

There is recognition that the value of research lies mainly in the application of its findings in the practical fields of commercial production. The administration, therefore, endeavours to maintain a close liaison with forest products industries so that, aware of their needs, it can co-operate in finding solutions to production problems as well as assess and evaluate new methods, processes, and equipment.

It is realized that, in a competitive economy, efficiency plays a dominant role and considerable work has been undertaken to provide dependable data on various phases and factors pertinent to conversion and utilization. Among such studies are those related to sawmilling, veneer cutting and plywood production, the use of radio-frequency heating, and the recovery of sawmill and logging residue.

In the fields of chemical utilization, wood structure, wood preservation and pathology, and timber mechanics and engineering, specialists and technicians—with suitable laboratory equipment and following recognized research techniques—are actively engaged in recording and interpreting research findings, and thus they expand knowledge applicable to forest products research.

Results of the Laboratory investigations are analysed and appraised and supply the subject matter of many reports and publications so that findings may be available and research knowledge disseminated where it can best serve. A large number of publications, available on request, have been issued on various phases of forest products research.

The Laboratories are represented on many technical committees including: the Fundamental Research, the Testing and Control, and the Camp Heating Committees of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association; the Paint, Furniture, Packaging, Paper Products and Building Board Technical Sub-committees of the Canadian Government Specification Board; Structural Timber, Laminated Construction, Plywood, Millwork and Packaging Committees of the Canadian Standards Association; the Materials and Design Committees of the National Building Code; the Research co-ordinating Committee on the Utilization of Mill Waste for Pulpwood; the Wood Committee, American Society for Testing Materials; the Preservatives Committee, American Wood Preservers Association; and the Preservation Committee, B.C. Plywood Manufacturers' Association.

Organization of Research.—The plan followed at both Laboratories is to group related research within separate Sections composed of several Units. Each Unit is responsible for a particular phase of research work and is in charge of a specialist in that field. Training of and specialization by the technical personnel rounds out Unit organization and ensure a high degree of accuracy in research investigations. A Section Head, with technical qualifications and administrative ability, is in immediate charge of the work of a Section, under the control of the Laboratory Superintendent. A brief description of the work of the five Sections follows:—

TIMBER MECHANICS

Timber Engineering: Determination of the mechanical and physical properties of Canadian woods; timber fabrication; new forms of wood construction, including laminations and arches; timber fasteners; technical data for use in timber standards and building codes.

Plywood: Problems incident to the production of veneers and the manufacture of plywood, including testing and studies of improved manufacturing techniques, properties of adhesives, bonding techniques and durability of bonds;