

and composition of materials, but also in science as applied to the industries of Canada. The Council has given this question much consideration and every aspect has been reviewed. It is a question which cannot be ignored or lightly considered or postponed, and in consequence, it felt that it was necessary to emphasize the urgent need of a Research Institute, which would play the part in Canada of a great organization for research, like the Bureau of Standards at Washington or the National Physical Laboratory in Great Britain. The Council believes that the establishment of a National Research Institute would constitute a factor of overwhelming importance in determining the development of scientific and industrial research in Canada and that the question of instituting the proper form of organization to guide research in Canada, on its resources and their right and adequate utilization, transcends in importance any other question that is before the public today.

The establishment of a National Research Institute along such lines will be the first step in the inauguration in Canada of a policy which will ultimately provide for the fullest scientific development of all the resources to enable her to face the future and all its perplexities with some degree of equanimity and preparedness.

INCREASE OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS.

The unprecedented increase of the functions of the Government during the war led, in Canada as in many other countries, to a great increase in the collection and use of official statistics. Better vital statistics were needed, for example, in connection with the enforcement of the Military Service Act. Improved statistics of production were required, in order to decide on questions of food distribution and of the allocation of the minerals produced. Expanded transportation statistics were essential to the co-ordinated management of the railways of the country for the purposes of the war. Financial statistics, in particular, became doubly important where financial problems loomed up before governments and individuals as a consequence of enormously increased taxation and borrowing. Even in the actual conduct of the war, the statistics of actual and prospective supplies of men and munitions were of paramount importance in deciding upon questions of war policy. Indeed, Marshal Foch, who in the later stages of the war was the generalissimo of the allied and associated armies, is reported to have said that "statistics won the war."

Whether or not statistics won the war, there can be little doubt that statistics are going to have much to do with the winning of the peace. An impoverished world requires greater efficiency in the production and greater economy in the consumption of wealth and in particular the most economical use of the depleted industrial capital of the world until that reservoir of capital is refilled by current saving. These needs are experienced by Canada as well as by the other countries which participated in the war.