

by means of permits was established to ensure that supplies, except those consumed on the farm, moved through the regular trade channels against ration documents.

During February, 1944, the development of large surpluses of meat in Canada made advisable a temporary suspension of meat rationing at the end of that month. Announcement of the suspension in the House of Commons emphasized its temporary nature in view of the Government's determination to meet essential requirements of the United Kingdom. Reasons for the move were a continuance of heavy livestock marketings and an acute congestion of storage space coupled with limitations on physical capacity to move meat to seaboard and overseas.

Preserves.—A group rationing scheme was adopted on Sept. 2, 1943, for a number of related products which are used either as desserts or sweeteners. The ration included jams, jellies, marmalade, molasses, honey, maple syrup and most maple products, corn and other table syrups, and canned fruits. Each coupon is good for a specified quantity of each article and the consumer may choose any one available. As in other ration schemes, wholesalers and retailers may purchase supplies only in exchange for valid ration documents. Because the ration includes a variety of articles, supplies of any particular one may fall short of demand and wholesalers have been required in such cases to conform to the policy of equitable distribution.

The values of the preserves coupon have been adjusted from time to time to keep them in line with the available supplies of the various articles included in the ration. Most of the coupon values were doubled on Feb. 3, 1944. The value of one preserves coupon—a two weeks' ration—is 1 qt. of molasses, or 2 lb. of honey, or 20 fluid oz. of canned fruit, or 12 fluid oz. of jam, etc. As an alternative, the preserves coupon is worth $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of sugar.

Evaporated Milk.—On Oct. 4, 1943, a priority distribution scheme was put into effect for evaporated milk to ensure that supplies would be made available for consumers in areas where fluid milk supplies were deficient, for infants and invalids requiring it in their diets, and for hospitals and other essential users. Infants and invalids and certain other persons, such as trappers, obtain coupons on proof of need. In areas of adequate fluid milk supply evaporated milk is sold only against these coupons. Extra quantities are allocated to areas where fluid milk supplies are deficient and these may be sold ration free after priority needs are met. Supplies are provided for hospitals and other essential users by means of quotas.

Other Distribution Controls.—*Priorities.*—Other controls over trade that have been of particular importance under war-time conditions have been the priorities system introduced in Canada and in countries from which Canada must draw supplies. The Priorities Officers of the Department of Munitions and Supply are responsible for the supervision of all matters having to do with priorities of production, transportation and delivery of materials and commodities of every kind in Canada and assist Canadian importers, including the distributive trades, in relation with priority authorities in other countries. The Priorities Officers working in conjunction with the various Controllers of the Wartime Industries Control Board and Administrators of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board direct the movement of many materials and products into essential channels.

Coal.—By granting delivery priorities wherever necessary to householders with less than a week's supply on hand, and by restricting sales of certain types of coal in areas of scarcity, the Coal Control has assured equitable distribution of available supplies. To accomplish this objective a number of restrictive measures have been necessary.