

The Board provides certain information for members of the Canadian Armed Forces, through publications edited in consultation with the educational authorities of the Forces.

Labour.—In the Introduction of various wartime editions of the Year Book, the wartime functions of the Labour Department have been covered and related to the Labour Chapter where the permanent and fundamental work of this Department is described. This year, due to the fact that many of the wartime regulations on labour have now become consolidated with the permanent work, they have been fully dealt with in Chapter XIX to which the reader is referred.

War Assets Corporation.—War Assets Corporation is a Crown agency established for the orderly disposal of surplus Crown assets by authority of the Surplus Crown Assets Act (8 Geo. VI, c. 21) assented to June 30, 1944. On July 12, 1944, by the appointment of directors, the Corporation succeeded to the business and took over the assets and liabilities of War Assets Corporation Limited, which was incorporated under the Dominion Companies' Act by authority of Order in Council, P.C. 9108, of Nov. 29, 1943.

Two authorities were established by the Act, Crown Assets Allocation Committee and War Assets Corporation. The Crown Assets Allocation Committee reports to the Minister of Reconstruction and advises him on matters relating to the use, disposal of, or dealing with surplus Crown assets, and determines whether they shall be allocated to Departments of Government, to Mutual Aid, or for general disposal by War Assets Corporation. The Corporation, subject to general or specific instructions given by the Minister, may sell, exchange, lease, lend or otherwise dispose of or deal with surplus Crown assets. The Corporation may hold in storage, or restore to its original condition any property that has been made available and settle any claims in connection therewith, and may purchase or lease any property required for the purpose of its operations. Because many war materials have no peacetime value, the Corporation will also decide what surpluses may be reduced to scrap.

War Assets Corporation was organized in the manner of industrial companies with a Board of Directors (of twelve men) chosen to represent a cross-section of business, labour and agriculture and the country geographically. It has no share capital.

The administration is directed by a President who acts also as Chairman of the Board. The Corporation reports to the Minister of Reconstruction; its books are subject to audit by the Auditor General of Canada, and its income, less operating expenses, is turned over to the Receiver General of Canada.

The Head Office of the Corporation is at Montreal. Branch and sales offices have been established at Halifax, N.S., Moncton, N.B., Montreal, Que., Toronto, Ont., London, Ont., Port Arthur, Ont., Winnipeg, Man., Regina, Sask., Calgary, Alta., Edmonton, Alta., Vancouver, B.C., and St. John's, Newfoundland. To maintain contact in the United Kingdom and the United States, representatives are maintained at London, England, and Washington, D.C., and a special office at Ottawa provides direct contact with Crown Assets Allocation Committee and the main sources of surplus declarations.

The policy is to sell all Crown-owned materials declared surplus at existing market prices within the ceilings set by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, and to obtain the highest possible return to the taxpayers of Canada. Every effort is made to control the price to the public, to reach the public through the shortest possible route, and to keep out of unfair competition with established business.