CARE AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND USED FOR EXPERIMENTS WITH FARM CROPS.

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Presented at the Fifth Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, November, 1912.

It is probably safe to say that one of the most difficult problems in the carrying out of field experiments is the care and the management of the land. When a person undertakes to conduct experiments with farm crops in the field, he sooner or later comes in contact with difficulties which are hard to overcome in the ordinary cultivation of the soil. It is doubtful if any experimenter on the American continent has solved some of the questions to the entire satisfaction of himself. I venture to bring this subject before you, not because I consider that I have obtained an ideal method, but rather to open up the question for discussion that others may have an opportunity of presenting their views. In order that the discussion may be directed along fairly definite lines, I shall venture to state in a simple way what is being done at Guelph with a hope that others present at the meeting may also be induced to give simple statements of the methods which they are following. While it is true that no one plan of operation will apply equally well under all conditions and circumstances, we believe that a discussion of this kind will present suggestions which might be of great value, especially for those who have been conducting field experiments for a comparatively short time. In handling the land used for the purpose of experiment with farm crops, such as the testing of varieties, the selection of seed, the depth of planting, the time of planting, the advisability of growing grain singly or in combination, and similar experiments, it is important to know just what is best to be done in regard to underdraining the land, cultivating the soil, the system of rotation, the application of fertilizers and manures, etc. While it is important to conduct definite experiments along each of these lines, it is also absolutely necessary to deal with those same questions in the regular experiments which deal with other problems. It seems to me that there is a great danger of being somewhat careless in connection with some of these operations, and that the results obtained will be reduced in value accordingly. On the other hand, there is a danger of being so impractical that the work is removed beyond the method and the comprehension of the average farmer so