

cannot be laid down for any work in agriculture or horticulture. The principles which underly these matters, the general methods which must be followed, can be laid down, but the application of these principles and methods to the work on a particular piece of land must be more or less varied according to the conditions and circumstances and the facilities which are present. To-night we have a long programme, and I do not intend to detain you at any great length. I hope to be with you during the whole of the meeting, and we shall, no doubt, have a number of opportunities of taking up other things and discussing other matters before the Convention closes. I wish to say, before closing, that I regret that, as an official of the Association, of which I have been for a number of years a Director, and of which I have had the honour of being this year Vice-President, I will have to bring my connection with it to a close. The onerous duties I have assumed as Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion will not allow me to do justice to the work I would be called on to do as an official of this Association. I regret this extremely. I would be glad, indeed, to go on doing what I could, as an official of the Society, as I have done in the past. I hope, however, to continue a member of it, and I assure you that, if in any way, in my official capacity, I may be able to promote the work the Fruit Association is doing, I shall be only too glad to do the utmost in my power. (Applause.)

Our President has spoken about a matter to which he has drawn my special attention, that of experimental fruit stations worked by individuals over the Province. This is a matter about which I have thought a good deal lately, because my attention had also been drawn to it by the work done in the Province of Ontario. The work done there has been done by the means of the Local Government, which established such stations as Mr. Chapis has described; and up to a certain point, I understand they have been doing excellent work. They have not yet gone into some spheres in which too, perhaps work ought to be done, but they hope to extend the sphere of their work, and in that respect our Province might well follow their example. We have the same necessity for experimenting in different parts of our Province, perhaps even greater necessity, and I hope that in this work the Province of Quebec will emulate her sister Province. If in addition I may be able to make any arrangement which will facilitate such work, which will perhaps increase the efficiency and scope of the work done at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa and its branches, you may be sure I shall not neglect to do so. (Applause.) With these few remarks, which I have made entirely on the spur of the moment, I shall conclude.

I have been speaking for the last month, pretty nearly every day or two, at agricultural meetings, and am glad to say I have had the opportunity of meeting a very large number of people interested in this industry in various parts of the country. I feel it my duty as it has always been my pleasure, to go about and discuss with the people the details and methods of their business, find out their views and ideas, and especially to study what can be done by the Government of our country to aid what I consider our most important industry, the industry of farming. It was in this view that I attended this large number of meetings since the session closed. I have now pretty nearly got to the end of the work, and must the next month sit quietly at Ottawa to prepare for the work of the session. I am especially gratified that the last meeting I attend is

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