

- (5) Traffic Division: handles transportation arrangements for shipment of goods and materials in the custody of War Assets Corporation; determines best and most economical method to make individual shipments.
- (6) Security Division: responsible for the protection of safeguarding against fire, theft or the admittance of unauthorized persons to property, buildings and declared surpluses taken over by the Corporation.
- (7) Surplus Property Division: determines whether surplus plants and buildings are to be made available to Warehouse Division or handed over to the Lands and Buildings Department for sale; if necessary, arranges for winterization, maintenance and protection, and arranges with Security Division for adequate guarding; looks after all service contracts such as power in plants held by the Corporation.

Special units of the Supply Department were created to meet unusual situations: special branches looked after the surpluses declared at Prince Rupert and on the Alaska Highway and Northwest Staging Route by the U.S. Army. In March, 1946, all American surpluses in Canada were purchased by the Canadian Government and the need for the special divisions disappeared.

The guarding of property in the custody of the Corporation is entrusted to the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, composed entirely of ex-service personnel. At the end of 1946, the guards totalled around 1,700.

#### Merchandising Department

The Merchandising Department handles all sales and other surplus disposals except those of lands and buildings. To accelerate sales action, a basic policy of decentralization was laid down: (a) by organizing the department in divisions, each responsible for the pricing, distribution and sale of specific groups of related commodities, and (b) by dividing the national sales territory into regions, each region having one or more branch sales offices.

The principal groups in the departmental set-up, with their functions, were as follows:

- (1) Pricing and Distribution Divisions: To effect uniform and correct pricing of surplus and to distribute it to most advantageous markets. This group includes divisions handling: (i) Consumer Goods, (ii) Mechanical Equipment, (iii) Metals, (iv) Aircraft Components, (v) Radio and Radar Sets and Equipment, (vi) Automotive Equipment, (vii) Scrap, (viii) Ships Components, (ix) Machine Tools.
- (2) Direct Sales Divisions: To handle the sale of surpluses (except Lands and Buildings) usually sold direct to end users, including (i) Ships, (ii) Aircraft, (iii) Machine Tools. This group includes a Special Sales Division which looks after sales of certain production equipment to custodians, surplus new motor vehicles, spares and equipment, and other special assignments.
- (3) Priority Division: To supervise sales to priority claimants in accordance with general policy.