When your co-chairman, Mr. O'Neal, asked me to appear on the program of the American Society of Agronomy and the Soil Science Society of America, I was at a loss to know just what I might say which would be of interest to such a group. Not being an agronomist or a soil scientist, I certainly could not pretend to discuss any of the scientific phases of your work. Mr. O'Neal asked that I suggest a subject which I would like to discuss before the group. After thinking about it for a little while, I chose what I thought was a rather nice-sounding subject, "The Application of Agronomy in Farm Planning." It seemed to me this might be rather appropriate, since my work has been in the farm planning field.

With the subject decided on, I began to put down on paper some of the points I wanted to discuss. When I had completed my outline, I found that the subject I had given to Mr. O'Neal hardly covered the points I proposed to discuss. I was somewhat in the position of the lecturer who submitted a list of subjects on which he was prepared to speak. The committee, in making a selection from the list, wrote the lecturer asking for more information relative to the different topics. He replied that it made no difference which subject they selected, as the speech would be the same under all of the subjects.

I decided to take advantage of somewhat similar license, and use the outline I had prepared.

I would like to talk with you for a while this morning from the point of view of one who has attempted to co-ordinate the application, on the individual farm, of various agricultural sciences, of which agronomy is one.

In developing farm plans, the first step is the taking of an inventory of the physical and economic conditions, the second that of analyzing the information secured, and then the development of curative measures in the various fields of agriculture, soils, farm crops, horticulture, forestry, biology, engineering, animal husbandry, management, marketing, etc., to individual visit a given farm and recommend a solution to the problems found on that farm, I believe I would get as many different plans as there were different specialists. Each specialist would see the problems on that farm from the viewpoint of his particular field, and the solution proposed would definitely reflect that viewpoint.

Agricultural research, during the past half century and more, has proceeded on a wide front, and has resulted in enormous strides in the improvement of techniques and livestock production, management, and marketing. In the agronomic field, proved varieties and strains have been produced through selection and breeding; much has been learned about fertilizers and their use; about seeding methods, tillage practices, harvesting methods, storage, processing, and about grading and marketing.

Naturally, a preponderance of the research work has been directed toward the efficient production of our so-called cash crops, such as cotton, tobacco, wheat and corn, and toward the supplementary measures necessary to the production of such cash crops. We have carried on an extensive program in cotton breeding to improve yield quality. We have studied the use of fertilizers and green manure crops, to determine their optimum effect on cotton yields and quality. We have experimented with fertilizers on tobacco, in order to improve quality and increase yields. We have made thousands of selections and crosses with wheat, to increase the yield and improve the milling qualities; to maintain these qualities; to the same time secure stiffness of straw, greater hardiness. We have selected and bred corn for higher yields, earlier maturity, disease resistance, and the like.