

the supply eased somewhat and releases were allowed on the basis of 100 p.c. of 1946 usage. In addition, ex-quota allocations were freely made to essential industries to the extent of reasonable requirements. With further improvement in supply all domestic allocations of tin were discontinued in the second quarter of 1948.

In view of the shortage of tin and steel plate for the manufacture of cans, restrictions designed to provide for the most essential needs for metal containers were continued substantially unchanged through 1947. These regulations limited the use of metal containers to the packing of specified products in designated sizes and in some cases subject to quotas. In addition, under a priority system governing the manufacture and delivery of containers, preference had to be given to requirements for the packing of staples such as perishable fruits and vegetables, fish and meat products as well as special products including certain chemicals, drugs and medicinals. Some slight modification of the restrictions was made on Apr. 1, when annual quota pack limitations were lifted on a number of products. On Sept. 15, 1947, quotas were withdrawn on packs of several commodities and a few food items were added to the list of products which could be packed in metal containers. Finally, in May, 1948, the Metal Containers Order was revoked entirely.

Other Controls.—In 1947 the long drawn out shortage of textiles was at length overcome and supplies in most lines became quite satisfactory. In part the improvement reflected increased domestic production of woollens, rayons and cottons and in part it was the result of a larger volume of imports, particularly of cotton goods from the United States. The few remaining supply and distribution controls carrying over into 1947 were wound up. In the textile field one of the major control features was the program of production directives, employed as a means of obtaining the largest practicable output of essential garments. Only a small remnant of this program was carried over into 1947 and by mid-year all such controls had been dropped.

The various controls employed to regulate the distribution of pulp and paper products were gradually terminated during 1947. Most packing and wrapping materials were produced in greater quantities in 1947 but with continued heavy demand careful utilization of supplies remained necessary in the early part of the year. The distribution of shipping cases was under a priority system which gave preference in delivery to orders for essential uses such as the packaging of foods and building materials. These controls were withdrawn in July however, and in the same month regulations affecting the distribution of multi-wall bags were discontinued. One of the last controls to be terminated was that on the distribution of wood-pulp. To protect essential Canadian requirements in spite of the high prices prevailing in the export market, allocation of wood-pulp to the domestic market was continued until Dec. 31, 1947.

Section 2.—Trade Standards*

The Standards Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce was created in the latter part of the fiscal year 1946-47, and provided for the consolidation of several important services and for the administration, under one director, of the Electricity Inspection Act, the Gas Inspection Act, the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act, the Precious Metals Marking Act, and the Weights and Measures

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