

The Banting Research Foundation is used to support the work of the Banting and Best Chair of Medical Research in the University of Toronto and to aid medical research throughout Canada.

The Rockefeller Foundation has given assistance to various agencies in Canada for the purpose of furthering scientific research in medical science, natural science, social science and public health.

A detailed account of scientific and industrial research in Canada is given at pp. 970-1012 of the 1940 Year Book.

### Subsection 2.—National Research Council\*

**Historical.**—Organized research on a national scale in Canada dates from 1916 when, at the suggestion of the Government of Great Britain, the Canadian Government established the "Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Researches" under a Committee of the Privy Council. Fifteen members were thus brought together primarily in order that the ingenuity and skill of Canadian scientists in all branches might be brought to bear on the solution of the many urgent problems confronting the Government of that day in the prosecution of the First World War. A secondary purpose was to promote research on peacetime problems of national interest. A survey, made in 1917, showed that industrial research in Canada was practically non-existent and that the supply of men, with such post-graduate training as to enable them to undertake independent investigations, was entirely inadequate to permit of any general application of scientific research to Canadian industrial problems.

Provision was therefore made for the co-ordination of research work and the organization of co-operative investigations; the post-graduate training of research workers; and the prosecution of research through grants-in-aid to university professors. This was the basis of the Council's work from 1916 to 1924.

The Council early recommended the establishment of national laboratories and a Special Committee of Parliament, appointed to study this recommendation, endorsed the proposal after having heard many witnesses give their opinions. Financial difficulties intervened, but in 1924 public opinion made it possible to have the Research Council Act passed by Parliament. Temporary laboratories were secured and a research on the utilization of magnesian limestones for refractories was carried out so successfully that a wartime industry, established during the First World War, was re-established on a large scale, and has become an important producer of materials that have found world-wide markets. As a result, in 1929-30, the Government provided funds for new laboratories.

**Establishment of Laboratories.**—The National Research building on Sussex Street, Ottawa, was commenced in February, 1930, and was opened at the time of the Imperial Conference in 1932. Laboratory divisions were established in applied biology, chemistry, physics, and electrical engineering, and there was a division of research information. In April, 1936, the division of physics and electrical engineering was reorganized and mechanical engineering was established as a separate division. Work of this division continued in temporary laboratories but these quarters soon became inadequate.

\* Prepared under the direction of C. J. Mackenzie, President, National Research Council, Ottawa.