

- slums. The remedy may be to assist the occupants to locate elsewhere and the land used in forestry and/or grazing.
- (2) Areas where small inefficient farms prevail for which there is a reasonable chance of aiding their occupants to increase their efficiency through facilities not presently available to them, and thus help them to raise their level of living.
 - (3) Areas of soil erosion and depletion of fertility vary according to the contour and character of the land, and cultural practices. Even in more successful farming areas problems in soil erosion and the depletion of fertility are found. While the direct responsibility for solving these problems is that of the farmer, his circumstances may be such that he cannot adopt effective practices and it may be desirable to provide assistance for him to do so.
 - (4) Problems in water resources and control are also problems in land use. Drainage may be required to increase productivity, dyking to reduce hazards from flooding; or, on the other hand, structures to impound water to raise water tables, or for storing water to irrigate.
 - (5) From the time man commences to use these resources for his own betterment and that of mankind, he disturbs the balance of nature and then arise problems of soil erosion, fertility maintenance, flooding and decreased water supplies, and a whole host of others related to land and water use. In too many cases there is a delay in the application of corrective measures until the land becomes noticeably less productive. Such occur even in the better farming areas. It is in the interests of all to assist the users of our land into husbandary practices which maintain its productive capacity.

Co-ordination and Expansion of Further Study and Action.—The evidence indicates considerable work has been done and is underway by various government departments and also by private enterprise in the field of land use and water conservation, both in investigational phases, (soil, land use and economic surveys) and to a lesser extent in action programs. It has also been represented to the Committee that the efforts have fallen far short of what is required and moreover there has been some duplication. A plea has been made for a centralized co-ordinating agency to give encouragement and direction in the research into land and water use problems and in action programs designed for their solution.

The Committee's Job

It is essential that the Committee continues to study a number of phases on the subject of land and water use and related aspects in production, marketing, financing, etc., for the better informed it can become, the sounder the judgment it can render and wiser the decisions it can make. However, the Committee believes the task at hand is to determine:

- (1) What problems in land and water use can be most effectively handled in an overall national policy, and,
- (2) What form of organization should be established to give leadership to such a national program.

It would seem that the Committee's activity should be directed along the following lines: Study achievements of significance in a number of existing systematic programs designed to bring about better land and water use.

Examples are:

- (1) Development of soil improvement associations by farmers themselves.
- (2) Agency programs in restoring tree cover to non-arable lands.