

Comments on Proposed Reduction in Dominion Grant
for Agriculture.

In considering the reduction in the Agricultural Grant for the Dominion Department of Agriculture for 1932-33, one is confronted with the difficulty of not knowing exactly how it will apply within the various branches. It would appear, however, that for the department as a whole the cut of some 33% in the appropriation is one of the largest proposed in the Government Service.

With some of the proposed reductions one cannot disagree in these times, in fact one might be tempted to make them larger did circumstances permit. The grant of \$150,000 for a World Grain Congress under present conditions would be hard to justify were we not committed to it. The reduced assistance to Fairs will not be popular but it is possible that this form of agricultural assistance may have been overdone in the past. In any case, it can well be reduced now and Exhibitions can find various ways of making the necessary adjustments.

One finds in the estimates that one important branch, namely, Live Stock, is cut less than 10%, while another, Administration of Destructive Insect and Pest Act, considered vital from a crop production standpoint is cut over 50%. The certified seed potato business, the production of quality fruit, and farm crop protection against injurious insects depend directly upon this service. A fifty per cent service will certainly involve grave risks.

The Experimental Farms Branch is cut some \$800,000, or approximately 39%, the Health of Animals Branch, a like amount, or