

and three other members. Perhaps that is necessary in order to strengthen the functioning of the council, but it may also have the effect of taking away some of the responsibilities of the council as a whole. Probably the council will not meet so often, and a good deal of the work hitherto done by the fifteen members will in future be done by the six members of the executive committee.

The bill gives power to the council to carry particular works past the stage of pure research. That is to be found in section 7 to the provisions of which, this afternoon, the minister made some reference. One of the powers is the power to manufacture. We should like to know just how far the council is to go in manufacturing. If the intention is that it shall not go into manufacturing as that term is generally interpreted in Canada, then there is no serious objection. But if it is the intention that the council shall go into manufacturing as an ordinary business man would understand it, serious objection can be taken to the change.

There is also provision for licensing, selling or otherwise granting or making available patent rights or any other rights owned by the council. Under the original act all inventions made by technical employees of the council vest in the research council. Here power is given to the council to dispose of these rights. This provision calls for a more detailed explanation from the minister, and I propose to say something further about it in a few minutes.

There are two further powers of which we on this side of the house strongly disapprove: first, the power to procure the incorporation of crown companies, and, second, the power to assume the shares of crown companies which have already been incorporated. I shall have something further to say about these questions also.

The Progressive Conservative party favour the active promotion of scientific and industrial research in Canada. We believe that research is vital to Canada, perhaps more so than to any other country. The war has given Canada a great impetus. In this country there has been a tremendous development of production of both manufactured goods and foodstuffs. Canada has made great strides. One reason for that, of course, was that we were not subject to attack; we were free from bombs and invading forces; therefore we had every opportunity to make progress. Among the nations of the world Canada has reached a position quite out of proportion to her population.

In order to retain that position we feel that Canada must make the best possible use

not only of her natural resources but also of Canadian brains. Already we have many fully trained and talented scientists doing research work, and we have the young men and women with the native ability to become great scientists. Hundreds, I dare say thousands, of them have already done so. In every part of Canada we have universities which are well able to train young people for this scientific research.

Not only have we the human resources but we have large areas practically untouched. Take for example, the northwest territories, where uranium has been found, probably the most valuable natural resource in the world to-day. No one knows how many more deposits of uranium may be found there. Prospecting parties go out each year to find other deposits, and there can be little doubt that many valuable deposits not only of uranium but also of other minerals will be found in that territory. In the northern part of British Columbia large coal deposits are lying untouched. Explorations are by no means complete. It might be possible to find there sufficient coal to change the whole picture of Canada's fuel production. Canadians cannot go too far in trying to develop their natural resources, particularly in parts of the country which are as yet unopened.

In any event, whether this is so or not, research is of vital importance to Canada, and in order to do that research we have the research council; but it is only one body doing that work. We also have certain departments of the dominion government. Take as an example the Department of Agriculture. Outstanding research work has been done by scientists in that department. One example is the development of wheat. We would not be producing anything like the wheat crops we do now if it had not been for research work carried on here in Ottawa by scientists of the Department of Agriculture. The same thing is true of the Department of Mines and Resources. Scientists in that department are carrying on research in many different fields. The Department of Fisheries are also working along that line. The fisheries of Canada are limited largely to the maritime provinces and the west coast, although there is also an extensive fishing industry in Manitoba. On the two coasts excellent research work has been done by the Department of Fisheries. We should not get the idea that the only research in Canada is that which is carried on by the research council.

The provincial governments too have been carrying on useful research, largely in connection with industries which are the most important to the respective provinces. Private