

In order to deal properly with the need of recruits for the armed forces and for labour in industry, an interdepartmental committee was organized in October, 1940, with representatives from the Departments of National Defence, National War Services, Munitions and Supply, Finance, and Labour.

Under a special training scheme financed by the Dominion, with administrative costs borne by the provinces, and the cost of machine tool equipment divided equally between the two, 24,000 persons received instruction in vocational schools during the first four months of 1941 as against 23,000 in nine months in 1940; 50,000 are expected to undergo training this year, the larger proportion in industrial classes and the rest in R.C.A.F. classes. A weekly allowance of \$12 to married men in training has increased the number of older men and of war veterans. An order in council in June, 1941, provided for trainees to be considered as employees earning \$12.50 a week for purposes of compensation in case of accident under the Government Employees' Compensation Act.

A Bureau of Technical Personnel established by the engineering societies in co-operation with the Department of Labour registers technicians and arranges for transfers from non-essential work to war industries.

To prevent the labour turnover likely from higher wages, employers were prohibited in November, 1940, from advertising or soliciting persons to enter their employment who are working in industries producing munitions or other war supplies. No direct restriction was placed on labour. In June, 1941, the order was extended to cover all industries, including civilian companies engaged in the Commonwealth Air Training Plan, which are now within the I.D.I. Act. The Minister was empowered to make regulations to prevent the hiring of persons in designated trades except through the Dominion employment offices.

In addition to the foregoing measures, regulations have been effected to ensure the health and safety of workers in munitions and other war plants; provisions have been made under the National Resources Mobilization Act for the re-instatement of employees upon the completion of their war services; and, the Unemployment Insurance Act (see pp. 665-667) has been put into operation. The last-named measure should prove of great value during the War, and will be of vital importance at its conclusion when there is certain to be considerable dislocation of industry.

The National Research Council.—The work of the National Research Council has established the value of science to the country in war as well as in peace. Since war broke out, the Council has directed its activities almost entirely to the support of the armed forces—the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. Close co-operation is being maintained between these fighting services, Departments of Government, industrial institutions, universities and research laboratories in regard to all scientific and technical experiments for war purposes. The Council is in reality the scientific research station of the three services named: it has been appointed as the official research station for the Royal Canadian Navy. Hundreds of problems have been put in hand and a large percentage of successful results obtained. War work has made it necessary to increase the staff from a total of 308 in July, 1939, to 574 at Mar. 31, 1941.

Research on war weapons merges into development and must terminate in production. The Council has constructed prototypes of the most important tactical weapons that are now in extensive operation and use. Equipment and clothing used by the troops must be rigorously inspected to ensure that the required high standards of quality are met. Studies are made on specifications and advice given as required for the inspection and purchase of materials produced in Canada.