

the pastures have deteriorated until a great deal of this land is now practically unproductive, the live stock on the farms is underfed and not infrequently a large amount of feed has to be purchased. Conditions vary greatly as between district and district and between farm and farm. We do not know the botanical character of plant growth on these pastures; we do not know the soil peculiarities; we do not know the economic considerations involved in their improvement. Consequently, while we may make suggestions, and we must try what we can to better things for the time being, we cannot hope to establish intelligent practice until we have a better understanding of what should be done. This means research.

The lack of productivity in soil is leading farmers to what might be called fertilizer practice. There has been tremendous development in the fertilizer business in the past few years; a great variety of synthetic as well as material products is being produced and high pressure salesmanship in many forms is being employed to persuade farmers that the solution of their soil and crop problems lies in a particular fertilizer. The purchase of many of these is just about as much of a gamble as the purchase of the average mining stock certificate. Undoubtedly the use of fertilizers is desirable, perhaps necessary, but unless that use is judicious, farmers are likely to lose a great deal of money they can ill afford and may still further impair the value of their soil. Paralleling the growing use of fertilizers there should be a constructive programme of investigation work and since this would be closely related to some of the work the College is now doing, it could with advantage participate in it.