

Just a short description of each group, sir.

1. *The library.*

The council has one of the best scientific libraries and continued effort is made to secure all the latest publications so that it will be up-to-date at all times. As an indication of its scope, at the 1st of January of this year it contained 381,315 reference books and documents, and as an indication of the service which it renders there was a total of 54,206 loans made during the past year to scientists in universities, industries and other scientific organizations.

The 54,206 figure includes 4,511 photocopies of articles made in lieu of loans.

2. *The technical information service of the National Research Council.*

The technical information service was established in 1945 to encourage the widest possible utilization of scientific and technological information stated in terms that could be fully understood by those seeking such information.

It was intended especially to assist the secondary, or processing industries; and, in particular, the smaller industries.

For many years the primary industries, agriculture, mining, forestry and fishing had been provided with facilities to secure full information regarding scientific work in their fields of endeavour, and through various agencies, had been encouraged to adopt improved practices based on the results of these investigations. While the secondary, or processing, industries have also had available a wealth of material in technical periodicals and scientific reports, the very multiplicity of sources of information has made it difficult, if not impossible, for most of them to keep fully abreast of modern developments.

As originally established, the technical information service included field representatives in the various provinces whose duty it was to call on industries in their areas to learn the technical problems facing these industries. All these field representatives were graduates in engineering, or science, and in quite a number of cases were thus able to solve at once some of the inquirers' difficulties. Where this was not possible, the inquiries were referred to Ottawa where a central staff of information officers dealt with them. All information officers also had degrees in science or engineering together with laboratory, industrial and, in many cases, executive experience. These officers prepared the replies of about 80 per cent of the incoming inquiries while the remaining 20 per cent were transferred to other laboratories, or departments of government, where specialists in the subjects under inquiry were found. It is a pleasure to acknowledge the complete and whole-hearted co-operation we have continually received from such departments.

As time went on, provincial research organizations continued to be formed and in order to avoid repetition of calls and handle the work most efficiently, arrangements were made whereby the Technical Information field service of these provinces was discontinued, and in its place grants were made to the provincial research organizations to carry out these functions. This change has been most satisfactory because it brings the provincial centres increasingly close to their industries and also affords these industries the advice and services of specialists on the provincial staffs as well as the T.I.S. staff at Ottawa. Such arrangements are at present in effect in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, the provincial government has for ten years assumed the work of the service. In Manitoba, T.I.S. has had a field office in Winnipeg, and in Quebec there is a field office in Montreal with two appointees as well as a part-time appointee in Quebec city.