

The National Research Council, with its many years of successful experience in developing university research facilities with government assistance, is to be directly responsible for the administration of the plan.

NRC will be assisted in adapting the programme to industrial needs by advice from the NRC Advisory Committee on Industrial Research. This group is composed mainly of well-known industrialists representing a wide range of Canadian industries and serving for two and three year appointments.

NUCLEAR POWER PLANT OPENS

The first electricity to be produced by a nuclear power plant in Canada was sent into the transmission lines of Ontario Hydro at Rolphton, Ontario, on June 4. Commissioning of the Nuclear Power Demonstration Station had been under way since the reactor in the station first started to "burn" uranium, and thus to produce heat, on April 11. The next stage in the commissioning was to use the heat from the reactor to produce steam.

Finally, with all the complex circuits fully tested, the plant operators, under the direction of superintendent Lorne McConnell of Ontario Hydro, opened the steam circuit to the turbine, which drives the electricity generator, sending electricity produced from nuclear energy to Canadian users.

Commissioning of the station is continuing, and it is expected to produce its full power output of 20,000 kilowatts of electricity within the next few months.

The \$33 million NPD station was build as a cooperative project of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, Ontario Hydro and the Canadian General Electric Company Limited. NPD is a prototype for larger plants, such as the 200,000 kilowatt Douglas Point Nuclear Power Station now under construction on the eastern shore of Lake Huron, midway between Port Elgin and Kincardine, Ontario.

CGE, under contract to AECL and Ontario Hydro, was responsible for the design, development and construction of the NPD station. AECL provided research and development data for, and owns the nuclear portion of, the plant. Ontario Hydro designed and owns the conventional portion of the plant. Ontario Hydro operates the station and will pay AECL for the steam fed to the turbine.

FREDERICTON PLAQUE

Mr. Hugh John Flemming, the federal Minister of Forestry, unveiled on June 4 a plaque denoting the historic significance of Old Government House, Fredericton, New Brunswick. The memorial was placed on the Georgian building, the residence of New Brunswick lieutenant-governors until 1893, by the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. Commemoration

of the building was recommended by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

The cornerstone of the old Government House was laid in 1826 by Lieutenant-Governor Sir Howard Douglas. The building is now a district headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

ENVOY OF PANAMA

On June 5, His Excellency Augusto Guillermo Arango presented to the Governor General his Letter of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Panama to Canada. The Ambassador was accompanied to Government House, Ottawa, by Mr. Edwin Henriques, Minister Counsellor.

Mr. Arango, an economist and businessman, has been accredited since 1960 as Ambassador in Washington, where he will continue to reside.

CULTURE COLLECTIONS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the Canadian Committee on Culture Collections of Micro-organisms, an International Specialists Conference on Culture Collections will be held in Ottawa August 27-28.

Topics will range from technical aspects of culture-collection organization to critical assessments of methods of preservation of cultures; from explorations of new methods and techniques to fundamental aspects of the death of cells during storage. Special emphasis will be placed on the maintenance of morphological, physiological and genetic characteristics in the preservation of all types of cells.

Scientists representing 30 countries have already made applications to attend. Although the Conference is timed to follow immediately after the Eighth International Congress for Microbiology to be held in Montreal, 19-24 August, it is not part of the Congress.

APRIL FOREST FIRES

A total of 2,531 acres of Canada's forests were destroyed or damaged by 341 fires during April, according to the national forest-fire statistics released by the federal Department of Forestry. The statistics are based on reports received from the provinces.

The average size of the fires was eight acres. In April 1961, the number of fires reported was 322, with a total area burned of 10,850 acres or an average of 34 acres a fire.

In the wake of last year's record destruction by forest fire, which totalled some 9,000,000 acres, forest-protection officials across Canada are urging extreme care to prevent a recurrence of widespread fire waste of the nation's woodland resources.