

The Council as a whole is responsible for policy, major decisions and the maintenance of a high professional level within the organization. The salaried officers are responsible, in addition, for the work of the research and administrative divisions operated by the Council.

The NRC reports not to a departmental minister as such but to a member of the Cabinet who acts as chairman of the Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research. This Committee is made up of seven ministers whose departments support research programmes and who, as a group, have general responsibility for scientific policy and activities of the Canadian Government. The NRC is thus a government agency, not a government department. It is largely self-regulating; for instance, it is free to hire, promote or discharge its own professional staff without recourse to the Civil Service Commission, which controls appointees to the Canadian public service in general.

#### National Research Laboratories

In the late 1920's, the National Research Council began to develop laboratories and research staff; but it did not acquire a building of its own until 1932. By the outbreak of the Second World War, however, the Council's facilities were able to provide the nucleus in Canada for an explosive growth in scientific work, which came during and after the war. Beginning with three research divisions, in chemistry, physics and biology, NRC has expanded to comprise nine research divisions in science and engineering at Ottawa and two regional laboratories at outside locations. The entire staff of NRC numbers some 2600, about 740 of whom have professional status. The yearly operating budget is now about \$42 million.

The Division of Administration is larger than one might expect in a research organization. In addition to its normal administrative duties, it handles NRC's extensive "foundation programme" (grants in aid of research, scholarships, fellowships), its library, information services, and publications, and other scientific responsibilities both national and international.

The scope of scientific investigation carried out by NRC and the high degree of specialization within its divisions are indicated by the detailed list of sections contained in Appendix A.

Most of the NRC facilities are located at Ottawa. After the last war, however, regional laboratories were established at Saskatoon and Halifax in order to improve the industrial utilization of the resources of those areas. At the Prairie Regional Laboratory, the emphasis is on agricultural materials and the work is mainly biochemical; at the Atlantic Regional Laboratory, much of the work is on seaweed, fish wastes, peat and special biological problems affecting the pulping of wood. Work is also being done on chemical factors in steelmaking, especially as they relate to the coal and iron ores of the Atlantic provinces.

For reasons of necessity other smaller laboratories are located outside Ottawa; for example, a meteor laboratory is situated 20 miles south at Springhill, a radio observatory in Algonquin Park, building research units in the far North and upper-atmosphere research facilities at various points in the Arctic.

#### Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

During the wartime scientific boom of 1939-45, large research units developed within NRC, which have since become separate research organizations. For example, the work in atomic energy, which began with the Council in 1942, grew to the point where its size and commercial importance justified its establishment in 1952 under a distinct authority. This is Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, the Crown Corporation whose extensive research facilities are centred at Chalk River, Ontario.