This whole question must be linked up with the stated requirements of employers as expressed in their replies to the first questionnaire. The results of the survey are tabulated in Appendix I. By converting the total numbers of scientists employed (excluding State post-primary schools) into a graph, the rate of expansion in the scientific labour force is readily seen. A notable feature is the higher rate of expansion expected to take place between 1947 and 1952.

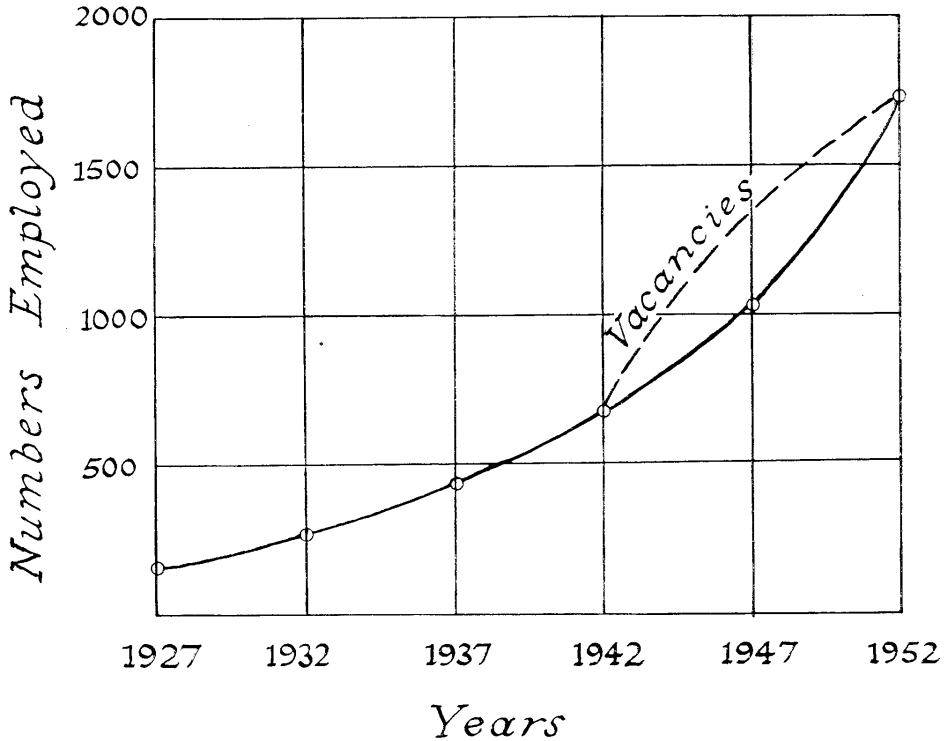

FIG. 3—GROWTH OF SCIENTIFIC LABOUR FORCE

The dotted line on the graph indicates what the scientific labour force would be if all current vacancies were filled.

Many of the openings suggested by scientists approached are already included in the current vacancy total as indicated by employers and in the anticipated staff in 1952. On the other hand, many are not so recorded by the employers concerned. Either employers do not confirm the need for scientists in these spheres, or they do not realize the value of scientific assistance in them. In either case it is evident that no early expansion in such directions is regarded as a practical possibility.

The average size of industrial units in New Zealand is small, and while the larger units in certain categories might profitably set up laboratories, smaller units could not economically do so. These smaller concerns, and many of the larger ones also, rely for expert advice on public consultants and on the formation of research associations.

There is another matter which must not be overlooked when considering the question of the scope for the engagement of additional scientists. All forecasts and opinions have been made and expressed at a time of general prosperity and of high taxation on company profits. These two factors could lead to optimism in the forecasts of both employers and scientists themselves.