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Biological like Chemical Warfare was prohibited by the Geneva Protocol of 1925 which was ratified by most countries of the world including Germany.

However, before the war, intelligence reports indicated that Germany was conducting experiments in this form of warfare. About 1937, therefore, the late Sir Frederick Banting began to collect information on Biological Warfare and at the beginning of the war he called together a small group of medical and veterinary research workers to consider possible defensive measures against this form of attack. Sir Frederick's small group was later expanded into a committee of the National Research Council and considerable progress was made.

By 1942, intelligence information regarding the enemy's interest in this subject was such that this country was forced to prepare for the eventuality that the enemy might use this form of warfare against us -- not only by sabotage through the spread of disease among humans and animals on this continent but also on a large scale in military operations. Control of research in this subject was, therefore, transferred to the Department of National Defence and made the responsibility of the Director of Chemical Warfare and Smoke.

Research on defensive measures was carried out at a number of research establishments across Canada under the direction of a committee of highly qualified scientists. The closest liaison was maintained with the United Kingdom and the United States workers in this field and in several instances work was carried out by investigators from the three countries working as joint teams.

The research carried out in this country and in the U.K. and U.S. has been of the utmost importance. Some of it must still remain secret. Much of it, however, will be of great value in the medical and veterinary fields and arrangements are being made for the publication of this information in the appropriate scientific journals.