

orders were issued during the ensuing nine months. Then, a consolidating order of June 10, 1940, subjected all imports (except live quadruped animals) to the requirement of licence. The intensified control thus created was relaxed to some extent by "open general licences" which permitted importation of specified goods without licence for each shipment. Many of these open licences were later withdrawn. For example, cod-liver oil, wet-salted fish, asbestos, undressed fur skins, natural and artificial graphite, gold, nickel and silver ores and concentrates, raw rubber, canvas hose pipes, wood tool handles, and some classes of chemicals and also, if imported from British Empire countries, biscuits, buttons, essential oils, mica and hard soap were at first under open licence, but by June 30, 1942, this list was reduced to gold and Empire nickel. Control exercised over exports necessitated about 154 orders to the end of 1943. Under the Emergency Powers Defence Act, 1939, numerous orders were made regulating or prohibiting production, distribution, consumption and prices of goods and services.

Eire.—Quota restrictions in Eire imposed under the Control of Imports Acts 1934-37 were temporarily suspended during the calendar year 1943 as regards rubber-proofed apparel, tires and tubes, rubber footwear, silk and rayon stockings, certain cotton and wool fabrics, laminated springs, brushes, brooms, mops, sparking plugs, perambulators, electric filament lamps and specified fertilizers, and were continued on leather boots and shoes, hats and caps, metal screws and motor-vehicles. Under an Emergency Powers Order, 1939, imports of timber, salt, coffee, wine, linen fabrics, and yarns and fabrics of cotton, wool, silk or artificial silk, became subject to licence by the Minister of Supplies. Scheduled banks are authorized to allow payments abroad to meet reasonable requirements, subject to any direction given by the Minister of Finance.

Australia.—In administering an import licensing system adopted in Australia on Dec. 1, 1939, the general tendency has been to permit imports according to degrees of essentiality of the goods. Due to lack of shipping facilities, newsprint supplies, which in the case of large publications had been rationed on July 1, 1940, to 35 p.c. of the previous year's consumption, were reduced on Nov. 15, 1942, by 15 p.c. of the consumption during the second and third quarters of that year. During 1942 and 1943 many articles were placed under "administrative control" to obtain more flexibility in licensing. The Division of Import Procurement in the Department of Trade and Customs controls issue of licences and the distribution of commodities rationed for civilian purposes and determines shipping priorities.

New Zealand.—Licence control over imports instituted in New Zealand, on Dec. 7, 1938, to conserve overseas exchange has continued with modifications. Regulations announced in September, 1943, to operate during 1944 established three categories of goods to be admitted up to 50 p.c. of the 1940 level. One category was made up of goods to be admitted from the United Kingdom and Crown Colonies only; another from British countries only; and a third from any country. A fourth group was to be licensed from all sources up to 100 p.c., and a fifth when each individual importation could be approved on its merits. Goods normally prohibited constituted a sixth class, of which examples were leather gloves, vacuum cleaners, sewing-machines, washing-machines, long-handled shovels, veneers and plywood. Due to scarcity abroad of essential articles, whose release called for government sponsorship, certain goods were to be imported through the Ministry of Supply, created at the outbreak of war, and which opened Missions abroad to procure supplies.