A SYMPOSIUM ON "MAINTAINING THE EFFICIENCY OF AGRONOMIC RESEARCH WITH REDUCED SUPPORT THROUGH REGIONAL ORGANIZATION"

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The three papers which follow were presented upon invitation of President M. A. McCall before a general session of all Sections of the Society at the annual meeting in Chicago, November 16, 1933. The Executive Committee requested that they be assembled and published in an early number of the Journal.

1. REGIONAL COORDINATION OF AGRONOMIC RESEARCH FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE STATION DIRECTOR

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I have been asked by the President of this Society to discuss briefly regional coordination in agronomic research from the standpoint of the administrator. As a background for this discussion, permit me to recount briefly the manner in which research in agronomy has developed.

Agronomic research had its beginning as independent isolated bits of investigation that were undertaken to solve local problems. The work was frequently started without consideration as to what was being done elsewhere and without thought of coordinating the work as a unit in any carefully planned project of a national or regional application. This is the normal development in any young branch of science. It is most logical that agronomic research should have developed in this way.

There came a time, however, after a certain amount of progress had been made when it became evident that work conducted in this manner led to much wasteful duplication of effort, and that future progress required closer cooperation among the workers and greater coordination of the work. Thus, there has gradually developed an increased interest in cooperation among the workers in closely related fields of agronomic research and in an effort to coordinate the work.

1 Contribution No. 51 from the Office of the Director, Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Manhattan, Kan.
2 Director.