

certain other countries, in purchasing in Canada and exporting to these countries goods required for civilian use, and to facilitate export transactions with such agencies.

The Board operates only when ordinary commercial channels between exporter and importer cannot be utilized or when there are no existing procurement facilities: it will not interfere with normal commercial enterprise.

The Board is under the control of the Minister of the Department of Trade and Commerce: it has five members, three including the Chairman who is the Director of the Commercial Intelligence Service, from the Department of Trade and Commerce and one each from the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries.

For the purpose of carrying out business transactions in as normal a way as possible, the office staff has been divided into three sections—Purchasing, Traffic and Accounting.

Powers of the Board.—The Board is empowered to buy and sell and to negotiate, as principal or agent, the purchase of all types of civilian commodities required by the British Commonwealth of Nations and also Allied Nations. It can conduct negotiations concerning the prices at which the products should be purchased and may determine the price at which such products shall be sold by the Board. In practice, goods are bought and sold at the same price and, at the present time, no charge is being made for the Board's services, although it has power to make such a charge if deemed advisable.

It may establish offices at whatever points throughout Canada it may be considered advisable to do so, and it may also establish warehouses in which to store goods required by the various authorities who make use of its services.

As at Apr. 1, 1945, the Board's offices were restricted to Ottawa but four warehouses were in operation taking care of purchases made at the request of the Canadian Mutual Aid Board for ultimate delivery to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The Board conducts a very large amount of business on behalf of the Canadian Mutual Aid Board when their requirements are of a civilian nature and it also buys for the following: British Colonies Supply Mission; India Supply Mission; French Military Mission; French Naval Mission; French Supply Mission; Belgium Mission; Australian War Supplies Procurement Division; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Union of South Africa; Iceland; United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration; Commercial Corporation of United Kingdom; Ministry of Supply of Great Britain; New Zealand; Military Relief; and others.

As at the first of June, 1944, firm orders placed by the Board amounted to just over \$2,500,000. By Jan. 1, 1945, these had increased to a total of \$37,500,000 and by Apr. 1, to \$90,000,000.

Import Division and the Export Planning Division.—Although wartime organizations in origin these Divisions are tied in closely with the permanent organization of the Commercial Intelligence Service (see chart at p. 479) and for convenience has been dealt with in the review of that Service at pp. 472-473.

Export Credits Insurance and Loans and Guarantees to Other Countries.—The plan, forecast in the Speech from the Throne in January, 1944, to create a Government body to protect Canada's position as a world trader over the transitional period from war to peace and thus meet some of the financial problems that