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THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

That Canada was able to make important contributions to research in radar, RDX explosive, atomic energy and other scientific war projects for the Allies was largely due to the National Research Council, the government scientific and industrial research organization. The Council, in addition to pursuing extensive research in its own laboratories, co-ordinates and assists all scientific investigation in Canada. Its system of Associate Research Committees, without parallel in any other country, has proven remarkably successful in the solution of problems where concerted efforts are required.

During the war the Council worked in close collaboration with the three branches of the Armed Forces - on land, sea and air. Its work covered a wide range of projects as spectacular as nuclear physics and as prosaic as methods for packaging dehydrated pork. To aircraft pilots the National Research Council has given a dependable new method of de-icing aircraft propellers by electric heating, and the marvellous 'distance indicator', a radar instrument which shows the airman his distance continuously from any selected points on the ground. People in the typhus ridden areas of the earth are benefitting by the quick method of producing anti-typhus serum developed in Canada.

Other important achievements of the National Research Council in recent years are:

A method of producing magnesium from dolomite - introducing a new industry into Canada.

The development of a process for the production of butylene glycol from wheat.

The construction of a 'flying wing' type of aircraft in moulded plywood. Tests proved satisfactory.

An emergency arrangement for refrigerating the holds of cargo ships.

The development of rot-proofing, flame-proofing and water repellancy treatments for fabrics.

Important advances in the dehydration of food products, the cracking process of fuels for aircraft and the production of optical glass.

The most significant part of the National Research Council's work, however, lies in a large number of discoveries, individually not very spectacular, but which add up to the production of better goods and services with less labour and in the end an improved standard of living for the people.

The war's end found Canada's Research Council greatly expanded beyond its pre-war stature - employing more than four times as many persons on a budget more than five times the size. Activities at this high level are to be continued on into the future. Canadian scientists are already adapting wherever possible the methods of war to civilian uses. This includes the study of atomic energy as an aid to industry, research and medicine; the application of radar to air and sea navigation; the use of military medical experience towards better health for all Canadians.