

1920 edition. It is therefore, perhaps, only necessary to repeat that shortly after the outbreak of the great war, a Committee of the Imperial Privy Council was appointed and under it an Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was established in 1915 by the British Government, to deal with the development of scientific and industrial research and its application to the problems of war and peace. The British Dominions were invited to establish similar organizations, in order to bring about co-operation of effort and co-ordination of research throughout the Empire. Acting on this suggestion, the Government of Canada appointed in 1916 a sub-committee of the Privy Council to devise and carry out measures to promote scientific and industrial research in Canada.

This sub-committee of the Privy Council decided to follow the organization adopted in Great Britain and appointed the National Research Council as an advisory body on questions of scientific and technological methods affecting the expansion of Canadian industries or the utilization of the natural resources of Canada. The Council was also given charge of all matters affecting scientific and industrial research in Canada, which might be assigned to it.

The National Research Council now operates under the Research Council Act, 1924 (14-15 Geo. V, c. 64), and in addition to the general powers conferred upon it by the above Act, the following specific duties have been assigned to it:—

To promote the utilization of the natural resources of Canada;

Researches with the object of improving the technical processes and methods used in the industries of Canada, and of discovering processes and methods which may promote the expansion of existing or the development of new industries;

Researches with the view of utilizing the waste products of said industries;

The investigation and determination of standards and methods of measurements, including length, volume, weight, mass, capacity, time, heat, light, electricity, magnetism and other forms of energy; and the determination of physical constants and the fundamental properties of matter;

The standardization and certification of the scientific and technical apparatus and instruments for the Government service and for use in the industries of Canada; and the determination of the standards of quality of the materials used in the construction of public works and of the supplies used in the various branches of the Government service;

The investigation and standardization, at the request of any of the industries of Canada, of the materials which are or may be used in, or of the products of the industries making such a request;

Researches, the object of which is to improve conditions in agriculture.

The Council has also been given charge of and direction or supervision over the researches which may be undertaken, under conditions to be determined in each case by or for single industrial firms or by such organizations or persons as may desire to avail themselves of the facilities offered for this purpose.

Detailed information regarding the recommendation of the National Research Council for the establishment in Canada of a National Research Institute, through which it would be possible for the Council to carry out effectively the duties which have been assigned to it will also be found in previous editions of the Canada Year Book. It is obvious that until such provision has been made along the lines recommended in the final report of the Special Committee of the House of Commons which studied this question for two sessions of Parliament, it is quite impossible for the National Research Council to undertake many of the important duties outlined above. In the meantime, the Council is endeavouring to render the maximum