

8th March, 1954.

My dear Dodds,

I am enclosing a proposal which I have recently put before the A.R.C., and of which I very much hope you may approve, if only for securing for genuinely genetic work the facilities available in your Potato Genetics Research Station.

However, it is rather to the general principle, and not only to its application to the situation at Cambridge, that I should like to direct your attention.

As you may know, speaking at Bayfordbury a few years ago, I did stress the importance of such a great permanent centre of genetical research preserving and maintaining plant material of importance for teaching, and of potential value for research. I still think such would be a most important side activity of the great Institution which I expect may well develop under your care. However, it is out of the consideration that what is everybody's business is usually nobody's business that I am now suggesting the establishment of one, or, perhaps later, more centres specifically charged with its own tasks and therefore not principally charged with agricultural or horticultural plant improvement, or with general research in horticultural husbandry

as the John Innes traditionally is.

Do not hurry, but remember I shall like ^{in due time} to have your
reaction.

Sincerely yours,

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