

these subjects, partly statistical and partly qualitative in nature, obtained from numerous sources within and outside the Federal Government, are then assembled into national forecasts of employment and income for the current year. This over-all appraisal of the future of economic affairs in Canada is supplemented by special reviews of the outlook for the development of major economic regions and of the more important industries. These reviews are designed to survey and appraise the best available factual information on economic developments in Canada and provide a basis on which economic policy of governments and business can be formulated in advance of actual happenings. Accordingly, a number of findings of the Branch have been made available to the public in the following reports: *Capital, Repair and Maintenance Expenditures of Business Enterprises in Canada, Forecast, 1946*; *Forecast of 1947 Investment by Canadian Business*;<sup>\*</sup> *Production of Basic and Building Materials in Canada, Outlook, 1947*; *Reconversion, Modernization and Expansion, Progress and Programs in Selected Canadian Manufacturing Industries, 1945-47*; *Location and Effects of Wartime Industrial Expansion in Canada, 1939-44*; *Manpower and Material Requirements for a Housing Program in Canada*; *Research and Scientific Activity, Canadian Federal Expenditures, 1938-46*.

**Public Projects Branch.**—This Branch is responsible for administering the Federal Government's public investment policy (see p. 1101). In implementing the Federal Government's short-term policy of confining Federal construction activity to essential projects, the Public Projects Branch examined all construction projects proposed for inclusion in the Federal Estimates for the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 with regard to their urgency and requirements for scarce materials and labour. After consultation with the departments concerned, the Public Projects Branch reported to the Cabinet Committee on Reconstruction, on construction items submitted for inclusion in the Estimates and indicated which undertakings, in the opinion of the Branch, were likely to compete with the investment program of private firms and individuals (including housing, industrial and commercial construction), or would jeopardize the carrying out of some of the Federal construction projects carrying a high priority (including housing and hospital construction). To make the administration of the short-term public investment policy as flexible as possible, the Public Projects Branch also administered Vote 606 (see p. 1102). After examination, funds were approved for development and survey projects, including power development in the Northwest Territories, investigations and surveys for river development in the Prairie Provinces, and construction of wharf facilities and acquisition of sites in Nova Scotia and Ontario.

As part of the Federal Government's long-term public investment policy, the Public Projects Branch is concerned with the assembly of a 'shelf' of postponable but fully planned public projects. The sponsoring Departments submit full information on such projects, together with detailed plans and specifications concerning material, labour and other requirements. After review by the Public Projects Branch and approval by the Cabinet Committee on Reconstruction, the projects are placed on the official shelf.

**Resources Development Branch.**—This Branch was concerned with aiding the Public Projects Branch in its review of public projects affecting the development of natural resources. The Branch also assisted in the formulation of policies for the development of mining areas, particularly by the provision of expanded facilities

<sup>\*</sup> See pp. 1059-1063.