

Non-Ferrous Metals.—The supply, the distribution and the use of all non-ferrous metals, industrial minerals and common metal alloys were placed under the administration of the Metals Controller, under P.C. 3187, July 15, 1940. Control has been exercised primarily through the restriction of exports and the curtailment of domestic consumption for non-essential uses. Even in cases where Canada has large supplies available for export, restrictions have been imposed on non-essential domestic use in order that the largest possible quantities of the metals involved may be made available for the war needs of the Allied nations.

Many of the control measures have been made effective through the co-operation of the industries concerned. In this connection, a number of advisory committees representing manufacturers, distributors, and consumers of metals and mineral products have been set up by the Metals Controller.

Aluminium.—Output of aluminium has been increased very substantially since the beginning of the War, and every effort has been made to effect further increases in production. One of the principal steps taken to the end of 1941 in controlling the distribution of aluminium has been to ban the use of this metal for electrical conductors and for the manufacture of cooking utensils and aluminium foil other than for essential war needs. The use of aluminium powder was strictly rationed as were other applications of this metal for non-essential uses. In the steel industry, aluminium was eliminated as a deoxidizer in the production of shell steel. For ordinary steel deoxidizing, low-grade aluminium has been substituted for virgin. In July, 1941, control and curtailment were extended to secondary and scrap aluminium. By the end of 1941 non-war consumption of virgin aluminium had been virtually eliminated.

Copper and Brass.—Regulation concerning copper and brass was instituted in July, 1941, by the Metals Controller through the surveillance of export applications and through informal understandings with principal producers and fabricators. Control of domestic consumption has been effected mainly through restricting the deliveries of primary copper to fabricators. In November, 1941, the users of copper and copper alloys for the majority of applications were placed on a quota. Metal for direct war work was not included in the quota. Copper, brass and bronze were prohibited in the manufacture of a large number of items for domestic and commercial use.

Magnesium.—The available supply of magnesium in Canada has been reserved strictly for essential war uses. After meeting the requirements of Canadian industry for the production of aircraft alloys, the balance of the supply has been used to produce flares, shell fillings, night bombs and other equipment. At the end of 1941, plans were under way for the construction of a magnesium-producing plant in Canada.

Nickel.—The principal producers and distributors of primary nickel in Canada, in co-operation with the Metals Controller, have taken steps to exercise strict control over non-essential domestic consumption. Control steps to the end of 1941 included a general priority allocation of nickel and nickel-bearing alloys.