A full quarter of a century has passed since the Bureau of Soils and some State Experiment Stations began Soil Survey work. This line of soil research has steadily increased in usefulness and popularity. At the present time it is the basis of much important work not only by the Bureau but also by a very considerable number of our Experiment Stations. It is appropriate, therefore, that the members of this Association should now take stock of what has been accomplished and pass judgment on the stewardship of those in charge of the work.

It is not my purpose to take up a statistical study of soil surveys in this country but to enter at once upon a brief report of the development and status of the work in Iowa and make a brief statement concerning its value and utilization. It is worthy of note in this connection that the survey program in Iowa includes a larger group of activities than are carried on in many states, such for example as experiment fields, pot culture studies, chemical analyses and recommendations regarding the fertilization and utilization of the more important soil types. All of these lines of work combine to make up the Iowa program.

This survey has already demonstrated its value in many important fields. A few illustrations are given in the following paragraphs:

1. Soil Management Programs.

This survey has made possible the Iowa System of Soil Management which shows definitely the way in which the fertility of the soils of the state may be built up and maintained, maximum crop yields secured and the quality of crops greatly improved. It has been possible to develop this system of soil management because certain phases of the survey have provided the staff with needed data concerning the location and distribution of the soil types of the State and the chemical and physical characteristics of these types. With this information at hand it was possible to

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