

The Board of Grain Commissioners employs a staff of seven chemists and 21 assistants in the main research laboratories for milling, baking, malting, etc., while the Dominion Observatories carry out research in the fields of solar physics, astrophysics, seismology, terrestrial magnetism, gravity and other studies.

Universities often show bold initiative in exploring the field of scientific research but with the limited facilities at their disposal the task of carrying their discoveries to a conclusion is not always easy. Government and industrial laboratories are often able to pick up and carry on where the universities leave off.

A number of Research Foundations have their own special fields of research. The Ontario Research Foundation at Toronto, Ont., established in 1928, is an independent non-profit-seeking scientific organization available to the public and to industry for assistance in matters of a technological character.

The Banting Research Foundation supports the work of the Banting and Best Chair of Medical Research in the University of Toronto and aids medical research throughout Canada.

The Rockefeller Foundation assists various agencies in Canada in the furtherance of 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. This has been revised to cover developments to 1947 and is available in reprint form from the Dominion Statistician.

Subsection 2.—The National Research Council

Historical.—Organized research on a national basis 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 planning and integration 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 the opinions of many experts. 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 research on the utilization of magnesian limestones for refractories was carried out so successfully that a wartime industry, established during the First