It is necessary to vary from time to time the maximum quantities prescribed under the Coal Supply (Northern Ireland) Order, 1942, for deliveries and stocks in order to meet difficulties in the supply position created by periodic interruptions of supplies from various causes, and to ensure that the restricted supplies available are equitably distributed as far as possible among the general body of registered consumers. The Order now made limits under sub-paragraph 1 (*a*) deliveries with certain named exceptions to one half ton in September, 1946, and one quarter ton in each of the months October, November and December, 1946. The restrictions, so far as deliveries are concerned, are normally applied only to the main body of domestic householders who are situated at a convenient distance from their merchants' yards so as to avoid transport difficulties as far as possible and to avoid undue curtailment of supplies to other registered consumers who are engaged in food production, industrial or other productive activity. The exceptions are those prescribed by the Coal Supply (Northern Ireland) Order, 1942, and the Coal Supply (Temporary Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1945, except that Boroughs are included with Urban Districts in the application of the exceptions. The stocking restriction, however, applies to the general body of registered consumers and is at present in force but is re-enacted here by sub-paragraph 1 (*b*) and paragraph 3 for the purpose of having the temporary restrictions embodied in one Order. The restrictions on deliveries have previously been in force for the greater part of last year but have lapsed.

Paragraph 2 of this Order is necessary to enable cases of exceptional hardship to be considered.

THE COAL SUPPLY (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) NO. 2 (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER, 1946, DATED DECEMBER 31, 1946, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER REGULATION 55 OF THE DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939, AS HAVING EFFECT BY VIRTUE OF THE SUPPLIES AND SERVICES (TRANSITIONAL POWERS) ACT, 1945 (a).

1946. No. 226

The Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland (in this Order referred to as " the Ministry ") by virtue and in exercise of the powers under Regulation 55 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, delegated to it by the Minister of Fuel and Power, and as having effect by virtue of the Supplies and Services (Transitional Powers) Act, 1945 (**a**) hereby orders as follows :—

1. Notwithstanding any provision in paragraph 7 or paragraph 8 of the Coal Supply (Northern Ireland) Order, 1942, (**b**) (hereinafter referred to as the " principal order ") as to the quantity of coal which may be furnished to or stored by a consumer—

(*a*) the quantity of coal which may be furnished or acquired for consumption in any of the premises covered by the principal order shall not, except in the case of a consumer whose premises are not wholly or mainly used as a dwelling-house, or who is registered as a farmer, exceed one quarter ton in each of the months of January, February and March, 1947,

(*b*) no supplies of coal may be furnished to or acquired by a consumer registered under the principal order at any time while he has in stock a quantity of coal exceeding one quarter

(a) 9 and 10 Geo. 6, C. 10.
(b) S. R. & O. (N.I) 1942, No. 125.