

It is my privilege to acknowledge, as well as to remove any impression of casting undeserved reflections, that our work in relation to the study of grain disease is receiving every and untiring support from the Director of the Experimental Farms, who has given every aid to see this work succeed. I am sure that many times he has placed at our disposal, facilities even at a sacrifice of other phases of work in order to promote the progress of this work. But even the Director of the Experimental Farms is not always certain of the support that is required for the much-needed advancement and progress of agriculture in Canada as founded upon scientific research and experimentation. We cannot permanently draw upon our stores of knowledge without being given every aid in adding to the same, to the benefit of the agricultural industry of the whole Dominion.

I now come to the point of suggesting some constructive criticism. I have pointed out that our work is carried on at four places—Saskatoon, Indian Head, Brandon and Winnipeg. The requirements of each of these laboratories as at present constituted are exactly similar. This means that we have to quadruplicate equipment and that we are not in a financial position to provide each of these laboratories with more than the minimum in labour, technical and otherwise, the physical equipment in laboratory apparatus, the necessary greenhouse accommodation, and the free use of land according to our requirements.

We are spending annually about \$25,000, a sum entirely out of proportion to the interests involved. Under the circumstances, centralization of effort suggests itself primarily, instead of the provision of more elaborate facilities at each Station. The present laboratories should serve as field or summer quarters. In addition, however, there should be provided an up-to-date laboratory where all our efforts may be centralized. This would save considerable sums of money now necessary to maintain the individual laboratories; it would economize at once in administration, as well as in the provision of technical assistance to each single field laboratory.

Such laboratory building should be erected in the most suitable locality, where preferably gas, water, and electricity are available, and not too far removed from any important centre, within a recognized rust zone, preferably. Attached, or in connection with such central an adequate greenhouse provision, as well as some ten or twenty acres of land.

The work would be in charge, under supervision from Ottawa—mainly because of effecting the necessary relief from executive work—of an experienced man, with at least the present number of assistants at his disposal, to which number should be added, as the work grows, a number of other specialists. It is essential that there should be, instead of one assistant as at present, at least four assistants and several junior pathologists, to perform the many duties for which higher paid officials should not be used, and to intelligently look after the field work in different localities. Furthermore, this central laboratory should be large enough to accommodate at least one experienced geneticist, or plant breeder, with—eventually—several assistants, in order to co-ordinate all breeding work carried on in an endeavour to bring a solution of the subject considerably more within reach.

It is felt that the establishment of such an institution, and liberal financial support for a period of some ten years or more, will very materially aid our work, as well as constitute one of the most important steps towards the solution of the great wheat rust problem. Moreover, it will eventually provide a very necessary headquarters where fellowship problems now endowed at various centres by the National Research Council, may be worked out. We have in view that such institution with full equipment and every facility for research might be generously enough supported so as to attract all those men who are now more or less independently work at this problem. Endowed in such a manner we would have an institution of which the Dominion could be the proud leader in that phase of agricultural research, instead of a poor follower as at present.