

The site of the University is on a peninsula flanked by the Strait of Georgia leading to the Pacific Ocean. From the campus there is a magnificent view of the snow-capped Coast Range to the north. The University plant in this striking setting is continually being enlarged and improved in order to accommodate with increasing ease and efficiency the third largest university community in Canada.

The University provides the usual courses in the arts, sciences and professions. An Art Centre was opened in December, 1948, which includes a workshop offering courses in ceramics, painting, sculpture, weaving and other applied arts, and an art gallery; it is anticipated that a Fine Arts Department will evolve from this beginning. A unit of the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada is housed in five buildings on the campus, three of which are maintained through a co-operative agreement between the University and the Federal Government. The importance of the sea in the economy of the Pacific Coast prompted the establishment in 1949 of the Institute of Oceanography, supported in part by the Defence Research Board and by the Joint Committee on Oceanography representing the interests of the Royal Canadian Navy, the National Research Council, the Fisheries Research Board and the Hydrographic Service. Union College of British Columbia (United Church of Canada) and the Anglican Theological College of British Columbia, are affiliated with the University.

#### RESEARCH AGENCIES AND LEARNED SOCIETIES<sup>\*</sup>

Closely associated with the higher ranges of science in Canada is the National Research Council, set up in 1916 to foster, stimulate, and co-ordinate scientific and industrial research. One of its major activities has been the provision of scholarships for research workers, in order to build up a large body of scientific experts; as a result many hundreds of researchers have proceeded to the doctorate and have had a stimulating effect on the graduate schools in science. Grants to individual professors and institutions have served to encourage permanent centres of research, not otherwise predictable, in some of the smaller universities. The National Research Council operates independently some eleven laboratories across Canada. One of its most important functions is to organize and co-ordinate national co-operative research programmes, in which many government departments and many organizations may have an interest. This function is carried out through associate research committees composed of the leading experts in each field of research. These committees seem to be a peculiarly Canadian invention, and have proved to be very effective.

There have more recently come into existence the Canadian Social Science Research Council (1940) and the Humanities Research Council of Canada (1944), seeking to provide stimulus and encouragement in their respective disciplines. Neither has sought or received financial assistance from government sources, but they have been aided by funds from foundations in the United States.

Another agency co-ordinating and stimulating Canada's intellectual life at its higher levels is the Royal Society of Canada, founded in 1882. It is composed primarily of senior scholars and scientists, elected to membership in some one of five sections; (1) humanities and social sciences in French; (2) humanities and social sciences in English; (3) chemical,

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\* This section is quoted from Canada, edited by George W. Brown (University of California Press, University of Toronto Press, 1950) p. 455.