CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE LEADER

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From the facts presented in the papers and discussions, the following summary may be made:

The varying conditions which exist on a farm with respect to soil, feeding requirements, etc., usually call for flexibility in cropping rather than for any fixed cropping system, in order that the highest success in farming may be realized.

The facts presented point to three distinct rotation principles, namely, (1) soil fertility can best be maintained when intertilled, small-grain, and grass or leguminous crops are grown in the order named and in recurring succession on a given area of land; (2) soil condition and characteristics determine in a large degree what crops are best adapted to a particular soil; and (3) one kind of crop affects to a greater or less degree the growth of another crop which follows it.

The benefits which may be realized from proper rotation of crops are not fully appreciated by probably the majority of farmers. Permanent improvement in cropping systems can be effected only through a long educational campaign. In the corn belt, cotton belt, and on the Great Plains diversification and crop rotation are major factors in the establishment of a prosperous and permanent agriculture.

After 200 years of existing knowledge of proper rotation, the ideas of American agronomists with respect to rotations seem to agree with many of the ideas expressed by Arthur Young when modern rotation was only 40 years old. In “Rural Economy,” published in England in 1770, he wrote: “The common practice in many things points to much to be known experimentally, so that any man may be able to declare precisely in what degree it is valuable, and in what deficient.”

“In what degree of merit are beans, peas, turnips, carrots, cabbages, and clover to be ranked as fallow or preparatory crops?”

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