

Atomic Energy Research.—In June, 1946, the Dominion Parliament passed the Atomic Energy Control Act. This Act provides means for the development of atomic energy and for the control of work in this field as may be required in the interest of public safety and in the fulfilment of international obligations. A Board of five members was set up to act under the general direction of, and to report to the Chairman of the Committee of the Privy Council on Scientific and Industrial Research. The President of the National Research Council is ex officio a member of the Atomic Energy Control Board; other members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office during pleasure.

The engineering, construction and operation of the vast plant and townsite at Chalk River, Ont., were carried out by Defence Industries Limited, under contract with the Department of Reconstruction and Supply. As the project developed, both Defence Industries Limited and the Government authorities came to the conclusion that, as the undertaking was really a pilot plant which must be closely integrated with the research laboratories, it would be better if one Government organization were to assume the operating responsibilities of both the research laboratories and the industrial establishments. On consideration of this problem, the Atomic Energy Control Board at its first meeting recommended that the National Research Council be asked to undertake the integration of the various projects and their operation on behalf of and in accordance with the policy of the Atomic Energy Control Board. This was agreed to and on Feb. 1, 1947, the Council took over responsibility for the administration and operation of the entire atomic energy development at Chalk River, and will carry on these activities in accordance with broad general policies fixed from time to time by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Building Research.—For several years the National Research Council has been engaged in various research projects that have had for their object the improvement of building materials or the betterment of housing construction. Intensive work was initiated some years ago on the requirements for structures and the National Building Code was subsequently published. This is a document designed for use as a model in the drafting of municipal building by-laws. A model zoning by-law was also prepared. Both of these publications have been used extensively as reference works by Canadian municipalities. In 1947 a "Building Code for Smaller Municipalities" was issued that has proved very useful as a residential building code.

The new Division of Building Research provides for the integration of work in this important field and serves as an advisory body to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation in all technical activities. Information on building techniques is being assembled as a matter of public service and research projects will be carried out across Canada whenever possible in conjunction with existing research agencies and universities.

Food Research.—In food chemistry much of interest to industry has been done. Work is continuing on refrigerated storage of meats, on processing of liquid and dried eggs, and on dairy products. It has also been found that the baking properties of sugar-egg powders improve as the nozzle size is reduced within practical limits. Considerable progress has been made on the German Fritz continuous butter machine with a view to its adaptation to Canadian requirements. Dried whey has been tested as a component in sponge cakes.