

Price trends for synthetic rubber produced by Polymer illustrate the increased efficiency of production, but do not reflect the very substantial improvements in quality that have been made. For example, there have been seven price reductions for Buna S which stood at 39.96 cents per pound in 1943, and is now 16½ cents per pound at Sarnia, Ont. This compares with natural rubber which in mid-1947 stood at 17¼ cents per pound at New York, U.S.A.

Eldorado Mining and Refining (1944) Limited.—This Crown Company is engaged in the mining and refining of pitchblende in Canada. The mine is located at Great Bear Lake, N.W.T., and is one of the chief sources of uranium and radium salts in the world. The refinery is at Port Hope, Ont. Prior to the outbreak of war, the mining and refining of pitchblende in Canada was under private control. However, to insure the proper distribution and use of this strategic mineral for war-time and peacetime purposes, Eldorado Mining and Refining (1944) Limited was incorporated as a Company wholly owned by the Crown and took over all private operations in this field.

Canadian Arsenals Limited.—This Company, reporting to Parliament through the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply, represents the industrial branch of the Armed Forces. It was established as a result of recommendations made by a joint committee, membership of which included representatives of industry and Government, appointed during the latter years of the War to examine the problem of continuing defence production in Canada. The Company co-ordinates its operations with those of the various divisions of the Canadian Department of National Defence and maintains liaison with defence branches of other governments. Its specific duties are to develop and provide improved weapons, to keep industry informed on the latest developments with regard to military equipment and to advise the Armed Forces on the country's industrial armament capacity. The Company also retains certain plants under its direct control. The latter group of plants, all wholly owned by the Government, are engaged exclusively in the production of guns and small arms, ammunition, explosives and other military supplies. Most of the plants were constructed and equipped by the Canadian Government after September, 1939, and since the end of the War have supplied the Canadian Armed Forces with modern military equipment.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.—The main functions of this Corporation, formed on Jan. 1, 1946, were to administer the National Housing Act, 1944, the Emergency Shelter Order and the Home Conversion Plan. The Corporation provided for housing and mortgage research, for double depreciation for rental housing and for the reclamation of building materials from the demolition of outlying surplus buildings. In the course of 1946, the Corporation became responsible for the co-ordination of all Federal housing policy. This was accomplished by co-ordinating the activities of the Corporation with Wartime Housing Limited (see p. 1113) and maintaining close working relations with the Department of Veterans Affairs in respect to housing operations under the Veterans' Land Act. The Corporation also maintained close liaison with the branch of the Department of Reconstruction and Supply responsible for priorities and the expediting of an increase in the supply of building materials. To insure efficiency, the Corporation has decentralized its field operations into regional and branch offices. (For a discussion of the extent of operations, see p. 582.)