We have in Wisconsin an agency called the State Soils Laboratory, whose function it is to analyze and map soils and recommend methods for their treatment. Under this law passed in 1913 and amended in 1919 any farmer or land owner may apply on a card provided for the purpose, to have his farm soil examined by a representative of the Laboratory, samples analyzed and treatment recommended.

The payment of the proper fee, entitles the applicant to a personal visit by the representative, the taking by him of all necessary samples of soil and a typewritten report based on the results of the field examination and laboratory analyses. A part of the expense of the work is borne by the state. The fee charged varies with the amount of land examined and the amount of work done. It is cheaper for a group of five farmers to club together, in which case also, the field man holds a meeting for discussion of the analyses and recommendations. The cost to the individual farmer runs from $5 to $10 for the examination of 80 acres of land.

Under this law, also, certain large land holders, owning large blocks of cut-over land in the north half of the state, have asked the Laboratory to map and report its findings on each forty owned by them. The first work of this kind undertaken in 1921 consisted of 250 forties. In 1922, 1600 forties were so mapped and reported, the Laboratory establishing a camp with cook and 4 tents for 3 months for this purpose. In 1923 about 1400 forties scattered over 7 counties were mapped, the work being done entirely by car because the lands were too widely scattered to allow the economical use of a camping outfit.

Cost:

The charge for this work in 1922 was $2 per forty and in 1923 it was $2.50 per forty because of the more scattered nature of the lands, making progress more difficult. In both seasons, there was a small deficit to the Laboratory after paying all expenses. With an estimated daily expense of $30 for salaries of four men, hotel, car expense, etc. it required that 12 forties be mapped daily on the average to pay expenses. This amounted to about 100 forties, per week, counting out delays, rains, Sundays, etc.

Procedure:

The forties to be mapped were first checked off from the lists on to the best county road map procurable. The car was driven to the nearest point possible, the remaining distance to the forties being covered by pacing and compassing. One of the new Bureau speedometers registering 10th,