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# DREW PRAISES RESEARCH UNIT FOR WAR WORK

The role played by the Ontario Research Foundation in aiding the research phase of the war effort was of "tremendous importance," Premier George A. Drew declared in the Legislature yesterday.

Speaking in the Throne Speech debate, the Premier referred to his Government's intention to introduce a bill setting up a department of planning and development. Closely allied with this department would be the subject of research, he declared.

"Research in all fields of production is our most serious weak spot at the present time," the Premier declared. "We have an Ontario Research Foundation. Quietly and without publicity it has given enormous help in the development of our war production. But its activities are limited by the size of its staff and the amount of money available for its work. Research must cover a wide field. We need research not only in industrial production but just as much in the products of the farms, the forests, the mines and the streams.

## Grants to Universities.

"With that thought in mind, and recognizing the tremendous contribution they have already made, the Government has made grants to the three great Provincial universities, Toronto, Queen's and Western," continued the Premier. "With the idea of stimulating research not only in the scientific field but also in the social and economic field, \$400,000 has been granted to Toronto and \$250,000 apiece to Queen's and Western universities."

The Premier gave an outline of the wartime activities of the Ontario Research Foundation. The initial opportunity for the Foundation to serve the war effort was afforded by the British Supply Board, on whose request the Foundation immediately made available several of its laboratories, said the Premier.

The first project was the establishment of a laboratory for checking the accuracy of official gauges used by Government inspectors in munition plants. At the request of the British Supply Board, facilities were made available for the analysis of alloys and for the testing of shell paints and other protective coatings.

## Repair Gauges.

Then in 1941, continued the Premier, the Department of Munitions and Supply asked the Foundation to supply a shop in which faulty munition gauges could be quickly rectified and put back into use. This was done, and the shop is still in operation.

The manufacture of armor plate in Canada for the first time posed serious difficulties, and here again the Foundation rose to the occasion, the Premier told the House. Ordinary welding methods failed to pass inspection, so, in co-operation with the firms involved, the Foundation developed and established in production an improved welding process which afforded the required quality at substantially reduced costs.

Development of adequate protective qualities in heavy armor plate, problems connected with production of armor-piercing shot, synthetic rubber, service clothing, vegetable oil substitutes, aircraft instruments and tank treads were matters tackled with satisfactory results by the Foundation, the Premier said.

"These are the highlights of the war work done by the Foundation," said Premier Drew. "In addition to the projects named, there have been hundreds of shorter term investigations relating to wartime production. The work of the Foundation has been of tremendous importance in the past, and will continue to be so in the future."