

Supply—Trade and Commerce

this trend of our trained scientists going to the United States. The Minister of Trade and Commerce himself is a case in point. He, an American, born and educated in the United States, found that his greatest opportunity was in Canada. But generally speaking the reverse is true.

Other countries are doing a great deal in research, and I think the importance of fundamental research, and then of applied science, should not be lost sight of. The countries which have made great progress in the past have recognized that point. I read not long ago in an official document published by the German government that should Germany not be in a position to continue with her scientific research, she would not have an economy in 30 years' time. Great Britain has recognized the importance of science, and many of her advantages in international trade are the direct result of the progress made in the scientific field.

Of course we cannot have a national research council that will achieve anything if there is not provided for it a steady flow of young scientists of the highest calibre. Someone may say that education is the responsibility of the province. However, I would point out that in Australia, which is a federal state, and where the individual states are responsible for education, they have recognized the need for fostering research on a high level, as well as the necessity for educating first-class scientists.

With that in view a national university has been set up in Australia. It is not a university in the ordinary sense of that word, but it carries on advanced research in several fields. They have scientists who study the environment in which they find themselves, and I believe the university confers only doctorate degrees. In any event only graduates attend that university. Those graduates are collected not only from Australia but from other parts of the world. Young Canadians go there.

This is an example of another country taking an advanced step in an effort not only to derive immediate benefits from applied science, but also with a realization of the necessity for providing a steady stream of young scientists who will press forward fundamental research. There is a book which deals with the national university in Australia, the introduction to which was written by its first chancellor, who is now Australia's high commissioner here in Ottawa. When one reads this book he realizes the forward step Australia has taken. It is one that we in Canada should take. If we had such a set-up in this country we could have a school in arctic research because, after all, we are

the second greatest of the arctic nations. That is a field in which there will be great competition and great need for knowledge.

Having said that, let me say in closing that a parliamentary committee which would look into this whole question of research would be most valuable. So far as Canada is concerned it might ring the bell which would call the wits together.

Mr. Coldwell: I should like to say a word on this item. I, too, would like to see a parliamentary committee set up at the next session to go into the activities of the national research council. I was somewhat surprised to hear the hon. member say that private industry could not compete with the national research council in engaging scientists to do the jobs that are necessary. The item before us bears directly on this matter, because it deals with the salaries of those who are employed by the national research council.

If hon. members would turn to the details at page 380 of the book of estimates and look over the salaries paid to those who serve the national research council they would realize at once that with the exception of a few top positions, the bulk of those employed by the research council are not, to put it conservatively, highly paid.

I have been interested for years in the national research council and have always felt that it was performing one of the most useful functions any organization could perform for the country. During that time, I have met scientists who have been engaged with the national research council but who have been offered much higher salaries and perhaps first-class laboratory equipment with private industry. Sometimes they have been offered twice or three times the salaries they were paid by the national research council, with the result that they have gone to private industry. I know, too, of several scientists who have done wonderful work with the national research council, the atomic energy commission, and other government agencies, who have gone to Boston or other points in the United States to work in state institutions in that country which are paying greater emoluments than are paid by the national research council.

Sometimes I wonder how the research council has been able to keep some of its top men, men who are highly trained in technical and other branches of research. If one looks at the grades of occupations, the salaries paid to those grades and the numbers employed at those salaries, he will see at once