

registerable population of the Dominion. As a result of the registration, provincial authorities were furnished with the names and addresses of 140,000 persons experienced in some branch of agriculture, but not at the time engaged therein. The armistice averted the necessity for any more extensive displacement of labour as a result of the registration.

#### **CO-ORDINATED OPERATION OF CANADIAN RAILWAYS.**

Adequate transportation facilities are a fundamental requisite of effective modern warfare, as Germany realized before the war, and Russia, to her cost, after entering upon the struggle. Great Britain commandeered the railway systems of the country on August 5, 1914, and with the co-operation of the railway officials, operated them as a single unit throughout the whole course of the conflict, thus securing the maximum efficiency of transportation. As the war went on, the necessity of unified operation of the railways was recognized in Canada also. The Railway Association for National Defence was formed on October 23, 1917, with objects which are stated in the following resolution, passed on that date:

“That the railways of Canada, realizing the national need of co-ordinating all industrial activities toward the prosecution of the war, and desiring by further co-operation with each other to render the most efficient possible service to the national cause, do hereby agree to establish for the period of the war an organization which shall have general authority to formulate in detail, and from time to time, a policy of operation of all or any of the railways, which policy when it is announced by such organization shall be accepted and made effective by the several managements of the individual railway companies.”

In the following year, the Association was re-organized as the Canadian Railway War Board, and rendered valuable service in getting men and munitions to the front, and in economizing the use of rolling stock, throughout the course of the war. Since the war it has been succeeded by the Railway Association of Canada.

#### **OTHER WAR-TIME GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES.**

The War Purchasing Commission was appointed under Order in Council of May 8, 1915, to supervise purchase of all equipment, stores and supplies, for which payment had to be made out of the War Appropriation funds. The functions of the Commission were extended by Order in Council of February 6, 1918, to include the purchase or supervision of purchase of all supplies required for any purpose by Governmental commissions, boards and departments, these purchases to be made on a competitive basis, tenders being invited from all persons and firms known to the commission to be engaged in the business concerned.

The Munitions Resources Commission was appointed by Order in Council of November 27, 1915, for the purpose of enquiring into