

It is not expected that any results will be available for publication for at least another year, as the field specimens have to be exposed to alkali conditions for that time before an examination is made.

The problem of utilizing the low grade iron ore deposits of Canada is one of the most vitally important questions with which the Dominion is faced. Very few large beds of high grade iron ore have been discovered in Canada, but on the other hand many large deposits of low grade iron ore are known, and a number are in localities comparatively easy of access. These ores, however, must be handled in such a way that they can compete with the high grade iron ores now imported from the United States, from which nearly all the iron which is now produced in Canada is smelted. A sub-committee of the Associate Committee of the Research Council on Mining and Metallurgy has been investigating this problem along two lines. (a) It has carefully studied all printed matter and reports on the deposits of iron ore in Canada, to ascertain whether any of these ore beds require additional study in the field and whether it is advisable to carry on prospecting in any particular portion of the Dominion for the purpose of discovering new ore beds. (b) The committee is arranging for experiments on a commercial scale with certain beneficiated ores now produced in Canada with a view to determining their availability for blast furnace use and also the cost of producing iron from them. They are also arranging to make certain large scale tests to try certain newly discovered methods of beneficiation, which seem specially applicable to certain classes of iron ore. These investigations are not yet sufficiently advanced to enable a definite statement to be made as to the results.

Many other investigations have been carried on under the auspices of the Research Council during 1921-1922.

Proposed National Research Institute—

The Research Council in 1917 recommended the establishment of a National Research Institute in Canada and a special committee of the House of Commons concurred in this recommendation, pointing out that similar institutions existed in Great Britain, Germany, the United States and Australia, while France, Italy, Japan and New Zealand were taking measures to organize research institutes. As a consequence a bill providing for the establishment of a National Research Institute was passed by the House of Commons in the spring of 1921, but was rejected by the Senate.

PUBLIC LANDS.

Dominion Lands.—The Crown Lands of the Dominion of Canada are situated (a) in the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta), (b) in a belt of twenty miles on either side of the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, known as the Dominion Railway Belt of British Columbia, and (c) in a block in northern British Columbia, containing 3,500,000 acres, known as