

tionary tendencies. Despite the existence of strong sustaining factors, the present situation may prove no exception in this regard. In such periods, however, it is important to keep constantly in mind the more fundamental considerations which underlie current economic trends.

"As previously indicated, the present pause in expansion comes about as a result of the fact that Canada is approaching a phase of development in which, for the time being, less resources are required for the build-up of basic industries. There would appear to be no dearth of uses to which these resources can be diverted. A tremendous volume of new capital facilities is needed to supplement and round out the basic expansion which has taken place. In fact the greater availability of investment resources provides an opportunity to get ahead with public improvements which have been lagging in recent years. Apart from these institutional requirements, the potential needs of consumers are virtually inexhaustible.

"It would be a mistake, however, to assume that this re-direction of resources will take place automatically without effort or strain. Intensified business planning and aggressive salesmanship may be necessary to convert the latent buying power which exists in the economy into new markets for goods and services. In this way, available resources would be put to use and transformed into higher living standards for Canadians at large.

"A number of new federal measures already implemented or proposed will facilitate this transition. Such measures include: More mortgage funds for would-be home-owners and relaxation of minimum requirements for loans under the National Housing Act, re-assessment of tax-sharing and other financial relationships with the provinces, financial aid to power development in the Maritimes, advances on farm-stored grain to Western producers, a more comprehensive system of supports to farm producers, extension of unemployment insurance benefits, increased pension rates, and reduced taxes. Each of these measures, in addition to meeting the specific need for which it is designed, serves the general purpose of supporting the financial position of individual Canadians.

"Such action on the part of the Federal Government will facilitate but will not in itself accomplish the adjustments necessary for the renewal of sound economic growth. This will require insight, initiative and adaptability on the part of all groups in the community."

* * * *

CANADA HOST TO BOTANISTS

One of the most significant "things to come" on Canada's scientific calendar will be the Ninth International Botanical Congress, to be held 19-29 August 1959, at Montreal.

The ten-day meeting will be one of the biggest scientific gatherings ever to take place in Canada. Some 4,000 participants are expected from all parts of the world.

Dr. W.P. Thompson, President of the University of Saskatchewan, has been named President of the Congress. Dr. Thompson is an international authority on genetics of cereals, especially wheat. Dr. Thompson was for many years a Member of the National Research Council; he also was President of the Royal Society of Canada, 1947-49, and President of the National Conference of Canadian Universities, 1953-54 and 1954-55. Dr. Thompson is the recipient of six honorary degrees and of the Royal Society of Canada.

The University of Montreal and McGill University will share in the honour of entertaining the Congress.

* * * *

RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE

The Library of the National Research Council is the major science library in Canada. Its chief aim is to supply the Canadian scientific community with information, published in any language, that may contribute to the advancement of science in Canada. For many years it has been acquiring scientific and technical papers from all countries and, the Council announces, Russia is no exception.

At present the NRC holdings of Russian scientific literature compare favourably with any collection outside the Iron Curtain. In addition to books, over 150 Russian language journals arrive regularly covering fields of science and technology from astronomy to zoology and atomic energy to welding.

These are scanned by scientists familiar with Russian. Anything that appears to supplement current knowledge is sent to the Translation Section, where the staff is able to deal with all the major languages. English translations are prepared, and listed in the Canadian Translations Index. This records all English translations of papers, from any language, that have been translated in the Commonwealth or in the United States.

This Translation Section also conducts weekly classes in Russian, for NRC scientists and librarians. These classes are very popular and well attended.

Acquiring Russian scientific literature has never been easy, anywhere in the Western World; even now, when there is greater freedom, it is still very difficult. An interesting source of books is through the Eastern Zone of Germany, where German translations of Russian books are being turned out in large numbers.

For the NRC Library, one of the best methods is the co-operation and help of Canadian scientists who attend international conferences. They alert the Library to the existence of reports and papers that might otherwise be missed.