

something of assistance and help in your future work. Twenty-nine hundred miles and a week of travel is no small undertaking, especially at such a busy season, but I shall not feel that my time has been lost if I can leave behind me some information which may be of assistance to you in your occupation as fruit growers.

You must not think, however, because this is my first visit that my interest is only now awakening in the fruit industry of British Columbia. You are doubtless aware that the Experimental Farm system was inaugurated some thirteen years ago, and that I was then appointed to the position I now hold in that institution. Ever since that time I have had in mind, and, as I might say, in my daily work, the agricultural problems which affect you in British Columbia. During the past ten years we have received a large number of samples of soil from the Provinces, and these have, as far as time allowed, received our careful attention. I regret exceedingly that, owing to the increase of chemical work, it has not been possible during the last few years, although we have increased the analytical staff, to keep up with the demands made upon us by the various Provinces of the Dominion.

You will readily recognize that ours being a Dominion institution takes a practical interest in agriculture as carried on in all the Provinces, and consequently we cannot devote the whole of our time or the whole of our attention to any particular part of the Dominion, nor can we give more than a certain quota of time to any particular problem, though that may be of very great importance to a certain locality. I say this because some have said lately that British Columbia is being neglected by our chemical division.

I have been looking forward to this visit for several years. My work necessarily keeps me very much in Ottawa, and the great distance to the West and the time involved in travelling have hitherto been against me visiting British Columbia, consequently I was very much pleased to receive the authority of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to come and meet you. I very much regret it was not a summer convention, for then I could have seen more of your country and seen it to better advantage.

And that brings me to the second thought I would give you; and that is, that, while I may be of help to you, I may learn something myself of the conditions under which fruit growing and farming are carried on. I am not altogether selfish in this wish. Although I take a great interest in the whole question of British Columbia agriculture, from a scientific standpoint, it is above all things my hope that I may go back better informed as to your possibilities and difficulties here, so that I can in the future help those in the Province with whom I may be in correspondence.

Doubtless most of you know that our central institution has become, together with the branch farms, what I may term a bureau of information. Numbers of letters, regarding soils and various other matters relating to agriculture, are received. The number of communications of this kind is yearly increasing, and we are very glad to note that this branch of work is receiving so much appreciation from our farmers. It is that I may be in a better position to give advice, information and help that I am now keeping my eyes open. As I said to the Hon. Minister before I came away, "Well, if I cannot do very much practical good there—and I certainly do not expect to do as much good there as I shall the second time I go to British Columbia, for the simple reason that I am not personally conversant with conditions prevailing there,—I shall certainly come back with a better idea of farming possibilities in that Province, and better able to carry out work in the future on behalf of the British Columbia farmers and fruit growers."

This explains my attitude toward you on this visit, and I trust you will help me all in your power, during my stay, towards mastering your conditions. At the same time I really want you to make use of me. When I do not know anything I will confess my ignorance, but you must remember that during this meeting and the future meetings of this convention, I shall not deem it an interruption to have you ask questions, and the more questions you will ask the better I shall like it. This I say that I may have ample opportunity to learn your successes and failures, and not with a view of showing off what little I know, but that I may find out what are your real wants and difficulties. When I know these I shall be in a better position to decide as to the problems that should first receive attention.

It was remarked to me just a moment ago that there is nothing new under the sun, and I am very much inclined to endorse that proposition, but there is sometimes a new way of putting an old truth. Old truths by a new voice very often strike home in a more emphatic way from the mere fact that they are uttered by a fresh voice. Frequently there is something