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OFFICIAL PART.

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MOST IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

His Excellency, The Governor General, has just sanctioned a most important Act, by which Experimental Stations of the highest order become one of the duties, even the leading branch, of our Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa.

The principal Station is to be at Ottawa and may cover 500 acres of land, if necessary, with all required appliances for a thorough and complete Experimental Station. Under-stations are also proposed—one for the Maritime Provinces, a second in Manitoba, another in the N. W. Territories and a fourth in British Columbia; to which under stations as many as 300 acres of land may be attached, \$360,000,—a most liberal vote, has been given, this year, for the foundation of such stations, with a promise of the needed

maintainance supplies in the future. Without going into details, it may be averred that the *Act* covers the needed powers for the thorough investigation of all and every agricultural problem.

These Experimental Stations, altho' worked in the interests of the various provinces, are in no wise under the control of the provincial authorities. They will, all of them, be under the exclusive direction of the Minister of Agriculture.

We frankly confess that no country, to our knowledge at least, has started its Experimental Stations with a project more general in its useful aim, or more generously endowed at its creation.

Having, as we have, for several years past, called so strongly for such experimental stations, we now take great pleasure in tending to all concerned in this important move our heartfelt thanks for what we consider a much needed and most patriotic project.

But now that the necessity of Experimental Stations has been so fully admitted, it becomes the duty of all who have made a study of this difficult subject to suggest what is needed, in order to obtain as quickly as possible, the best results. We therefore venture the following suggestions, with the hope that they may lead to a full study of the whole question, before any useless expenditure be made.

THE SITE. Each of the proposed Experimental Stations should, in our opinion, command as great a variety of soils as can be found within a reasonable distance in the chosen locality. Even detached fields, at a distance from the stations, should be secured, if a full variety of soils cannot be obtained otherwise. The main station, at least, should comprise soils heavy and light, wet and dry, even swampy, with facilities for irrigation and the formation of water meadows, permanent grasses, &c. All this, we believe, can easily be secured near Ottawa.