Mr. President:

Your Committee on Soil Conservation begs leave to submit the following report:

On November 3, 1932, the chairman sent the following letter to members of the committee:

H. H. Bennett
M. F. Miller
B. H. Hendrickson
A. R. Whitson
R. S. Smith
F. T. Shutt

Dear Sir:

Owing to circumstances beyond his control the chairman of the Soil Conservation Committee of the American Soil Survey Association has not done his full duty this year. That means me.

The annual meeting is only about twelve days away, and I am asking you to make your suggestions at once in order that I may send a report to Washington before the meeting.

During the past year I have been able to make weekly radio talks on "Soil Science," constantly emphasizing the fact that the soil is the basis of civilization. I have also sent out several hundred "messages" by mail. Will you be kind enough to tell me what you and your colleagues have been doing along this or related lines? It has been suggested that we as a committee recommend to the American Soil Survey Association two things:

1. That wherever possible studies be carried out to determine the effect of the cultivation of the soil upon its composition, texture, structure, and crop producing power;

2. That a sustained effort be made by every pedologist and agronomist to bring to the notice of all people, in whatever business or profession engaged, the fact that a fertile soil is the basis of individual and national existence.

In regard to the first project mentioned it may be recalled that a few reports of such investigations were made at the Washington meeting in 1930. It seems that many such studies should be made over the continent and that a summary of the results of such investigations would furnish soil technologists a basis of scientific soil management. Thus the results of our endeavor will lead to a national program of soil conservation.

In regard to the second proposal, that of universal education in regard to the relation of the soil to existence, I have found that many people who are not actual farmers are interested in the field of soil research and soil technology and that the matter of education should be left to the Soils Section of the American Society of Agronomy.

Another member thinks something can be done through the follow-up committee of the Land Utilization conference held in Chicago in 1931, and that attention be given to the problem of soil erosion. Three members of the committee mentioned soil erosion as a matter of great importance, and emphasized the importance of the research and publicity carried on by H. H. Bennett, a member of the committee.

Wisconsin carried on an educational campaign in soil conservation and members of the Soils Section have made radio addresses and numerous talks on the prevention of erosion, increase of soil fertility, use of fertilizers, and general soil science and management.

Missouri, as all will recall who attended the annual meeting of the Association in 1930, has been doing some excellent work in the investigation of the effects of cultivation upon soils, and the data from similar investigations over the United States and the world at large would be of supreme importance in the scientific management of soils.

Because of the fact that it has been impossible for the chairman to have a meeting during the year since it is known that some of the members of the committee cannot attend the annual meeting of the Association, the chairman assumes responsibility for the following:

Will you not kindly write me your opinions and propositions and make whatever suggestions you care to suggest before you lay this letter aside? I shall then put the suggestions and forward the same to the chairman not later than November 12.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. Hutton, Chairman,
Soil Conservation Committee.