

Wire from Dr Fortuyn
Oct 29. - Coming Monday

October 26, 1942

My dear Dr Fortuyn,

It is with the greatest pleasure that I hear that you have arrived in England, and as you may be with us only for a short while, I sincerely hope that you and Mrs Fortuyn will be able to come down here to lunch with me and spend part of the day. You will, I think, be interested in some of the things we ^{missed +} have been doing with mice.

It was bad luck that I missed you on Thursday last, for I had every expectation of being at the meeting in order to take the Chair, for I am at the moment still President of the Genetical Society in this country. However, my term of office ends next Midsummer, and I hope that G.D. Derlington, now Director of the John Innes Institution at Werton, will be my successor. I expect, however, that you were able to see Mather and Ford, now Secretaries of the Society, and perhaps some other members of the Committee.

I had hoped to visit the United States last year to fill a number of engagements sponsored by the U.S.D.A.. Our passport department, however, kept me waiting for six months for an answer, and finally sent me a negative one at the last possible moment, as if to inconvenience my American friends as much as possible. I have not been able even yet to ascertain the reason for this action, though, of

course, Washington was able to supply a number of rumours, e.g., that the London police thought I was a Communist, or that the Ministry of Information felt an urge to prevent my visit for their own ends. I think it to be much more probably a matter of simple incompetence in a Government office, like most others doubtless overworked, and inexperienced in the greater part of their duties.

Please come any day that suits you, including Saturday or Sunday. If you can give me two or three days notice I shall be able to make sure that you are expected, or to warn you if I happen to have a conflicting engagement on the day chosen.

Yours sincerely,