In appearing before this Association it was my thought to acquaint you with something of the nature, method, and progress of soil survey work in Manitoba. The program committee, however, has enlarged upon my suggestion and have assigned in the subject a broader field. Although I am not prepared to say anything of the work in eastern Canada, I am familiar with the work in the prairie provinces as carried on by the Agricultural Colleges.

In Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba soil survey work by the colleges is limited to the older agricultural and occupied lands. While the method of procedure in the three provinces has not been exactly the same, the mapping and classification of the soil is being conducted along lines as similar and alike as is possible for individuals to make them. It will therefore be possible as the work progresses to build up a unified system of soil classification which will increase greatly the value of the separate provincial and dominion surveys.

The soil survey in Manitoba as at present carried on began in the summer of 1921 as a part of a "General Agricultural Survey" of the Agricultural College, the purpose of which was to obtain facts relative to the profitable production of crops and livestock and also to general economic and social conditions. Under this plan fifteen separate areas or municipalities representing the various conditions and soil areas found in the province were selected for the study and investigation.

During the first season soil surveys of but six of these areas were made and at the end of the present season the field work for eight more has been completed making a total of 125 townships. The type of survey followed is between that of the detailed and reconnaissance methods. All roads are traveled by car and depending upon the frequency of them, depends the accuracy and detail of the map. Samples are taken and both mechanical and chemical analyses are made. This type of work furnishes sufficient information for the establishment of the correct types of soil within the province in knowing their extent and relative importance, and thereby aids in a rational planning of fertility tests and experiment fields. In both Saskatchewan and Alberta approximately a similar area as in Manitoba has been completed. In these provinces however the areas mapped have been larger and hence fewer in number. The larger area as the unit has the advantages of covering the ground more quickly when once a definite policy has been formed and of permitting a more thorough study of a particular section, the smaller unit however enables one to size up more quickly the soil of the province as a whole, and to acquaint one with the conditions with which he will have to deal.

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PROGRESS OF SOIL SURVEY WORK IN CANADA
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