

groups in the community and are purchased infrequently, have been rationed by permit.

Sugar, tea, coffee, butter, meat, evaporated milk (in certain areas), "preserves" and gasoline have been rationed by coupon. Electric stoves, residential lighting fixtures, new farm machinery, tires and tubes, typewriters and office machinery, standard railroad watches, protective rubber garments and small arms ammunition have been rationed by permit.

Under rationing it is necessary to control supplies through the various stages of distribution as well as sales to consumers. Retailers and wholesalers, therefore, may obtain supplies of rationed goods only by handing back coupons, permits, or equivalent ration documents to their suppliers. The actual handling of coupons has been very much reduced by the use of bank accounts for ration coupons, introduced in March, 1943. Ration banking applied only to foods until April, 1944, when it was extended to include gasoline coupons. When primary producers sell direct to consumers they are required to collect coupons.

Rationing of automobiles, trucks, gasoline and tires is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Munitions and Supply. All other consumer rationing is administered by the Rationing Administration of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board through its central, regional and local offices. Local ration boards, numbering about 600 in all and consisting largely of voluntary personnel, assist the Administration by dealing with consumer problems requiring knowledge of local conditions.

*Permit rationing* is based on the consumer's declaration of need. The conditions under which a person is entitled to purchase the commodity are defined and the prospective purchaser must show that he falls within the definition. In some cases, permits must be countersigned by the dealer and/or approved by local ration authorities. For example, during the period Aug. 10, 1942, to Mar. 17, 1943, anyone purchasing an electric stove had to certify either that an electric stove then in his possession was in an unrepairable condition or that there were no facilities in the building for the installation of a coal, wood or gas stove. In the rationing of farm machinery (introduced Oct. 6, 1942), details must be given regarding machinery already in possession of the applicant, the nature of his farming activities, etc., and the permit, countersigned by the dealer, must be approved by the local ration board.

The permit ration systems for small arms ammunition (Mar. 24, 1943), standard railway watches (Sept. 1, 1942) and protective rubber clothing (June 1-Oct. 25, 1943) have ensured that the limited supplies are reserved for certain occupational groups and, in the case of typewriters and office machinery (June 12, 1942) for priority users such as the Armed Forces and war industries. Permits also provide a record of sales by which replacement of dealers' stocks may be controlled.

Early in 1942 the production of automobiles was stopped (see Chap. XIV). To take care of the needs of physicians, nurses, fire-fighting and police departments, and other users in essential classifications, 4,480 new cars were set aside in a government "bank". Cars from this reserve pool are released only for essential purposes on a permit from the Motor Vehicle Control in the Department of Munitions and Supply. Manufacturers of trucks have been permitted to divert from military schedules certain models which are stripped of all military equipment and produced as commercial units. All new trucks for civilian purposes are released only when the prospective purchasers have proven their essentiality to the Motor Vehicle Control.

*Tires and Tubes.*—Within three days after Canada declared war on Japan, all civilian dealings in new tires and tubes had been prohibited, except by permit. In January, 1942, this freezing order was replaced by an order which permitted