

There is also a Codes and Specifications Section which is chiefly concerned with the work of the Canadian Government Purchasing Standards Committee and the National Building Code.

Administrative services are under the direction of the Secretary-Treasurer.

Since the beginning of its activities, the National Research Council has recognized the importance of utilizing the technical knowledge and directing ability of scientific men in universities, in other government departments, and in industry. A means of utilizing the services of these men has been found in the system of Associate Committees.

Associate Committees as a Means of Co-ordinating Research.—Associate Committees are composed of representatives of institutions interested in certain fields of investigation, specialists of interested Dominion Government Departments, and members of the Research Council staff. It is the function of these committees to direct co-operative research on problems assigned to them, to determine which individuals and laboratories are to undertake the components of the program, to settle the objectives, and to co-ordinate the results obtained.

Committees are organized in answer to a stated need. For example, the Associate Committee on Forestry was organized in 1935 after a joint meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers and the Woodlands Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association had pointed out that, while a number of organizations were engaged in forestry research, there was a need for some means of co-ordinating and harmonizing the investigations and the results obtained. At this meeting a resolution was passed asking the National Research Council to undertake the task of co-ordination. A conference of all organizations interested in forestry research in Canada was called to discuss the matter, and as a result of its deliberations and decisions the Associate Committee was set up. Since that time the various organizations represented on the Committee have worked in close co-operation in the planning and execution of work. The Dominion Forest Service has continued work in site classification, forest tree breeding, forest fire control, and so on, for which its staff is peculiarly fitted. Other organizations connected with the Committee supply their services where necessary. For example, in the Council's laboratories, work on the use of plant hormones in the rooting of cuttings, on apparatus for the determination of degree of fire hazard in the forest, on the testing of fire-fighting equipment, and on certain radio problems, has been conducted with the advice and guidance of the Committee.

The Associate Committee on Grain Research originated in 1926 as a joint organization of the Dominion Department of Agriculture and the National Research Council. Its membership now is representative of these organizations and of the Universities of Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, McGill University, and the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.* There is not a single laboratory in Canada, concerned in any way with the quality of Canadian grain, that has not at some time co-operated with the Committee. Close relations have been developed also with grain laboratories in other countries. The independence and special qualifications of the personnel of this Associate Committee and the wide scope of the facilities of the co-operating laboratories have given it a well-deserved reputation as an authoritative body on questions of grain quality. Opinions of this body have

* For details of the research activities of the Board of Grain Commissioners, see pp. 990-992.