neanderthal man were doubtless wonderfully well adapted to the conditions of their times. It is worth questioning whether our present agriculture is as well adjusted as it might be to all the factors. That it exists thus and so, does not prove that it may not be more or less comparable to the dinosaur of old.

Some people seem to think that the injunction “Man shall not live by bread alone” means “Eat more meat.” Inasmuch as about five-sixths of American agriculture is forage production and animal husbandry, it would seem that this interpretation is uncalled for.

1Abstract of address at opening of symposium program, Chicago, Ill., November 12, 1923.