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THE IDEALS OF A SOIL SURVEY.

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A NATIONAL soil survey is a method of classifying lands into groups and types in a manner which designs to express the relationship of one soil to another, and to indicate the relative value of each. One of the last stages of such a work is the demarking of boundaries of soil types in the form of a soil map. A soil survey therefore seeks to classify land with regard to its quality and usually takes place in settled country, while a land survey deals chiefly with the position of land and usually takes place in virgin country. A topographical survey is a land survey on a larger scale, giving details of surface contour, and showing the chief improvements effected by settlement, such as roads, bridges, and buildings.

The United States Department of Agriculture has among its several organizations a Bureau of Soils, which is charged with the duty of carrying out a soil survey of the American Union. In a little work issued by the Bureau the purpose of a soil survey is described as "to map, classify, correlate soils, to determine their field characteristics, to report on the actual use being made of the soils and on their adaptations to various crops so far as can be determined, and upon the relative productiveness of the several soil types." The Bureau