

**Air Force Day.**—Air Force Day, instituted in 1947, the annual “open house” of the R.C.A.F., falls on the first or second Saturday in June. Its purpose is to give the Canadian public an opportunity to see the equipment and personnel of the Air Force at first hand.

**Royal Canadian Air Cadets.**—Closely associated with the R.C.A.F. are the Royal Canadian Air Cadets, whose establishment was raised during 1950 from 15,000 to 22,500. More than 200 air cadets squadrons are located across Canada, administered by the Air Cadet League of Canada, a voluntary civil organization. The squadrons are headed by Air Cadet officers who serve on a basis comparable to that of R.C.A.F. Reserve officers. Training assistance is given by the R.C.A.F., which also provides uniforms and equipment. The Air Cadet movement offers citizenship and aviation training to boys between the ages of 14 and 18 years.

#### **Subsection 4.—The Defence Research Board**

The Department of National Defence Act was amended on Apr. 1, 1947, to provide for the establishment of a Defence Research Board. The Board consists of six ex officio and six appointed members serving under a full-time chairman. The ex officio members are the Chairman of the Board, the Chiefs of Staff of the three Armed Services, the President of the National Research Council and the Deputy Minister of National Defence. The remaining six members are appointed by the Governor General in Council and are members with scientific and technical qualifications drawn from the universities and industry. The organization consists of a headquarters staff, advisory committees and field research stations.

The Defence Research Board is an essential part of the defence of Canada and, as such, has been described as a fourth Service. Its fundamental purpose is to correlate the special scientific requirements of the Armed Forces with the general research activities of the scientific community at large. This task is the main function of the Headquarters Staff. Its work is strengthened by the expert counsel of comprehensive advisory committees.

In order to avoid unnecessary duplication of research facilities, the research stations of the Board deal only with those problems that are peculiar to national defence. In other fields, such as electronics and aeronautics, which touch upon related civilian researches, it collaborates with existing research laboratories, especially those of the National Research Council.

In all its work, the Board gives priority to problems in which Canada has special interest or for which national facilities are specially suited. Experience has already shown that well-directed defence research produces results that are of value, both direct and indirect, to the civilian economy.

It was, for example, revealed in 1947 that, as a result of wartime research into defensive measures against possible bacteriological warfare, Canadian scientists in collaboration with United States colleagues produced a vaccine to immunize cattle against the highly destructive rinderpest disease. The results of this research have been given freely to the world.

In planning this organization, the Government considered the vital need for continuity in research and planned the Defence Research Board as a fully integrated and permanent part of the defences of the country. To assist co-ordination at the highest level, the Chairman of the Board has the status of a Chief of Staff and is a member of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and of the Defence Council.