

appointment of Mr. C. A. Magrath as Fuel Controller. The appointment was made on July 12, 1917. The abnormally severe winter of 1917-18 caused extraordinary demands for anthracite coal, whilst at the same time the extent to which war industries had developed in Canada was responsible for increased requirements in bituminous coal. The situation reached its most acute point in February, 1918, when at the instance of the Fuel Controller an Order in Council (February 5) was issued promulgating regulations for "Heatless Days." The days fixed for stoppage of work were February 9, 10 and 11. Similar regulations had been enforced in the United States during the previous month. During the twelve months ended March 31, 1918, Canada received from that country more coal than in any previous year. To provide for fair distribution of the available coal, the municipalities were urged to appoint local fuel commissioners under supervision of a fuel administrator appointed by each province. The powers and duties of these officials were specified in amended coal regulations approved by Order in Council of March 20, 1918. For the winter of 1918-19, the tonnage of anthracite and bituminous coal allotted to Canada by the United States Fuel Administration was somewhat less than was imported in the previous year. The requirements however were successfully met, this being facilitated by the mild winter and by conservation in the use of anthracite. The cessation of hostilities caused a reduction in the demand for industrial coal.

Cabinet Committees on Reconstruction and Repatriation.—By Order in Council of October 23, 1917, a Reconstruction and Development Committee of the Cabinet under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister was appointed to consider and to report from time to time to Council upon problems of reconstruction and development arising out of the conditions created by the war and the conclusion of peace. The subjects specifically referred to the Committee include the development of natural resources, immigration, colonization, land settlement, industrial and labour conditions, transportation by land, water and air, finance, thrift, agricultural production and the employment of women in national service. By Order in Council of November 15, 1918, a Repatriation and Employment Committee of the Cabinet was appointed and charged with the duty of securing the closest co-operation of all Departments of the Government and of other agencies for the purpose of dealing with (a) the absorption into civil life and occupation of discharged soldiers and (b) labour conditions which may arise from industrial dislocation and readjustment.

Canadian Trade Commissions.—Under Order in Council of November 7, 1918, a Canadian Trade Mission was established in London to have extensions in France, Belgium and Italy. An Order in Council of December 6, 1918, appointed a Canadian Trade Commission with headquarters at Ottawa to co-operate with the Canadian Mission in London. Under Order in Council of October 21, 1918, a Canadian Commercial Commission for Siberia was appointed to proceed to Vladivostok to represent Canadian commercial interests and to promote commercial interchanges between Canada and Russia.