favorable for crop production.

It is obvious that most soil fertility terms are inadequate for defining the specific quality of a soil. Some terms - such as depleted, exhausted, should be discontinued because they are not applicable to soils. The terms now in use should be used more precisely. This is essential to standardize the meaning of descriptive terms.

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SHALER ON SOILS - 1905

"Although the soil coating is a mere film on the surface of the rock sphere, it is the basis of all its higher life; that of the land absolutely depends upon it, for without the coating, however, thin, there would be practically no living beings there. The life of the sea also, to a great extent, if not altogether, depends upon the materials which are taken into solution by the soil water, discharged thence into the springs, and sent by way of the river to the deep: there to pass, first, into the marine plants, and thence, to animals that feed thereon. In fact, this layer of waste, which is ever slipping away in the streams to the sea, is a kind of placenta that enables living beings to feed on the earth... All this process depends on the adjustment of the rate of rock decay to that of the movement of the renewing soil, from the point where it is formed to the ocean where it enters once again, as stratified deposits, into the crust of the sphere, in time, it may be, to tread again the round from rock to soil and thence back to sea.

"At first sight it would seem that man's foremost duty by the soil was to stay this endless passing of detritus to the sea floors, and that the largest of the actions to come from his control of the earth would be accomplished by the arrest of this waste. A clearer sense of the process shows us that the movement must be allowed to continue, yet restrained within fit limits. It must go on for the reason that