

pronouncing. In the case of Ashburton the entire conduct and execution of the work is in the hands of the Department, and it is probable that one or two similar stations in the South Island will be established.

I do not think, however, that any considerable extension of experimental substations should be taken in hand until the possibilities in this direction provided by the special institutional farms of the Mental Hospitals and Education Departments have been exhausted. There are at least five of these in the South Island well provided with suitable land and ample labour and equipment, and it would seem as if mutual advantage would accrue to the Departments concerned by co-operative action for the institution of a scheme of strict experimental work on these farms. There is also the question as to whether or not the local authorities might not reasonably be expected to bear a share in the establishment of these district substations, as is done elsewhere.* In the American State of Ohio, for example, what is known as the County Experiment Law authorizes the establishment of county experiment farms, in order to demonstrate the practical application under the local conditions of the result of the investigations of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, and for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the agriculture of the various counties of the State. It authorizes the County Commissioners, after certain preliminary procedure, to levy a tax for the purpose, out of which the cost of the experiment farm, its equipment, and the cost of labour is met, to an extent not exceeding £400 annually. The management of all county experiment farms is vested in the Director of the Ohio Experimental Station. The law also requires that a county experiment farm shall contain not less than 80 acres of land.

Any provision that may be made in the direction of establishing experimental substations will not, however, obviate the necessity for other experimental areas, especially in a country like New Zealand, which, exhibits such a variety of local conditions. It has been suggested that schemes of experiment on reasonable areas might be operated in association with high schools throughout the Dominion, and provided satisfactory arrangements were made for the cultural work this appears to me to be an excellent idea. As a reasonable working basis I would suggest that the school, supported by the local agricultural committee or other responsible authority, should provide a minimum of 10 acres of land, and

* In the discussion on the paper Sir James Wilson mentioned that County Councils in New Zealand have the power to subsidize and to have a farm under their management. The power, however, has never been exercised.