

*Control.*—To meet this emergency, the Department of Munitions and Supply established a Timber Control on June 24, 1940. Almost immediately the specifications for buildings and for all articles made of wood were scrutinized so that the necessary grades might be conserved wherever possible. At the instance of the Control, many types of containers were redesigned by the Forest Products Laboratories of the Department of Mines and Resources, and important savings in lumber and shipping space were achieved. During the first half of 1941, the demand for lumber was sharply reduced, but by mid-summer a second very active period of war building got under way and continued into 1942. The Timber Control has imposed many restrictions to conserve available supplies.

*Rubber.*—On the site of an old Indian reservation, near Sarnia, Ont., a plant owned by the people of Canada is (in March, 1944) turning out 34,000 long tons of buna-S and 4,000 long tons of butyl each year. This output, together with small quantities of neoprene from the United States, the still-essential natural rubber from Ceylon, Mexico, Brazil and Liberia, and goodly supplies of scrap, will be sufficient to provide Canadian war-time requirements if civilian demands are as closely restricted as in the past two years.

As a result of measures adopted by the Rubber Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply, consumption of rubber for civilian purposes in 1943 averaged about 10 p.c. of what it was before the War. Restrictive orders were not alone responsible for this saving of the priceless rubber supply; much of it has been achieved by the use of substitutes and reclaim.

*Control.*—At the beginning of 1944, the situation was this: new, retreated and used tires, and new and used tubes, were rationed, with 120 Rationing Representatives handling equitable distribution to essential users. Crude rubber is permitted only for a continually diminishing list of the most essential articles. On the other hand, the use of synthetic is being steadily and rapidly extended for war and essential civilian purposes.

A Government agency, Fairmont Company Limited, was established on May 16, 1940, and given the authority to purchase, stockpile, and sell crude natural rubber in accordance with existing and subsequent war needs. By the time rubber was placed under the jurisdiction of the Supplies Control of the Department of Munitions and Supply, on Aug. 26, 1941, the Fairmont reserve amounted to 25,000 tons. Later this Crown Company was given a monopoly over buying and selling crude rubber, and arrangements were made for doubling the stockpile. At the same time, the Control began a program of progressive restriction on the use of natural rubber.

When Canada declared war on Japan, things moved fast. Within three days all civilian dealings in new tires and tubes had been prohibited, except by permit. One day later all processing of crude rubber for civilian purposes was frozen. Four days after that, rubber prices were fixed. And the day after Christmas the first step toward synthetic production was taken with the setting up of a rubber substitutes advisory committee. Early in 1942, tire rationing orders were issued.

During the next few months the Allied rubber position grew progressively worse, and it was felt by the Department of Munitions and Supply that the regulation of rubber in Canada was important enough to justify an individual control. Accordingly, on Nov. 2, 1942, the jurisdiction over rubber was removed from the Supplies Control, and a Rubber Control was established.

The rubber processors have been under very tight control, and the rubber they have used, whether for war or for civilian manufacture, has had to be processed according to mandatory specifications. No rubber has been released, even for war purposes, except by permit.

The measures of control over scrap and reclaim have closely paralleled those over crude rubber. On Mar. 23, 1942, the use of reclaim was limited to much the same essential articles as those for which natural rubber could be used, but in many articles its use was made mandatory, and in other articles the manufacturers were compelled to use a specified proportion of reclaim. When synthetic rubber became available, the restrictions on scrap and reclaim were gradually relaxed.

*Chemicals.*—During the early months of the War, the problem of supplying chemicals for the war program rested on the shoulders of the Chemicals and Explosives Production Branch of the Department of Munitions and Supply. But early in 1941 it became apparent that shortages of chemicals both for war and civilian purposes made necessary a closer regulation of supplies. In July, 1941, a Chemicals Controller, Department of Munitions and Supply, was appointed.