

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXPORT PERMIT BRANCH
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1946

45-26

With the ending of the war many items were removed from export control, and by the end of the year only some 900 items were still listed as requiring permits for shipments to all destinations, whereas a year before virtually all commodities required permits. A large number of items of iron and steel were freed from the requirement of an export permit, but unfortunately the steel strike in the United States with its repercussions in Canada caused this control to be reimposed. The shortage continues even with the end of the strike, partly as the result of the coal shortage, and also because of a lack of scrap; accordingly, steel items are likely to require export permits for some time to come.

Another major relaxation in export control made near the end of the year ended the necessity of securing export permits for goods not specifically listed in the schedule to the Export Permit Regulations when these goods were consigned to a specified list of countries. Previously all exports to any destination other than the British Empire or the United States had to be covered by export permits, whether the goods appeared in the above-mentioned list or not. This overall control now affects only a few countries.

In spite of these developments, the Branch's activities have continued to increase, and more applications were received and more permits were issued during the year than during any previous similar period. The reasons lie partly in a continuing easing of supplies in Canada even for items still under control, and partly in the great improvement in the availability of shipping space which followed the end of hostilities. To some extent also there has been an easing in the control of imports in many countries abroad. Applications for permits during 1945-46 numbered 151,577 as compared with 144,533 in the previous year, and permits issued 144,612 compared with 138,184. Fees collected for export permits

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