PART III.—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Section 1.—The National Research Council*

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 Research" under a Committee of the Privy Council. Provision was thereby 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 World War, was re-established on a large scale, and has become a producer of materials that have found world-wide markets. As a result, in 1929-30, the Government provided funds for new laboratories.

The National Research Building on Sussex Street, Ottawa, was opened in 1932 and in 1939 construction of the aerodynamics building on a 130-acre site adjacent to the Ottawa Air Station was started. Later several other buildings were erected on this site, including separate laboratories for research on engines, gas and oil, hydraulics, explosives and structures, and wood-working and metal-working shops. Since then these facilities have been enlarged and extended and new buildings have been provided for engineering and for low-temperature studies.

A Prairie Regional Laboratory, constructed on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, was opened in June, 1948. A Maritime Regional Laboratory is soon to be built on Dalhousie University campus at Halifax, N.S.

Administration of the Atomic Energy Project at Chalk River, Ont., was taken over by the National Research Council on Feb. 1, 1947, and operations are being continued in accordance with broad general policies fixed from time to time by the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Laboratories now in operation under the National Research Council include Research, Health and Engineering Divisions of the Atomic Energy Project at Chalk River; and at Ottawa, Applied Biology, Building Research, Pure and Applied Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering (aeronautics and hydraulics), Physics, and Radio and Electrical Engineering. Medical research is carried on by means of grants to accredited workers in the various medical schools and university hospitals. A Division of Information Services has a field staff of technical officers whose job is to assist the smaller industries across Canada in bringing their operating problems to the attention of the Council. With the extensive library facilities available to the Council, it is usually possible to provide the required information in a very short time.

* Revised under the direction of C. J. Mackenzie, C.M.G., F.R.S., President, National Research Council, Ottawa.