

Subsection 3.—The Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada*

The Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada is a centre of research and learning concerned with virtually every aspect of the production and use of pulp and paper products. It was established in 1913 as a branch of the Dominion Forest Products Laboratories and in 1927 was reorganized under the joint sponsorship of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the Federal Government and McGill University. The Institute staff carries out fundamental research and some applied research in the fields of woodland operations and pulp and paper mill operations. In addition, in co-operation with McGill University, it trains postgraduate students who are working toward master's and doctorate degrees in physical chemistry, wood chemistry, or chemical and mechanical engineering, and whose theses subjects lie in fields of interest to the pulp and paper industry.

The Institute occupies a building on the McGill campus erected by the pulp and paper industry and a building at Pointe Claire on the western outskirts of Montreal constructed by the Government of Canada. The Institute's facilities include: organic and physical chemistry, physics, hydraulics and engineering laboratories; pilot plants for chemical pulping, pulp and chip refining and waste liquor pyrolysis; a greenhouse and other facilities for woodlands research; an extensive library; shops and special facilities for pulp and paper testing and for photographic and microscopic (both light and electron) studies of wood, pulp and paper. It has a staff of about 180.

The Institute's research activities comprise a basic program in pulp and paper research and in woodlands research, contract research, and technical services. The basic pulp and paper research program is supported by assessments from the Maintaining Membership (some 42 companies, representing more than 100 mills and about 95 p.c. of the total production of the Canadian industry) and by a grant from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. The woodlands research program is supported by assessments on all member companies of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association east of the Rockies that use pulp-wood and by a grant from the Association. Both programs comprise research of interest to the industry broadly, as distinct from that which is the concern of a single company only.

The projects in the basic programs range from studies of the growing seedling in the forest to the converted pulp and paper product, and fall into seven broad classifications: woodlands, mechanical pulping, chemical pulping, paper making, process control, product quality and waste utilization. The Institute is regarded as a centre for broad, long-range and uninterrupted studies of basic principles and for major engineering research and development projects which individual pulp and paper companies would find difficult to justify if the costs were not shared. Moreover, the Institute is a centre of highly specialized equipment and manpower which individual companies would not normally have.

In addition to its permanent staff, the Institute, in co-operation with McGill University, has some 40 graduate students working on fundamental projects in the background of pulp and paper technology, which also serve as their theses topics. The head of the Institute's Wood Chemistry Division, who is also Chairman of the Chemistry Department and the E. B. Eddy Professor of Industrial and Cellulose Chemistry at McGill, directs graduate student work on such subjects as the behaviour of the materials of which wood is made—cellulose, lignin and hemicelluloses. The head of the Institute's Physical Chemistry Division, also a Research Associate in the McGill Chemistry Department, directs graduate student work in the physical chemistry of fibres, e.g., the forces that cause cellulose fibres in a water suspension to mat together to form paper. An Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at McGill, who is a consultant to the Institute, directs graduate students in such chemical studies as the rate of drying of droplets and fibres. In addition, other members of the Institute's staff who likewise hold concurrent honorary positions at McGill assist in this student training program.

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