Report of the Soil Color Standards Committee

Prepared by the Chairman

Not much more has been done during the past year on soil color standards due to the fact that other projects have occupied the time.

Mr. T. D. Rice of the Bureau of Soils reports that during the coming winter he expects to make a large number of color analysis in the preparation of technical soil reports. The accumulation of such data will form a basis for the consideration of soil color relations.

Mr. Thomas K. Bushnell makes the following practical suggestions for the training of field men in the description of soil colors:

1. All men should be tested for color blindness to exclude the defectives.

2. All men should hear a series of lectures on color by pre-eminent men such as artists, physicists, psychologists and teachers and they should learn the main points of the lectures.

3. Our set of color standards should be enlarged to include some samples like our darker soils when wet.

4. All men should give their own names to each color sample.

5. Official names should be given the samples according to the results of this referendum.

6. All men should be required to learn these official names and to pass examinations in which they use the official names without error.

7. All men should pass examinations with high marks in matching unknown samples with the standards and in describing them with the official color words.

Ordinary soil survey has little use for exact determinations of soil colors — it is mostly a matter of quick matching each new observation with a mental or material color standard."

These suggestions by Mr. Bushnell are worthy of consideration. I do not recall that anyone has suggested before a color school for training of soil survey men.

I also urge that consideration should be given the