

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 field of private research is, of course, much broader; it covers all research work conducted at universities, that are sponsored by scientific societies and foundations, and also 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 complete survey of the work being carried on by all research organizations in Canada is given at pp. 979-1012 of the 1940 edition of the Canada Year Book.

Section 3.—Libraries

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics publishes biennially a Survey of Libraries in Canada; the latest edition lists public, university, government and other special libraries, showing the location, size, etc., of each. The latest report issued is the Survey for 1938-40 from which the following information has been summarized.

Public Libraries.—Public libraries in Canada are primarily urban institutions. In cities of over 10,000 population about 92 p.c. of the people have some measure of library service and in smaller urban centres the proportion is 42 p.c. While only 5 p.c. of the rural population is at present provided with library service, the recent interest being shown in rural library service provided by regional and travelling libraries promises to alter this situation in the near future. In interpreting the provincial statistics of public libraries given in Table 10, it should be kept in mind that in the predominantly rural provinces like the Maritimes and the Prairie Provinces urban libraries cannot serve more than one-third of the population, while in the more urban provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia it is possible for them to serve nearly double that number. Other types of library, figures for which are not included with those of public libraries, provide more of the public's reading material in some provinces than in others. For instance, parish libraries in Quebec numbered 332 in 1933 (the latest year for which figures are available) and served 869,037 parishioners. In other provinces there is no record of church or parish libraries, although they are known to be fairly numerous. Commercial lending libraries are also an important source of reading, especially of fiction, but no statistical information has been collected of these since the Census of 1931. Consideration should also be given to private libraries of the home and, since no record of them is possible, it is necessary to consider the statistics of public libraries as the record of a certain type of institution rather than as a complete record of the libraries to which the public has access.