

The National Film Board.—As the statutory film authority for the Canadian Government, the National Film Board produces or arranges for the production of films on behalf of all Government Departments and Divisions; these are distributed to approximately 840 theatres in English-speaking Canada and 60 theatres in French-speaking Canada. A wide distribution is made to theatres in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa, the British West Indies and Latin America. Non-theatrical distribution is arranged through the Central Government Film Distribution Service.

The Wartime Prices and Trade Board.—The Wartime Prices and Trade Board was constituted by Order in Council under the War Measures Act on Sept. 3, 1939, "to provide safeguards under war conditions against any undue enhancement in the prices of food, fuel and other necessities of life and to ensure an adequate supply and equitable distribution of such commodities" The Board was given extensive powers to fix maximum prices or markups, to control imports or exports of any necessity of life, to buy or sell and allocate supplies, to license manufacturers and to make investigations.

During the first two years of the War the Board was mainly concerned with organizing supply and preventing the occurrence of avoidable shortages. Direct price fixing was only very rarely necessary. The Board appointed administrators to take charge of wool, sugar, hides and leather, coal, oils and rents. Extensive powers were delegated to the Administrators who were concerned chiefly with the organization of supplies. Rents were brought under jurisdiction of the Board in September, 1940, and were pegged in a large number of congested areas.

As the war program expanded, persistent shortages began to develop and, starting in April, 1941, the cost-of-living index rose sharply, largely as a result of rapidly increasing food prices. Against this background the Government decided upon a policy of overall price and wage ceilings, which came into effect on Dec. 1, 1941 (see pp. 776-783).

With the introduction of overall price control the Board was reorganized, Administrators being appointed for each branch of industry. These Administrators supervise all controls over their respective products until they reach the wholesaler. From this stage control is generally exercised through a Wholesale Trade Administrator and a Retail Trade Administrator. Many of the Administrators are assisted in their work by Advisory Committees representing the industries under their control. Related industries are grouped under six co-ordinators: distributive trades (including wholesale trade, retail trade and services); foods; textiles and clothing; metal and wood products; pulp and paper; and real property. The activities of the various administrators are correlated and supervised by the different Head Office Divisions. Proposals for Administrators' Orders dealing with pricing or supply are reviewed by either the Prices Division or the Supply Division and must be approved by the Chairman of the Board. Other Head Office Divisions deal with distribution, research and statistics, enforcement, public information, industrial problems, and liaison with consumers. Under the Consumer Branch there are 166 Women's Regional Advisory Committees and some 10,000 liaison officers keeping the Board in close touch with consumer opinion and disseminating information on Board policy and regulations to consumers. Contact with consumers, producers and dealers in different localities is greatly facilitated by the Board's Regional Offices located in the larger cities and by the Local Offices of which there are over 100. In addition there are over 500 local ration boards, usually under the chairmanship of the local mayor or reeve and serving without remuneration.