

167. A close liaison has been maintained with the War Assets Realization Board in all matters affecting stock disposals.

(iii) *Munitions Section*

168. The Munition Controller's Office ceased to function as a separate organization at the end of the year under review, and the few remaining activities of the Munitions Controller have now been taken over by the Department.

(iv) *Commodity Prices Committee*

169. The Commodity Prices Committee which was constituted in 1943 consists of two members from the Treasury Department and two members from this Department.

The duties of the Committee have been to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Supply, subject to approval where necessary of the Price Tribunal and the Stabilization Commission, in connection with arranging and adjusting prices, and adjudicating in any dispute on matters in which the Ministry of Supply has become involved arising out of the trading operations of the Department.

170. Since the cessation of lend lease and mutual aid procurement the duties of the Committee have been substantially curtailed, although the policy of having all orders placed overseas by the Department scrutinized by the Committee was adhered to. In addition, the prices at which the remaining Ministry of Supply reserve stocks were sold were approved by the Committee.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE

171. The past year was the first complete period during which the expenditure and revenue of the Department of Industries and Commerce was separately recorded, and for that reason comparable figures of expenditure and revenue for previous years are not available.

172. The following is a summary of the figures for the financial year ended 31st March, 1947 :

<i>Expenditure</i>			
Salaries—		£	£
General		185,533	
Standards Institute		16,743	
			202,276
General maintenance (consolidated)			77,954
Food Control : total expenditure, including salaries			110,538
Price Tribunal : total expenditure, including salaries			72,460
Flax industry : Moutoa Estate			42,689
Standards Institute : total expenditure other than salaries			7,157
Total			£513,074
<i>Revenue</i>			
From all sources : Total			£18,243

SECTION 2.—LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

(a) LIBRARY

173. During the past year the departmental library has been extensively used as a source of reference and assistance to officers of the Department, manufacturers, educational institutions and research students. The technical service provided by the Department, in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been of increasing value to manufacturers, and many new enterprises have been assisted in improving production technique. The *Industrial Bulletin* as a source of