

15 December 1931.

F.R. Tubbs, Esq.,  
Tea Research Institute,  
St. Coombs,  
TALAWAKELLE,  
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Dear Tubbs:

The experiment you suggest looks perfectly sound and straightforward. On genetical grounds, one would expect to be able to detect differences between the progenies of different mother plants in growth characters and also in the quality of the leaf, although such progenies are probably very little less variable than the general population. The method you suggest of comparing the variability of different progenies, is perfectly sound in principle, but I should be much surprised if significant differences appear with no more than five-fold replication; because one would not expect different maternal progenies to differ greatly in variability, and because the contribution of soil variability within the plot, might account for a considerable fraction of what one is measuring. These considerations do not at all invalidate any significant result which may appear, but suggest that progeny

variability may be a difficult attribute to measure with sufficient precision.

Yours sincerely,