

The rust problem, it seems to me, should be approached from three well-defined points of attack—Plant Pathological, in its ordinarily accepted sense, Plant Breeding and Biochemical. There seems little doubt that the best interests of the work, where some of these lines investigation parallel each other or even overlap, would be most effectively served by the close contact of workers which centralization of effort would necessarily involve. On the other hand, if such centralization demanded the divorcing of all our research problems from university contact and influence, some of the most fundamental, most essential and most significant phases of our research would suffer materially. Such is not the intention. Everyone should wholeheartedly aid.

The question where such co-operative scheme in which all interests should be represented, Federal, Provincial, College and University, should be inaugurated, may be left to the discussion of the subject on the occasion of a conference recently proposed by our Department to be held shortly in Winnipeg, where all parties interested in this exceedingly important question will be afforded an opportunity to express their views. Tentatively, I would submit that an initial appropriation of some \$100,000 would take care of the necessary buildings and land as well as nearly every other expenditure for the first year. Thereafter an increase of our present expenditure and its support for a number of years will fairly adequately accomplish our aims. In consideration of the \$90—100,000,000 annual losses from grain diseases in Canada, this expenditure would not seem out of proportion, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, such proposal will meet with the unanimous support of many experienced and able technical men consulted; an organization capable of rendering the widest possible national service.

In closing I wish to draw attention as an alternative to Federal control, to a method of solution which has been accomplished in Great Britain through the establishment of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge. The institution owes its foundation to the abnormal conditions which prevailed during the war. The Minister of Agriculture and the Director General of Food Production strongly supported proposals for the creation of an institute of applied Botany. The provision of universal generous support gave hope of a satisfactory financial basis for the scheme, and in the winter 1917-18 memoranda explaining the scope and aim of the Institute were prepared and circulated to those who were likely to be interested. The generous response made to this appeal by members of the leading organizations of the Seed trade, grain merchants and millers, assured the movement of success and enabled the promoters to proceed with this plan. Eminent officials scientific and educational authorities, gave their aid and advice freely in the long and sometimes delicate negotiations with various Departments, official bodies and individuals, until finally the Trust Deed was formally adopted.

The aim of the Institute is the general improvement of yield and quality of all farm crops. It has been pointed out that the problem of wheat rust is a national problem, as well as an international one, that success of the work depends largely upon generous financial support, so that equipment, including buildings, as well as personnel of the highest type available, may be secured. What has been possible in Great Britain surely ought to be possible in Canada, and no doubt great interest would be taken in the success of this kind of work were direct interests in Canada in a position to contribute to the maintenance of such research project. It is to their interest that progress be made; they have a right to demand every assistance, but they may also be afforded an opportunity of supporting such important work by contributions devoted to the solution of this and every other problem of vital interest to the nation.