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DOMINION OF CANADA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

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POTATO SCAB

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I. COMMON SCAB.

This disease of potatoes is one of the commonest and most widely distributed. It makes the tubers unsightly, and therefore decreases their value for sale purposes—in some cases as much as fifty or even seventy-five per cent.

It takes the form of more or less circular areas on the surface of the tuber, sometimes raised above the general level of the skin, sometimes sunk below. The scabbed spots vary much in size and frequently they are so numerous as to run into each other. The prevalent colour of the scabby spots is brown.

Common Scab is caused by a minute organism to which the name *Actinomyces scabies* Güssow has been given. This organism lives on the skin of the potato tuber, and causes the cells of the skin, when young, to multiply or divide up in an irregular manner, thus forming the scab or pustule instead of a smooth skin.

It has been found that the organism causing scab on potatoes can also attack beet, mangel, turnip, cabbage, and carrot, and probably some other crops as well. It can also live in the soil for five years or longer without any of the above crops.