

Sugar Administrator was appointed and under the Board became the sole buyer of raw sugar for Canada. Administrators* were also appointed for wool, coal, hides and leather. As a precautionary supply measure all producers, importers and dealers in coal and coke were placed under licence in December, 1939. Due to the cutting off of the major sources of supply of fish oils, an Oil Administrator was appointed and within less than two years Canada has become self-sufficient and even an exporter in respect of a number of important types of fish oils. In September, 1940, the Board's powers were extended to include housing rentals, and rents were pegged in a large number of communities where war-time conditions had produced serious congestion.

In August, 1941, the powers of the Board were strengthened and the sphere of authority was extended from "necessaries of life" to cover all prices and services that were not already under the jurisdiction of Controllers in the Department of Munitions and Supply. The Wartime Industries Control Board retained control of the supply and allocation of war materials but interlocking membership between it and the Wartime Prices and Trade Board assured close co-ordination of the two agencies. The price-fixing orders of other Dominion and provincial agencies were at the same time made subject to the Board's concurrence.

In October, 1941, the Board placed severe restrictions on instalment purchases, at retail, of a long list of goods. The Board also instituted a system of compulsory licensing for all dealers in clothes and foods, in addition to the special licensing systems already in force for several commodities.

The imposition of an over-all price ceiling effective Dec. 1, 1941 (see pp. 726-727) required rapid expansion in the administrative machinery of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. In addition to the Administrators who had already been appointed, Administrators were now appointed to control wholesale and retail trade and the whole range of commodities and services covered by the price ceiling, while Co-ordinators were named to supervise four groups of commodities, textiles and clothing, foods, metals, and paper products. Prices and Supply Representatives have been appointed to act for the Board and for the Department of Munitions and Supply in thirteen regions. The local officers of the Board such as Enforcement Counsel and representatives of particular Administrations work under their direction and sub-regional offices have been opened in more than fifty towns and cities.

An integral part of the Board's program of economy and simplification is the conservation of increasingly scarce materials. Direct restrictions on the use of such materials have also become more numerous. For example, rationing of sugar was instituted in January, 1942, with an order restricting sugar consumption to 12 ounces per person per week. In February, industrial users of sugar were required to reduce their consumption in any quarter to 80 p.c. of the consumption in the corresponding quarter of 1941.

War-time Regulation of Labour.—Such problems as the control of wages and the effective organization of labour supply have continued to be acute as the War has progressed and increasingly comprehensive measures have been passed to deal with them.

Government Labour Policy.—The Government's statement of principles for the regulation of labour conditions during the War was summarized in the 1941 Year Book, p. xxxix. The National Labour Supply Council was abolished on Feb. 24,

* Administrators of commodities under the Prices and Trade Board should be distinguished from the Controllers operating under the Department of Munitions and Supply. To the extent that their functions require, both organizations work in close co-operation, as noted later on. See also pp. xxiv-v.