

23rd August, 1917.

Hon. Marchese Raffaele Cappelli,
President,
International Institute of Agriculture,
R o m e .

Dear Mr. President:

The second issue of the "Documentary Leaflets" is before me, and I am prompted to write to you on the subject. In the first place, this second number seems to me a decided improvement on number one, and I think that the Secretary General and the Chief of the Statistical Bureau deserve credit for proceeding on with this work, and for the steps they are taking to place it in its ultimate shape.

I understand that it is at present in temporary, preliminary form; but the replies which are to come in to the letters already sent out will enable this publication to perform the dynamic functions for which it is intended. I have made myself familiar with the scope it purposes to serve, and I am strongly in favor of it.

I learn that an adverse opinion has been expressed on that ground that the publication was unauthorised by the Permanent Committee. I think this point of view is not final because the "Leaflet" carries out a resolution offered by Mr. Dop and adopted by the Committee in December 1914. It is also covered by section 9 letter (f) of the treaty. If there is any complaint to be made it should be that the work has been delayed so long.

This document is by no means an innovation in government statistical labors, for the United States Department of Agriculture has been and is pub-

lishing a document on similar lines, and at much shorter intervals than those at which this is intended to appear.

Of course, this preliminary effort is on static lines, but this is only until the replies to the questions come to hand, when the document will give dynamic information, and of a value akin to the dynamic monthly crop-reports, and a publication of this kind will give added value to the work of the Institute by affording the adhering governments information of a direct dollar and cents value, which they will be sure to appreciate. One thing is evident, already this second ^{number} shows information from a large ^A of countries, mainly tropical, hitherto not appearing in our Bulletin. This in time must tend largely to increase the number of countries sending in crop-reports. There is no time when such service will be more appreciated than at this critical juncture in economic history.

I feel sure that any delegate who will make himself thoroughly familiar with its intended scope, will be inclined heartily to favor this publication.

Any objection on the score of cost could be readily and effectively answered in two ways. First, the expenditure is nominal, entailing nothing but the cost of printing a few extra pages the material of which is furnished us free by the governments, and no additional request for help has been made. The second is that we are not here to see to how small a sum we can pare down the running of the Institute, but how much service we can render to the adhering governments. It is all a question of service, and if a

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publication (of such limited cost as this entails) enables us to render good and valuable services I think you will agree with me that it would be poor policy to set it aside.

From my past experience of your sound judgement , I feel sure that you will take that stand on this matter which shall promote the best interests of the Institute and of the adhering governments.

I hope you are having a ^opeasant summer vacation, and with kind regards I am,

Yours very sincerely,

David Lubin.

Delegate of the United States,
International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.