I am supposed to talk to you this forenoon about soils, crops, and men. Now I am heartily in favor of all three of these things, so the subject suits me very well. I am especially glad that word men was included. If I had to deal only with soils and crops, I might hesitate to get up here before an audience of scientists specializing in those two things. They might hand me a generous gift of one of their crops, the raspberry. The old saying, "Beware of the Greeks bringing gifts", might be translated, "Beware of the scientist bringing raspberries"; the fruit doesn't sound anything like the way it tastes. But the inclusion of this word men gives me an out. I can concentrate on the human aspects of the subject.

One more point, here in the beginning. This topic, soils, crops, and men, is really a vast one. If I tried to cover it adequately, I would certainly overstretch my mind—and you know what happens when you put too much gas into a balloon. It bursts, and that's the end of it. I don't want you to have to witness the painful spectacle of the mind of the Undersecretary of Agriculture suddenly scattering in all directions at once preliminary to complete disappearance, so I shall confine myself to certain aspects of this subject.

What aspects shall I cover? Well, some of you who know me personally know that one of my enthusiasms—an inordinate enthusiasm, if you want to call it that—has to do with all those aspects of farming that make farming a way of life as well as a means of livelihood. I believe that the best home is a home in the country and the best life is a country life. And believing that, I am naturally interested very much in the possibilities of the family-size farm. What I have to say here will be concerned to a considerable extent with that theme. Not only is it a theme with which I feel comfortable and at home; I think it is also one that concerns you people who deal with the agricultural sciences.

Now I will tell you just why I make this confession of interest and enthusiasm. Last summer, in giving a talk before some agricultural...