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SCHOLAR, PART, LONDON.



PRIVY COUNCIL

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
6a, DEAN'S YARD,
LONDON, S.W.1.

21st June, 1945.

Dear Fisher,

I had hoped to call on you and finish our conversation, but it now appears to be impossible until the latter half of July. I am sorry for this, as it would have been easier to deal with your letter of the 18th after we had had a further talk, and I now have some difficulty in sending a clear reply.

First of all, I see no prospect of dealing with your proposal, involving Sir Charles Normand, at all speedily. The question of the future set up for statistics was only half dealt with at the meeting of the Joint Committee you attended and it clearly must come up again. Yates' part in the business is fairly well defined, but the Scottish and Cambridge aspects are still (anyhow so far as I am concerned) rather hazy. When I have previously thought of what may be described as "your end" I have had chiefly in mind the statistic requirements of experiments with animals, e.g. the B.C.G. work, or the Compton tests of abortion
/vaccines.

Professor R.A. Fisher, Sc.D.,
F.R.S.

vaccines. I had envisaged an extension perhaps into experiments in respect of nutrition, e.g. feeding values of different pastures, but I had not until our talk associated you with the statistical problems of animal breeding, performance tests and so on (although in view of your present University position, I clearly ought to have done). You know more or less what the Council has in view for animal breeding, that White has been appointed a member of the Council's staff and that a second appointment is contemplated, with Waddington in view. The idea is that these two should prepare a scheme for the new organisation and take leading positions in it, not that the Council should prepare a scheme and present it cut and dried for someone else to run. In these circumstances, it seems clear that the two "leaders" must have a large say in respect of the statistical part of their organisation. At present I know no more of their views than that they agree with you and me that this is a very important aspect. I am sure they will want to discuss it with you, but whether they will conclude that it can best be dealt with by a statistical unit at Cambridge, such as you suggest, I simply don't know.

/On

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CONTINUATION SHEET.

On the assumption, therefore,
that this kind of work would form a
substantial part of the terms of
reference of any new unit at Cambridge,
I am not yet in a position to go ahead.

Yours sincerely,