That the members of the Association may not consider my presumption in presenting a paper at this meeting too colossal, I should like to make a brief explanation. When invited to contribute a paper to the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Soil Survey Workers, the question that at once arose in my mind was, by what right, or upon what grounds, could I presume to address a body of veterans on the question of soils, and it was decided, that the position that could be taken would be that of a freshman, and that whatever I might have to say would be merely in the way of an initiation ceremony to a place in the useful and honorable body of Soil Survey workers, and that by attention to the various numbers on the programme I might be able to gather information on the all important subject of soils and to use such parts as particularly applicable to advance our efforts in establishing Soil Surveys in Canada.

We are just beginning the work and are most anxious to gather what information is possible from all sides of the question, so that we may be able to correct, improve, or reject, where the long experience of the members of the Association indicate that changes should be made, and how they should be made.

With this end in view, it is proposed very briefly to tell you something of the events that have been the cause of our starting this work, and to lay before you some of our aims and ambitions that we are hoping will make the Soil Survey and Land Classification a real economic and social factor in Canadian Agricultural development.

I regret that I have to say, that up to the present time, Soil Surveys and Agriculture have had little, if any, relationship to Canada; our policy has been more of the grab-bag variety. If Canadian Agriculture and the Soil Survey had had a much more intimate, intelligent and practical relationship in the past, who can tell what the effect might have been, both economically and socially. Gifted authors write volumes in praise of our fertile and abundant acres; Governments have organized and maintained expensive propagandist missions to induce immigration to make new homes in Canada; Railway companies, Land companies, individuals, all join in the general chorus, telling of our wonderful lands and the bright prospects of those who will come to us; but there, to a large extent, in the past, our efforts have ceased. The settler lands at Montreal, Halifax or New-York, and inquires for the promised land. He is told, right before you are 3,000 miles of the finest of the earth. Take your choice—how much wasted money and time, vain effort, disappointment, and sorrow might have been prevented had a reasonable, common sense, humane system of Soil Survey, land classification, and Colonization, been adopted in early days in Canada. Our patchwork settlements would not exist, railways would not pass through miles and miles of fertile but unoccupied lands, which is one of the factors causing the huge deficits that are annually presented to us to make up.