

Despite the large increase in production, which now exceeds the average pre-war total of imports plus domestic output, the end of 1943 still saw shortages of end-products which affected every civilian.

*Control.*—On June 24, 1940, the Steel Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply was established. Even though the United States was helping by increasing steel exports, it was found advisable to expand Canadian facilities, and to reduce civilian consumption.

From the very beginning conservation has been achieved largely by control at the source. The rolling schedules at the mills have been supervised in such a way that non-essential orders have been squeezed out. In addition, however, hundreds of thousands of tons of steel have been saved by voluntary and mandatory substitution of less scarce materials, and this has been possible in war, as well as civilian, manufacture.

Immense quantities of steel were saved by the Department of Munitions and Supply through restrictive orders of the Steel Control, and by orders of other Controls. The Supplies Control, which until early in 1942 had jurisdiction over scores of end-products, banned or restricted production of a long list of articles, including washing machines, radios and stoves. In addition, the Wartime Prices and Trade Board cut out the frills of civilian manufacture and, by new and simpler standardized designs for essential articles, saved much steel. Early in 1942, this body took over the control of the metal end-products formerly under the jurisdiction of the Supplies Control, and it thereafter continued the policy of eliminating the manufacture of non-essentials and curtailing the output of many essentials.

*Non-Ferrous Metals.*—Canada is now the greatest base-metal exporting country in the world, and in 1943 achieved the largest output in its history.

After the outbreak of hostilities, in 1939, the metal and mineral production of Canada was made available to the United Kingdom, and contracts provided for the annual shipment of more than one billion pounds of aluminum, copper, zinc, nickel and lead. With the entry of the United States into the conflict, in 1941, it became necessary further to increase production so that substantial quantities of exportable metals could be shipped to that country for its war program.

One of the most notable accomplishments of the Metals Control has been the substitution of less scarce metals for those in shortest supply. But the most striking achievements have been in the production of the light metals, magnesium, and aluminum. At the beginning of 1942, this country had to import magnesium; before the year was out, a Government-owned plant, using a new Canadian process, was producing sufficient to provide for domestic needs and for the export of a substantial quantity. Aluminum production in Canada was not new, but it has expanded more than six times since war began.

*Control.*—On July 15, 1940, the Metals Controller was appointed in the Department of Munitions and Supply. His duties were to regulate the supply, distribution, and use of non-ferrous metals, industrial minerals, and common metal alloys. The Controller immediately restricted the domestic use of aluminum, nickel, zinc, magnesium, tin, cadmium, copper and brass, and later added other non-ferrous metal restrictions. Nearly all these controls were later tightened, but by the beginning of 1944 some relaxations were possible.

*Timber.*—Because of the great and growing importance of wood, Canada's 500,000,000 forested acres take on a new significance. Demands have risen so high that production cannot keep pace, and Canada, one of the richest timber countries in the world, is experiencing a deficit.

At the outbreak of war, the Canadian lumber industry was experiencing a period of reasonable activity but in the summer of 1940, Canada became virtually the only source from which the United Kingdom could obtain supplies of softwoods essential to the prosecution of the War. At the same time the industry was called on to provide the needs of a suddenly expanded Canadian war program.