REVOLUTION IN CANADIAN SCIENCE

DR. MACKENZIE'S ADDRESS: A real revolution in Canadian science and scientific engineering has taken place in Canada since 1939, Dr. C.J. Mackenzie, President, Atomic Energy Control Board and former President of the National Research Council, said at a dinner given in his honour by the Professional Institute of the Public Servants of Canada in Ottawa on January 23.

Dr. Mackenzie is the first Canadian to have been awarded the Kelvin Medal and he said that he regarded the award as not only a personal compliment "but a recognition of what has happened in Canada during the past 15 years and of the standing science and scientific engineering have attained".

GROWTH OF CANADA

"The many tributes being paid everywhere to Canada these days are almost embarrassing - her growth, her potential, her sanity and efficiency in public affairs, her prospects," he said. "We are familiar with the statistics: - since 1939 our population has increased 30 per cent, - our trade has increased, - vast new resources have been opened up, - our gross natural product has increased 4 times, - our government revenues have risen 8-fold, but our research expenditures are 16 times greater than in 1939

"Statistics alone, however, are barren. That scientific expenditures have increased twice as much as other comparable expenditures might mean anything, - even waste, - but that is not true:

"What is true is that our science has increased in effectiveness and quality - but of greater importance, our Governments and the people have recognized that effective national science is one of the essential activities on which the strength and well-being of a modern nation depends, in peace as well as in war.

"It is this public recognition which is responsible for the real scientific revolution of the past 15 years, - and it has been a revolution".

"I would like to round out my story," he said at the conclusion of his address, "by mentioning four of the more important factors which I believe helped to develop our national scientific structure:

"(1) The system of scholarships and grants-in-aid given by the National Research Council from 1918 on.

"(2) The method of selecting, recognizing and rewarding scientific staff which by the organization, given to the National Research Council by wise governments, enabled it to demonstrate as the effective way of operating government laboratories.

"(3) The methods for giving support to other institutions and projects and arranging for informal co-operation of scientists across Canada which the Council was first able to successfully demonstrate.

"(4) The effective work done in wartime by all our government, university and industrial laboratories gave to Canadian science the most important thing of all - public confidence and generous financial support.

DEVELOPMENTS

"Finally, I would like to mention some of the developments that have given me greatest satisfaction as a Canadian:

(i) The equalization of scientific standards and opportunities across Canada....

(ii) An evidence of our scientific maturity is the increasing numbers of foreign scientists now visiting Canadian Institutions to observe what is being done. They come to see men not institution - that paradoxically is the test of sound scientific organization.

(iii) Other indications of the healthy scientific Canadian structure are the friendly co-operation which now exists between various scientific bodies, the increase of industrial research establishments and a growing co-operation between government, university and industrial scientists....

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OCTOBER IMPORTS DOWN: Final figures of Canada's commodity imports in October, released by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, show the value of the month's purchases at $358,300,000, down 4.8% from $376,400,000 a year earlier and the first decline in the year from the corresponding month of 1952. Average prices of imports during the month were about 2.6% higher, indicating a drop of nearly 8% in volume. With gains in all previous months, the value of imports in the ten months ending October was up substantially to $3,693,000,000 from $3,321,900,000 in 1952.

WORKERS' HOURS, PAY: In 42 cities across Canada there was widespread application of the five-day 40-hour work-week in the construction industry, it was revealed on January 26 by the Minister of Labour.

This information came from a study of collective agreements in force on December 1, 1953, covering eight construction occupations in 42 cities throughout Canada.

The five-day 40-hour work-week is general in all provinces except Newfoundland and Quebec. In Quebec the work-week is either 44 or 48 hours except in Montreal where it is 40 hours.