

breeding of disease-resistant varieties of crop plants.

It would seem that few of these activities can be even temporarily reduced and few even of the smaller laboratories closed without loss to the country.

Of particular value, for example, at the present time, in view of the need of diversification of Western agriculture, is the work being carried on with clovers and other forage crops in the Dominion Plant Pathology Laboratories at Saskatoon and Edmonton. The growing of clover and other legume crops, so necessary in any system of diversified agriculture has never been satisfactorily established on the prairies, due chiefly to excessive "winter killing". At these laboratories it has recently been found that much of the so-called winter killing is really due to disease, the organism of which flourishes at low temperatures. With this knowledge available, progress can now be made in the production of resistant varieties. On the other hand, there are proposals to use this knowledge for exactly the opposite purpose. It is believed that it would be possible to infest certain species of noxious weeds with this disease and thus have a biological method of weed control.

Vigilance in the inspection of imports cannot safely be relaxed.