19 March 1934.

J.W., Hopkins, Esq.,
Div. of Biology and Agriculture,
National Research Council,
OTTAWA, Can.

Dear Hopkins:

I have just read your paper on Wheat yields and would like to congratulate you most heartily on a really first-class piece of work.

It is curious that the 9 degrees of freedom for years do not give significantly different regressions from the 54 degrees for years by stations, and a little surprising, in view of the changed sign of many of the coefficients. The curves for the 2 respective regression functions must be, to the eye, a good deal different, still it is a considerable simplification to be able to pool the results.

It occurred to me in reading it that the point, obvious as it is to a statistician, might still be worth making, that such researches are only made possible, or at least are greatly facilitated, by uniformity in the varieties and periods for which data are available from the several different stations. Some commendation of the Dominion or Provincial policy which has made this possible would be quite in place, as of the care which individual stations have taken to make their returns and comparisons comparable.
If, as is probable, in the course of your researches, points have occurred to you to which further care of the same kind could be usefully directed, with the result of increasing still further the value of such cooperative trials, you would then have a good opportunity of making any suggestions which seemed to you worth while, without seeming to be ungrateful for small mercies! It would, at any rate, be worth while, as always, to illustrate the fact that the best fruits of any comprehensive statistical investigation, such as yours, very often lie in the improved planning which it makes possible.

I shall expect your paper to come my way again as a Ph.D. thesis.

Yours sincerely,