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Prof. W. P. Brooks

April 9th 1888.

Sir: -

Please give us an opportunity to propose something before you concerning our farm experiments. We all understand that the practical experiments on farming are very important not only for our own sake but in some degree for the public interests, so our chief purpose about this matter is to find out the best possible means for carrying out the experiment.

How is then ^{the} present system of experiment? Is it most perfect? Is it most favorable? We are sorry that we must give the negative answer. What are then the conditions which obstruct our purpose? Let us relate them in precise manner.

The chief obstruction which prevents us from making the most free and perfect examinations in the field about the matter we proposed to determine is the excessive labor expended in the common and less important farm operations, such as hoing, thinning &c.

As you know our time is very limited, therefore the more time expended in one work, the less attention should be paid to another. The whole work on the field of such extent as we have may be insignificant to common farmers, yet it is very hard and troublesome to our unskillful hands together with very limited time. Though we desire to devote as much time as possible, our daily lessons, their preparations and other accompanying business force us to have leave
— Force us to have the vacancy of only two or

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three hours in a day. How much can these few hours' work accomplish? Only a little. Suppose any one of us is obliged to engage alone in hoing, only $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ of the whole plot will be finished at most in a day. If we follow after the manner of hoing which Mr. Takamura adapted, uniform treatment on different plots may be performed and the perfect hoing may be completed after two or three days. How can we get the sufficient time to make the food examination, which is our chief end, under such conditions? You will say co-operative working of classmates can perform more work and facilitates the operation. Yes, we are adapting that system, the sowing and harvesting having been thus operated. There, however, are some cases in which we can not get an assistance of other classmates when we desired. In such cases we are forced to work alone. Even though any of us is assisted by some member of classmates, and the whole work attempted is favorably finished in a day, yet it is difficult for him to get the good opportunity for his own investigations, because as he is assisted by others, he must in turn assist others. We can not find any reason that those operations such as sowing, hoing, thinning, scattering manures, harvesting &c should all necessarily be performed by our own hands. They not only give ^{us} ~~no~~ interest to us but on the contrary interrupted our more important object - the investigation, which is more important for us that we become only skillful in handling those small instruments and in hoing, thinning &c; or that we can

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devote as much time as possible to make the sufficient investigations and get some interests from them. If we are ones who have a sufficient time at all times to perform any preparation, we will say nothing. Our present position is entirely different from them. It is better policy for us to apply our limited time hours to our special work (investigation only) to receive the fair result, than to use them for both manual labor and investigations to get incomplete effects on both.

From the reasons above described we are obliged to wish Your Honor that all the farm operations are performed by the laborers and that we are all owed to devote all our times to only the investigations on the crops which we desire to determine. Of course we must attend the fields whenever any operation is performed to direct and oversee the laborers if the case allows. It will give us an additional interest, because it teaches us a practical hint how to direct and oversee the laborers. You will say perhaps that if we desire to know how to treat laborers, we must know at first how to work ourselves. We can say however that we have already fair ^{taste} ~~test~~ about that point, because we were engaged ourselves in the manual labor, from the beginning of our College course. Our practical understanding as to the treatment of laborers will give the great interest to our future course. We wish heartily that your kind and generous mind will make the fair and impartial judgement upon the proposal which we

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have just related. If this proposal is allowed we do not of course wish to get any share of the farm product. If the whole removal of the manual labors from our hands is not allowed we have one other means to obviate the present difficulties, though it is not good as before, that is, to lessen the extent of the farm into one half of the present. It is the loss to the college that the large area is wasted by the frequent failure, and also the loss to us that much time is wasted to such unfruitful work. Which is better that the incomplete ^{care} is compared to the large area, ^{or} that the more perfect attention is made to the small farm? You will think perhaps if the extent of each field is reduced, the experiment can not be carried out sufficiently, but it is not so. There are several means to be adapted in that case. For example, if we make the experiment on the manures available for wheat and suppose the number of available manures to be experimented be 6, let two persons take the similar crop, one taking 3 kinds of manures and other taking remaining 3, work in common and pursue the just similar process. Let each of them take care of the crop on his own part. In such manner the extent of each plot devoted to each branch of experiment is not lessened. The experiment on the climatic adaptation of some crops or other simpler experiments will not need so much extent of field as at present. We can sure that the more perfect care can be made to extent of 1000.

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than to 200 Tsubo. It is likely the more care we pay, the more interest we can get.

The latter system is the second step we take, if the former is not allowed. You said to us that the larger the area, the more acculate the result, so on the whole we do not desire to take the second system.

We know that we have no right to make any suggestion about your professional matters but have a duty to obey your orders, yet it is our mutual benefit to speak to each other with open heart if there exist anything which can not be favorable to either party.

We can not do anything better, if the present system of the experiment will be continued hereafter.

We beg your pardon with all our hearts in making such proposal to your honor, and are waiting for your noble judgement about the matter.

Your affectionates
Students of Junior Class,
Sapporo Ag'l. C.