

policies which might be useful to State housing authorities and other interested bodies are published in a Bulletin published at regular intervals, and a regular flow of informative material is passed on to the States.

The Directorate is responsible, now under the Defence (Transitional Provisions) Act 1946, for the administration of the former National Security (Landlord and Tenant) Regulations. The Premiers' Conference held in August, 1945, considered that so long as there was a housing shortage, some form of rent control was essential, and accordingly they agreed that the existing rent and tenancy controls should continue to be exercised by the Commonwealth Government.

As a result of the transfer of the control of building materials to the States on 1st November, 1945, the control exercised by the Directorate over materials is now confined to the interstate allocation of scarce materials produced in one or two States but needed by all of them. As part of its policy of helping the several State housing authorities to develop their construction programmes, the Directorate undertakes manifold tasks, particularly in connexion with the procurement of an adequate and properly timed supply of man-power and materials.

Finally, the Directorate is administering the National Security (Commonwealth War Housing Trust) Regulations pending the completion and liquidation of the Trust's projects. This involves the control, management, staffing and operation of hostels erected or sponsored by the War Housing Trust for persons engaged in war industries, as well as responsibility for capital expenditure in connexion with the permanent homes and war-time dwellings provided by the Trust for war workers.

§ 21. War Service Homes.

The operations of the War Service Homes Commission at 30th June, 1946 may be set out briefly as follows:—Applications approved, 46,921; expenditure on provision of homes, purchase of land for future use, etc., £30,507,705; houses completed, 21,488; homes enlarged, 34.

In addition, the Commission had purchased on behalf of eligible applicants 13,225 already existing properties, and had taken over mortgages existing on 3,238 dwelling-houses. Dual assistance had been approved in respect of 38 applications, making the total number of homes provided under the War Service Homes Act 38,023. Homes are insured under a comprehensive policy, the total insurances in force, including cover notes, amounting to £16,156,716. The total receipts of the Commission to 30th June, 1946 were £35,920,263, of which £15,228,985 was paid to the National Debt Sinking Fund. Arrears of instalments outstanding at the close of the year were £378,615, or 1.21 per cent. of the total instalments due.

In April, 1941 the War Service Homes Act was amended to provide for the granting of assistance to certain classes of eligible persons and their dependants in respect of service during the 1939-45 War.

§ 22. Daylight Saving.

Daylight saving during summer time was introduced throughout Australia by the Commonwealth Government under the National Security Regulations. Summer time was fixed at one hour in advance of standard time in all States from 2 a.m. on 1st January, 1942 to 2 a.m. on 29th March, 1942, and from 2 a.m. on 27th September, 1942 to 2 a.m. on 28th March, 1943, and in all States, except Western Australia, from 2 a.m. on 3rd October, 1943 to 2 a.m. on 26th March, 1944. At the Premiers' Conference held at Canberra in August, 1944, it was decided that ordinary time should be observed during the 1944-45 summer. No adjustment was made during 1945-46.

§ 23. Commonwealth Food Control.

Issue No. 35 contains an article dealing with Australia's food production position prior to and during the 1939-45 War, and the control of food and the organization required to effect it during the war.