

1183. The Department acts under the advice of a Research Council, not exceeding nine in number, appointed by the Governor-General in Council. At present it consists of eight members, representing various branches of science, industry, and commerce. The services given by the members of the Council are largely honorary, the Chairman being authorized to receive an honorarium of £100 and each member (except Government officers) £50 per annum, with a reduction of 10 per cent. in all cases.

1184. The Council has authority to set up special honorary sub-committees, consisting of members of the Council, together with other representatives of sectional contributing interests, to deal with and report on special activities.

1185. At present the following sub-committees are in operation :—

Secondary Industries Committee.
Dairy Research Committee.
Wheat Research Committee.
Fruit Research Committee.
Plant Research Committee.
Entomological Research Committee.
Leather and Pelt Research Committee.
Flax Research Committee.

Similar overseas Research Councils consist of—in England, eleven members ; in Canada, fifteen members ; in Australia, eleven members : with sub-committees as in New Zealand.

1186. The Empire Marketing Board co-operates with the Research Department by providing substantial subsidies towards the prosecution of research work that has an Empire significance, such as dairy and fruit research, plant-breeding, mineral content of pastures, &c.

1187. Sectional industries concerned also subsidize the work of the Department generally on a £1-for-£1 basis. As a rule, industrial research investigations are not undertaken by the Department unless such contributions can first be arranged for.

1188. The following table shows the gross cost of research activities, less contribution from Empire Marketing Board and sectional interests, and the net cost to the State for 1931-32 :—

	Gross Cost, less Sales.			Contributions.			Net.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Flax research	638	2	7	202	13	9	435	8	10
Fruit research	1,854	6	1	463	15	1	1,390	11	0
Fuel research	1,526	3	11	1,347	7	1	178	16	10
Dairy research	10,834	1	0	6,228	17	7	4,605	3	5
Leather research	1,108	10	9	410	0	0	698	10	9
Pelts	145	10	4	65	0	0	80	10	4
Mineral content of pastures	2,120	17	1	2,000	0	0	120	17	1
Noxious weeds	1,305	13	9	627	18	4	677	15	5
Plant research	4,490	3	2	2,753	8	7	1,736	14	7
Wool research	351	19	8	29	19	9	321	19	11
Soil survey	1,110	6	6	344	15	9	765	10	9
Wheat research	3,850	9	8	2,012	14	10	1,837	14	10
	29,336	4	6	16,486	10	9	12,849	13	9

1189. The net cost of all services carried out by the Department (including interest and depreciation) since its inauguration in 1927-28 is as shown hereunder :—

	1927-28.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£	£
Head Office	7,353	9,082	7,479	11,132*
Research investigations	8,270	18,765	23,827	17,109
Dominion Laboratory	12,410	12,408	13,258	12,151
Dominion Observatory	2,602	2,794	2,961	2,804
Geological Survey	8,103	7,608	8,488	7,629
Meteorological Office	7,617	8,506	10,064	8,748
Petrological Laboratory	557	779	397	273
	46,912	59,942	66,474	59,846

* Includes special grant of £2,500 to Mawson Antarctic Expedition and £194 in respect of Buildings Regulations Committee.

1190. The net cost of all services for 1931-32 will show a further reduction of approximately £9,000.

1190A. The expenditure in connection with such services as the Dominion Laboratory, Dominion Observatory, Geological Survey, and the Meteorological Office do not call for particular comment.