

Council. The first director and organizer of the new Secretariat is Dr. F. A. Forward, a former head of the department of metallurgy at the University of British Columbia. The Secretariat has the task of assembling, digesting and analysing information related to the Government's scientific and technological activities, including their interrelationships with university, industrial and provincial scientific establishments.

## 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—now known by the short title "National Research Council". The early Council provided for the planning and integration of research work, organization of co-operative studies, postgraduate training of research workers, and prosecution of research through grants to university professors. This promotion and encouragement of research formed the basis of the Council's work from 1916 to 1924.

The creation of a central research institute, to carry on research in pure science in relation to standards of measurement, quality and composition of material, and in science applied to the industries of Canada, had been urged as early as 1918. A special committee of Parliament endorsed the proposal and in 1924 the Research Council Act was revised to include national research laboratories. Temporary quarters were secured and research on magnesian refractories for steel furnaces 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 research facilities.

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. This site now comprises some 400 acres and houses most of the Council's laboratories. A Prairie Regional Laboratory built on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan has been in operation since June 1948, and an Atlantic Regional Laboratory on the campus of Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S., was opened in June 1952.

Under the terms of the Research Council Act, the National Research Council has charge of all matters affecting scientific and industrial research in Canada that may be assigned to it by the Committee of the Privy Council on Scientific and Industrial Research. In discharging these responsibilities, the Council may undertake, assist or promote research. Its duties include the utilization of Canada's natural resources; the improvement of industrial processes and methods; the discovery of processes and methods likely to expand existing industries or to develop new ones; the utilization of industrial wastes; investigation and determination of physical standards, methods of measurement, and fundamental properties of matter; the standardization and certification of scientific and technical apparatus used by government and industry; the determination of standards of quality for materials used in public works and government supplies; investigation and standardization, at the request of industry, of industrial materials or products; and research intended to improve conditions in agriculture. The Council also has the duty of advising the Privy Council Committee on questions of scientific and technological methods affecting the expansion of Canadian industries or the utilization of the country's natural resources. As a service to Canadian science, the Council maintains scientific liaison offices in Ottawa, London, Washington and Paris. The liaison officers abroad also serve as scientific attachés in the Canadian diplomatic missions. The National Research Council Library, with holdings of more than 500,000 volumes in science and technology (including 12,000 journals and other serials), acts as the National Science Library of Canada (see also p. 384).

\* Revised by Joan Powers, Public Relations Office, National Research Council, Ottawa.