

SOME NOTES ON THE WORK OF THE FEDERAL DIVISION OF BOTANY

This is a brief statement of some facts that may be considered to have a bearing on the proposed cut in the appropriation of the Federal grant to the Division of Botany.

The chief endeavour of the Division of Botany is in the field of Plant Pathology. While Plant Pathology is one of the most recently developed branches of botanical studies, it is today one of the most important. The development of this science in Canada has been rapid during the past twenty years and in a measure in keeping with developments in this field elsewhere. In 1909 the Dominion Government established the Division of Botany as an entity and Dr. Gussow the present Dominion Botanist was appointed to be the head of the Division with one laboratory at Ottawa. Since then the services of the Division have been extended by the establishment of ten other laboratories across Canada all organized for the purpose of plant pathological work. There is now one laboratory in each province excepting British Columbia which has two. These are called Dominion Laboratories of Plant Pathology. While much credit is due Dr. Gussow for his leadership in this work and his efforts in inducing the Government to organize these laboratories, these have really been established due to pressure from various groups of growers in order to deal with special disease problems in the growing of plants. In other words each has been organized to meet a definite need and situation.

I estimate the permanent staff of these laboratories to total about fifty. For the summer work, in addition, about seventy-five