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SOILS AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR FERTILITY THROUGH THE GROWTH OF LEGUMES.

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Four years ago I had the honour to bring before the members of the Montreal Natural History Society an account of the work accomplished by the Chemical Division of the Experimental Farms during the eight years that had passed since these valuable institutions, designed to promote the agricultural interests of Canada, had been established by our Government.* In that brief review it was shown that our chemical work practically covered the whole field of agriculture, and included the analysis of soils, naturally-occurring fertilizers fodders, dairy products, insecticides and fungicides, in addition to the carrying on of such investigations in connection with economic plant and animal production as required the aid of chemistry for their successful prosecution.

On the present occasion, instead of making a general *resumé* of our researches and results, I purpose considering a single branch of investigation, one that has been carried on in the fields and laboratories of the Experimental Farm with signal success and that has yielded results of the highest value to those who wish to maintain or recover the productiveness of their land. I refer to the improvement of soils through the growth of legumes.

* A lecture delivered in the Summerville Course (Montreal), April 1896, and entitled "Chemical Work in Canadian Agriculture."