

University of Toronto

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

COPY.

University of Toronto,  
Department of Botany,  
March 11, 1932

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,  
President,  
University of Toronto.

Dear Sir Robert:

With regard to Sir Arthur Currie's letter suggesting that this University co-operate with other Universities in making representations to the Government at Ottawa as to the importance of the plant pathological and entomological services of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, I may say that this department is unanimous in feeling that the suggestion is one worthy of our active support. The services involved have shown themselves to be of fundamental importance to the economic welfare of the Dominion and to the development of scientific information in their respective fields.

In our opinion the inspection and preventive service alone more than justifies the funds required to carry on the entire work. In so far as work in connection with plants is concerned, it is general knowledge that within the last fifty years several disastrous diseases have caused enormous losses which in every case, except that of stem rust of wheat, have been caused by an organism recently introduced from some foreign country. For example, chestnut blight, which destroyed the magnificent chestnut forests of the Eastern United States, was due to a fungus introduced from the Orient. Likewise the citrus canker which cost the Gulf States millions of dollars to eradicate was caused by a bacterium introduced from Japan. To mention one more of similar cases, the blister rust which threatens the ultimate destruction of our white pine, came to us from Europe in shipments of nursery stock. It is difficult to see how the suspension of a service which gives us a reasonable measure of