

The Department of Munitions and Supply.—An account of the establishment and the administrative functions of the Department of Munitions and Supply appears in the Miscellaneous Administration Chapter of the 1942 Year Book, at pp. 942-943.

The Department was organized in order to centralize all purchasing functions on behalf of the Armed Forces, except for certain construction and like facilities, for which contracts continued to be let directly by other Departments, such as Transport, National Defence and Public Works. The Minister is empowered to examine into and to organize, mobilize, and conserve the resources of Canada for the purpose of furnishing munitions of war and supplies.

The Department does all the essential purchasing for the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as for the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan, the United Kingdom Technical Mission, the British Admiralty Technical Mission, and the governments of the Allied Nations. Through a system of Controllers* for coal, rubber, aircraft, oil, timber, steel, machine tools, power, metals, motor-vehicles, ship repairs and salvage construction, transit, and chemicals, it maintains a strict supervision over certain industries. The Controllers are organized into a Wartime Industries Control Board which acts as a mutual consultative agency and maintains direct liaison with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board (p. xxxix) for the co-ordination of orders affecting the several industries.

The need to extend and create new industrial facilities in Canada for purposes of war production led to the development of an extensive program of capital assistance to industry by the Government of Canada. Plants were built and machine tools purchased with Government funds, but in most cases, the operation of such new facilities was left to private interests under specified conditions and subject to the Department's supervision, ownership being retained by the Government. Moreover, the Canadian Government set up wholly owned Crown companies for the manufacture of small arms, precision instruments, synthetic rubber, ships and other war supplies, and other such companies to engage in special purchasing and supervisory functions.

The task of providing for the manufacture of modern mechanized equipment involved not only the expansion of production familiar to Canadian industry but also the production of equipment never before manufactured in Canada. The list of these items is impressive and includes war vessels, tanks, field, naval and anti-aircraft guns and equipment, precision instruments for anti-submarine and anti-aircraft defence, armour plate, bombs, and various component parts of war equipment. The developments in these fields are referred to in the chapters dealing with the particular industries.

The total value of contracts awarded by the Department, and its predecessor bodies, since the beginning of the War to Feb. 29, 1944, exceeded \$10,032,000,000, while commitments for capital assistance to private industry and to Crown companies exceeded \$860,000,000.

The Department of National War Services.—An account of the establishment and functions of this Department is given in the Miscellaneous Administration Chapter of the 1942 Year Book, at pp. 943-945. No recent changes have taken place and, owing to pressure on space, that material is not repeated.

* These are dealt with in detail in the appropriate chapters of this volume; see the various sections under "Controls" in the Index.