

the two Laboratories are generally similar although the work at Vancouver is weighted in favour of British Columbia species. Research activities are so integrated that findings are valid wherever they are applicable in Canada or elsewhere. However, development has not reached its zenith. Scientific and mechanical equipment is being constantly improved and every endeavour is made to recruit and maintain a professional and technical staff capable of rendering efficient service in the varied and extensive pattern which must be followed in forest products research.

The work of the Laboratories is organized to provide a continuing program of fundamental research which will constantly add to the growing volume of basic data on record. A large number of investigations and studies in the fields of applied research are also undertaken to determine the results of the numerous factors affecting conversion and utilization. Research work also extends to the field of utilization; basic and exploratory investigations are directed towards determining methods, processes and new uses which would result in a more complete and effective utilization of the original wood substance available from the tree.

There is, as well, a fairly substantial volume of work performed for the Canadian Armed Services and other government departments and in the carrying out of tests and investigations requested by industry. Industrial interest in forest products research is constantly growing and this awareness of the value and importance of research findings is reflected by the large increase in enquiries received by the Forest Products Laboratories.

A carefully selected library provides background information and knowledge of the work in other forest research organizations as well as essential reference material. Regular contact is maintained with forest products research organizations throughout the world and the continuing exchange of information is considered of major importance. As research data are published in many languages it is often necessary to translate original material, a field in which much duplication of effort existed in the past. As a result of an arrangement made at the Forest Products Pre-Conference of the British Commonwealth Forestry Conference held at Ottawa in 1952, translations are now supplied to other countries and information is exchanged as to translations in progress.

Each year a Program of Work is circulated so that research workers in other fields will be aware of the particular projects under study at both the Ottawa and Vancouver Laboratories. Most of the research work is national in scope but certain projects are carried out primarily to meet the requirements of areas with problems of a unique nature.

More generally stated, the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada aim their activities so as to provide a desirable balance between the essential work of fundamental studies—to provide basic data—and investigations in the domain of applied research. In this manner it is believed that the forest products industries are best served, and that long-term and continuing benefits to the national economy will be of highest value.

The results achieved in the past forty years have provided an impressive fund of knowledge on the properties and uses of Canadian wood species. These accumulated data serve to assess problems arising out of utilization and are of high value in planning additional research.