

**Licensing.**—Licensing controls on the establishment of new businesses or the undertaking of new lines of business were withdrawn in 1947. These regulations had been introduced late in 1942 as a necessary supplementary control for the Board's general purposes and in particular had facilitated the Policy of Equitable Distribution and had served the beneficial purpose of preventing an undesirable expansion in trade outlets at a time when goods were scarce. Later the regulations were considerably modified and after June, 1944, licences were issued freely except in cases where the applicant would require a quota or ration of some commodity under strict distribution control such as sugar. On Apr. 7, 1947, by which time a considerable number of items had been decontrolled, the regulations were substantially relaxed. Licences continued to be required only by those persons dealing in any goods or services still subject to price control and where, for price fixation and enforcement purposes, licensing requirements still remained essential. In addition all businesses using sugar quotas continued to require licences though their products had in some cases been decontrolled. All coke and coal dealers were likewise required to hold licences though these commodities were released from ceiling prices on Apr. 16, 1947. These exceptions were necessitated by the Board's continuing interest in supply and distribution in these fields. Finally on Nov. 15, 1947, all licensing regulations were withdrawn with the exception of those affecting fuel dealers.

**Foods.**—Though some foods, both domestic and imported, were available in substantially greater quantities, domestic agricultural production in some important lines was down from 1946. Crops of fruits, vegetables and grains were in most cases smaller than the crops of 1946 and were only fair by average standards. Meat production was about 6 p.c. below 1946 output, owing partly to reduced supplies of feeds. The decline was concentrated in beef supplies; inspected slaughterings of cattle were about 23 p.c. fewer than in the previous year. On the other hand, the downward trend in hog slaughterings from wartime peaks appeared to have been checked and inspected slaughterings increased about 4 p.c. Egg and poultry production reached markedly high levels. The production of milk was slightly greater than in 1946 but fluid milk sales were down about 2 p.c. Increases in the production of butter and concentrated milk products were achieved at the expense of a serious decline in the already low cheese output. Sugar was one of the bright spots in the supply picture as a result of an exceptionally good Cuban crop. Despite some continuing difficulties the removal of supply controls in the foods field had been largely completed by Sept. 15, 1947.

**Meat.**—Meat rationing was discontinued on Mar. 27, 1947, after a duration of approximately eighteen months. It had been imposed for a second time in September, 1945, as a means of making more meat available for export to the United Kingdom. The rationing of meat was an expensive and difficult operation from both the standpoint of Government administration and the extra burdens imposed upon farmers, commercial slaughterers, meat distributors and consumers. It was particularly important, therefore, not to prolong it further than was absolutely necessary. The regulations governing the observance of meatless days in restaurants and public eating places were withdrawn on Aug. 15, 1947.

Hog-slaughtering quotas, an integral part of the machinery of meat rationing, were discontinued as early as Apr. 20, 1947, in so far as general application was concerned. However, to protect United Kingdom requirements for pork, the Meat Board of the Department of Agriculture continued to keep all inspected