History records that when any nation ceases to grow legumes the agriculture of that nation goes into a period of decline and degeneration. The statement is made that legumes are the foundation of our agriculture. If this is true, it is well for us to stop and examine carefully this foundation to see if it is sound.

A rather common formula in general use among farmers and scientists is that a proper balance in agriculture is to keep one-fourth of the land in legumes. Yet we find from the last census figures that of all the tillable land in crops in the United States, only 3.9% was devoted to growing legumes. In the heart of the corn belt, the percentage of tillable land in legumes in the states of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa was 2.9%, and when we go into the cotton belt states we find the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama with 2.2% of leguminous crops.

There are two outstanding reasons for this condition in 1919, the first, a temporary one, the World War, causing an exaggerated demand for grain crops; the second, a more or less permanent one, that of poor soil conditions from the standpoint of excess acidity and lack of organic matter, making it difficult to grow legume crops.

These conditions brought forcibly to the experiment station and extension workers of the various states and the United States Department of Agriculture the need for concentrated effort to increase the legume acreage, especially in the northeastern, central, and southern States. They well knew that the condition of agriculture at the time of the last census was not sound. However, a legume program must be economically sound and a fundamental part of the entire production program if it is to succeed.

In the campaigns that followed, excellent progress has been made with such legumes as alfalfa, sweet clover, and soybeans. This work has been accelerated by the depressed financial condition of agriculture in general, and the feeling on the part of many farmers that they were not able to secure the cost of production for grain crops.

To find just what is being done at the present time with the legume program and its relation to other extension projects, attention is directed to Chart I which shows the percentage of various productive

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