

sustain essential output. The Board also reported on domestic food requirements to the Food Requirements Committee, and kept the Department of Agriculture informed on relevant food problems both through this Committee and directly.

The problem of obtaining necessary materials from abroad remained a very important one and necessitated a variety of complicated negotiations. Such negotiations were usually with the Combined Boards or the appropriate United States or United Kingdom production authorities and covered a wide range of goods, including textiles, hides, foodstuffs, various metal products, and component parts required for Canadian production of finished articles.

Directed Production.—The policy of planning and directing the production of certain articles of clothing, begun in 1943, was extended during 1944. In directing such production, the Board states the total output required and, through the administrator concerned, allocates this total between the different manufacturers. Arrangements are also made for priority for materials and frequently for labour, in the latter case through National Selective Service. This system of "production directives" is regarded as the most direct and effective way of assuring needed production. It has been applied to such garments as knitted underwear of all kinds, children's autumn and winter garments, socks and stockings, worsted suitings, and so on. Production planning of a somewhat less formal type was necessary in certain other spheres, such as household appliances, where production had been small or lacking for some time and deferred needs both for replacements and new households had accumulated. In a few such cases, a limited production was authorized and steps were taken to obtain the materials through the Wartime Industries Control Board, either in the form of an authorized program or on an understanding from that Board that the planned production was not out of line with the existing supply position. Actually, increased war requirements did interfere with the fulfilment of such programs.

Allocations and Priority Systems.—Measures to allocate scarce materials and supplies were extended during the year, though a variety of restrictions and prohibitions concerning the manufacture of specified articles were revoked. The establishment of quotas and priorities for the distribution of materials was a more effective and flexible type of control than the restriction of non-essential end products and flexibility was of great importance in a period characterized by frequent changes in the types and quantities of materials that could be used for civilian production. For example, quotas and priorities for manufacturers using paperboard (such as firms making paper containers) were established during the year, based partly on the user's consumption in a base year and partly on the need for his particular kind of production. These quotas were varied in accordance with changes in available supplies, and their development made it possible to do without various restrictions on particular paperboard products and at the same time to assure essential production. Another example of this type of control was the controlled allocation to users of all types of containers and packing cases, following a shortage of containers early in 1944. Control was extended to all types of containers, since metal, glass, paperboard and wooden containers can be substituted for one another to a high degree. After the outbreak of war in the Pacific, glass and paperboard containers had been substituted for metal cans in many uses. During the early part of 1944, however, shortages of paperboard and of glass developed, together with some easing in the supply of steel sheet. The Board, therefore, permitted a return to the use of metal