Section 4.—Other Scientific and Industrial Research Facilities

Aside from the research facilities and activities covered in Sections 1, 2 and 3, Canadian research is carried on by various federal agencies, provincial organizations, universities and industries. Several provinces in Canada have established provincial Research Councils to stimulate and support research on problems having special provincial significance. The universities, of course, form an extremely important part of the Canadian pattern of research. Much of their work is along fundamental lines but practical problems are not neglected, especially those of regional interest.

All three types of institutions—federal, provincial and university organizations—have an interest in problems of industrial significance; this is part of the current Canadian pattern of research. Though many Canadian industries now possess research facilities—some of them quite extensive—the major part of industrial research to date has been done under government auspices.

Thus the unique problems of the country, particularly its large area coupled with a small population, have led to a typically Canadian organization of research, of which a very strong associate committee system is perhaps the most distinctive feature.

Subsection 1.—Federal Organizations

Although research by industrial firms has been slow to develop in Canada, government research has expanded rapidly, at first because of the need for speeding up the production of raw materials, which were for many years the basis of Canada's export trade, and later because of increasing interest in the processing of raw materials, the necessity of meeting the needs of national defence and the developing consideration for many human and resource requirements. Federal agencies involved in research include the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Mines and Technical Surveys, National Defence, National Health and Welfare, and Northern Affairs and National Resources as well as the National Research Council and other Crown corporations such as Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. A system of committees, with nation-wide representation, eliminates unnecessary duplication of work from these national research organizations.

The scientific work of the Department of Agriculture is described in Chapter IX of this volume, the investigations conducted by the Board of Grain Commissioners in Chapter XIX, the specialized work in scientific forest research in Chapter X, scientific services concerned with Canada's mineral resources conducted by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys in Chapter XI, investigational work of the Department of Fisheries in Chapter XIII, research of the Canadian Wildlife Service of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources in Chapter I, health and other research conducted by the Department of National Health and Welfare and other agencies in Chapter VI, work of the Defence Research Board in Chapter XXV, the work of the National Research Council at pp. 361-368 and atomic research at pp. 368-373.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Organizations

The fact that only a few provincial research organizations exist does not indicate lack of interest in research by the provinces. Most provincial governments have university laboratories to consult, particularly about local industrial and agricultural problems, and many individual departments have facilities for research in their particular fields of endeavour or assist research through the provision of financial aid to students working in those and other scientific fields. Agriculture is particularly well covered because of its importance as an export industry but the provinces are also intensely interested in their other natural resources. Their efforts in the fields of agriculture, forestry, mining and fisheries are outlined in the Chapters dealing with those subjects (see Index).