THE VALUE OF A STATE FIELD LEADER IN SOIL SURVEY.

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Due to the large number of soil series found in the United States, the Bureau of Soils has seen fit to confine the work of the inspectors to certain states, or soil regions. In this way the inspector soon becomes familiar with the formations and the various soil series within his territory and is able thereby to make uniform classifications. Whereas, if he should be sent from one section of the country to another where the soils were entirely different he would have difficulty in making the proper classifications.

In order to obtain uniform results in the classification and mapping of soils within a state, or in a given locality, it is just as important to have a state field leader as it is to have a division inspector. The state field leader is an important factor in a scheme of uniform soil classification and mapping. He bears the same relation to a state, or given locality, as the federal inspector does to his division.

It is true that the inspector visits the areas and classifies the soils for the field man but quite often the field man, especially if he is new in the work or unfamiliar with the soils of the province, does not learn the soil differences in the short time the inspector can be with him. He is left on his own resources. Aside from the difficulty of determining the true series he will often find many variations from typical types that are sure to cause him trouble. Quite often he finds the problems so complex and becomes so bewildered that he cannot even make proper separations of types. Probably many of you have had difficulty of this kind when you were new in the work or was sent into a province unfamiliar to you. Quite often it would take weeks to work out the problems satisfactorily, then it would be necessary to revise the work already completed in order to make a uniform soil map. Thus valuable time is consumed.

The state man not only learns to recognize the series and types readily but becomes familiar with their crop adaptations and other factors that may often be overlooked by one new in the territory. Therefore, he is able to make a better map, not only from a scientific but from a practical standpoint as well. He is better qualified to write a report than otherwise he would be if new in the territory and not entirely familiar with the soils and agriculture of the region.

"Many men, many minds", could also include "sight" and be applied to soil survey. Quite often men see soils differently; their ideas vary. Therefore, to obtain uniform results in soil