ADDRESS OF WELCOME

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I do not need to tell you men in this field that there is a very general recognition of the fundamental importance of soil survey work. You are fortunate in being in that field. I say that because one of the greatest difficulties and one of the greatest handicaps that we have to agricultural progress in this country or in any country is the recognition of the fundamental things in the agricultural field. One of the most difficult things in agricultural research is to determine what are the fundamental things, the things that are most needed to make a more stable and a more profitable and a more satisfying farm life, and having determined what those fundamental things are, to secure for those things the necessary and proper support. So I say that you have gone quite a long ways by securing recognition for what seems perfectly evident one of the most fundamental things in the field of agricultural research.

You are fortunate from another angle, and that is that you are in a field of work where your constituency does not demand or expect immediate results, which is another great handicap to agricultural progress. It is much easier, as we all know, to get adequate support for things that promise immediate results or results which people think are going to be immediate, than it is for the fundamental things. I think that Illinois was exceedingly fortunate in having a man like Dr. Hopkins who was able in the earlier history of this institution, and I speak of the early history of the Agricultural College because that was something like only twenty years ago. It was in the earlier history of our Agricultural College and Experiment Station here that we had a man like Dr. Hopkins who was able to go before the people of the state and the State Legislature and show them the fundamental importance of this sort of work and get adequate support for it. In fact, so well did he do his work that it was difficult to get money for other agricultural purposes, but we all recognized, not only the people in the College of Agriculture, but in the whole University as well, that it was not good policy to try to put the brakes on Dr. Hopkins and the soil survey work in order to get something else. We felt that it was a good thing to get that, even if we couldn't get anything else.

This brings me to my last and final point which I want to bring to your attention, and that is the wisdom and desirability of being loyal to your agricultural institution and your agricultural people. Sometimes the agricultural workers, investigators, and teachers in some institutions are very busy in criticizing the work of investigators and teachers in other institutions. Now, men, we are in the business of trying to do something for agriculture, all of us, and we are all too busy to mind other people's business. One of the greatest needs of agriculture today, and I do not confine this to the faculties and staffs of the Experiment Stations, but to farmers throughout the country, one of the greatest needs in agriculture today is to build up a pride in their agricultural institutions and to build up a loyalty for their agricultural institutions, and we as their chosen leaders, must not forget that when we try to tear down the confidence that people have in other agricultural investigators or teachers, we are destroying the very thing that we have got to build on in bringing about agricultural progress in this country. So I beg of you to try to be charitable with each other and confine yourselves to your own job and you will have a man-sized job.