

Section 2.—Scientific and Industrial Research in Canada.

The field of scientific and industrial research in Canada is covered, so far as the Governments are concerned, by the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mines, etc., together with such special research bodies as the National Research Council, the Ontario Research Foundation, and the Research Council of Alberta. The specific research work carried on by the Dominion Government in these special fields is dealt with in the respective chapter material of this and previous editions of the Year Book, and on pp. 866-872 of the 1932 edition an article outlining the scope of research work generally and in particular the establishment and organization of the National Research Council, the Ontario Research Foundation, and the Research Council of Alberta is given.

The field of private research is, of course, much broader, and data regarding the nature of the work being carried on are more difficult to obtain; it covers all research work conducted at universities, that sponsored by scientific societies and foundations, and the vast field of technical and industrial research conducted by individual industries (which in many cases benefit from their affiliations with parent organizations in the United States or the United Kingdom). A committee, on which all interested Dominion Government departments, the National Research Council, and major industries operating in Canada are represented, is scheduled to meet in Ottawa in late July or August, 1939. A more complete survey of industrial research in Canada than has previously been made will then be possible and a revised article covering the entire subject is planned for the 1940 edition of the Year Book.

Section 3.—Libraries.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes biennially a Survey of Libraries in Canada. It lists public, university, government, and other special libraries individually, showing the location, size, etc., of each. The latest edition includes information on school and hospital libraries. The following paragraphs are taken from the data in the Survey for 1936-38.

Public Libraries.—Table 10 provides a summary of the public library situation by provinces. The circulation in a year represents about two books per person in the Dominion, but service is confined to 40 p.c. of the population, and they average about five books apiece per year. Except in a few areas the libraries serve only the cities and towns, but, during the 1930's, on both the east and west coasts there have been convincing demonstrations of rural library service, with the assistance of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Fraser Valley demonstration has become a permanent regional library, and two other similar libraries have been established in British Columbia. In Prince Edward Island the demonstration included the whole province, and it has become a permanent provincial library system. Interest in it has extended to the adjacent provinces. Nova Scotia, in 1938, established the Regional Libraries Commission which employed a full-time director to assist interested areas of the province in organization. At the same time there have been important independent developments in Ontario. Beginning with Lambton County, seven county library schemes have been developed in the southwestern part of the province. Although, as yet, only 5 p.c. of the Dominion's rural population has library service, the current interest and trend indicates that there may be a considerable increase before long. In cities with populations of more than 10,000 about 92 p.c. of the people have some measure of library service (i.e., a public library