

attention is being given to the development of more satisfactory micro-tests for small samples of new hybrids and selections.

For some years the Laboratory has also been the principal Canadian centre for research on oil seeds. Attention has been given to the development of rapid methods for the determination of the oil content and iodine value of flaxseed, so that, should flax production reach an appreciable commercial volume in Canada, it will be possible for the Board to put the grading of the crop on a quantitative basis. Several other oil seeds have also been studied, including soybeans, safflower, "*Peritome serrulata*", and sunflower seeds, all of which have certain commercial possibilities for the production of both drying and edible oils.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES.*

Various types of scientific and industrial research are carried on in the different branches of the Department of Mines and Resources. The Mines and Geology Branch and the Lands, Parks, and Forests Branch are in direct administrative contact with two of the most important industries in Canada, and undertake a large proportion of the research carried out in this Department, with the object of achieving the more efficient development and utilization by industry of the products of mine and forest. The Bureau of Geology and Topography, the National Museum, and the Dominion Observatories carry out research in their respective fields. The Bureau of Northwest Territories and Yukon Affairs carries out research on wild life in the Northwest Territories, while the National Parks Bureau, in connection with the administration of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, carries on research in ornithology and also studies the factors affecting the fish and game populations of the National Parks.

Bureau of Mines.—The rapid growth of the mining industry in Canada has resulted in an increased demand for information relating to the mineral resources of the Dominion. The Bureau of Mines, through its various divisions, is making an effort to correlate and make available to industry and to the public all information pertaining to these mineral resources. This work has been greatly facilitated by the recent erection of new laboratories that are equipped to carry out extensive investigations and tests of minerals and their products. At present the following laboratories are maintained: the Ore Dressing and Metallurgical Laboratory, the Fuel Research Laboratory, and the Ceramic and Industrial Minerals Laboratory.

Ore Dressing and Metallurgical Laboratory.—The Ore Dressing and Metallurgical Laboratory, Ottawa, is fully equipped for such mineralogical, physical, chemical, mechanical, and metallurgical investigations, tests, and researches as are found necessary: to determine the characteristics and methods of treatment of Canadian ores; to improve plant practices; increase recoveries and improve the quality of metallic products; and in general to aid the mining and metallurgical industry of Canada.

Research work is carried out on both ferrous and non-ferrous metals. The Ferrous Metal Laboratory is equipped for the production and testing of alloy steels and allied products and to be of service to firms that either manufacture or use metals and metallic alloys.

* Prepared in the Department of Mines and Resources.