

PART III.—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Section 1.—The National Research Council*

History and Organization.—Organized research in Canada on a national basis dates from 1916 when the Government of Canada established the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research under a Committee of the Privy Council. Provision was made for the planning and integration of research work, organization of co-operative investigations, postgraduate training of research workers, and prosecution of research through grants-in-aid to university professors. This was the basis of the Council's work from 1916 to 1924.

A Special Committee of Parliament, appointed to study a recommendation for establishing national laboratories, endorsed the proposal and the Research Council Act was revised by Parliament in 1924. Temporary laboratories were secured and research on utilization of magnesian limestone for refractories was carried out so successfully that a wartime industry, established during World War I, was re-established on a large scale. As a result of this achievement the Government, in 1929-30, provided funds for new laboratories.

The National Research Building on Sussex Drive, Ottawa, was opened in 1932, and in 1939 construction was begun of an aerodynamics building on a 130-acre site on the Montreal Road just east of the city. Later, other buildings were erected on this site, including woodworking and metalworking shops and separate laboratories for research on engines, gas and oil, hydraulics and structures. These facilities have since been enlarged and extended and new buildings have been provided for engineering, low-temperature studies and high-speed aerodynamics. In 1952 a cosmic ray laboratory, a thermodynamics building, and a large structure to house the Division of Applied Chemistry were added; in 1953 the Building Research Centre was completed. The same year, development began on a new 250-acre site on the opposite side of the road, where headquarters for the Radio and Electrical Engineering Division was constructed. In 1958, a unique Fire Research Laboratory was added to this site as part of the facilities of the Division of Building Research. An underpass connects the two areas.

A Prairie Regional Laboratory built on the University of Saskatchewan campus has been in operation since June 1948 and an Atlantic Regional Laboratory, on the campus of Dalhousie University at Halifax, N.S., was opened in June 1952. The Division of Building Research has established one of the most northerly building research stations in the world at Norman Wells, N.W.T. Completing its long-term plan for regional activities, the Division has also established a small Pacific Regional Station at Vancouver, in co-operation with the British Columbia Research Council.

A Medical Research Council, fully responsible for policy in the field of medical research but functioning under the general administration of the National Research Council, was established in November 1960 (see p. 390).

The National Research Council consists of the President, two Vice-Presidents (Scientific), one Vice-President (Administration) and 17 other members, each of the latter group being appointed for a term of three years and chosen to represent industry, labour or research in one of the basic natural sciences. Many of the members are drawn from the science departments of Canadian universities.

The Council's scientific and engineering activities are organized in nine divisions and two regional laboratories, each with its own director. Five laboratory divisions are concerned with fundamental and applied studies in the natural sciences—applied biology, applied and pure chemistry, and applied and pure physics. Four others are devoted chiefly to engineering work—building research, mechanical engineering, the National Aeronautical Establishment, and radio and electrical engineering.

Links with Industry.—In addition to its basic research foundations, the Council operates a Technical Information Service. Through a trained research staff, using the

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