

considerably raised by the more extensive and regular growth of one of the legumes.

You must not imagine from what I have said in this address that there are any grounds for considering our cultivated soils and their productiveness as seriously impaired ; such is not the case, save in a few localities in restricted areas. I do, however, say that in many parts of Canada we have, either through ignorance or carelessness, or both, practised a very foolish and irrational system of farming, one in which much has been taken out of the soil and little or nothing returned, a system which has necessarily resulted in diminished yields—the first and most serious step towards unprofitable farming. Since it is almost impossible to materially lower within a few years what I have termed the “ total ” stores of mineral plant food in the soil, it is evident that our one-sided system of farming has exhausted the land of those very small, but nevertheless most valuable, supplies of soluble available constituents which go to nourish crops. It is to restore these economically, to add humus and nitrogen, that this method of manuring by the clover is strongly advocated. I trust sufficient evidence has been brought forward to show that theory and practice alike justify us in recommending this system as one of the most effective, and certainly the cheapest for soil restoration.

We may well consider our soils as a natural resource of great and permanent value. They are a resource which should increase rather than deteriorate in value as time goes on, and I have no doubt that such will be the case. Of the capabilities and possibilities of agriculture in Canada we cannot as yet form any adequate conception, for little more than one-tenth of our agricultural lands is as yet tilled. Thousands upon thousands of acres of fertile soil yet await the husbandman to yield their quota of wealth. We may be said to be only beginning farming, but nevertheless we have sufficient evidence to show that Canada is pre-eminently a food-producing country. It is all important, therefore, that no pains should be spared in the investigation of agricultural problems and in the dissemination of information arising therefrom. Every year marks an advance, and the most encouraging sign of all is that our agricultural work is being more