Coal Supply.

ORDER, DATED 8TH AUGUST, 1942, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER REGULATION 55 OF THE DEFENCE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1939.

1942. No. 125.

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 Board of Trade hereby orders as follows :—

1.—On or before the 15th day of August, 1942, every person who has regularly imported coal into Northern Ireland between 1st September, 1939, and the date of this Order shall furnish such particulars as may be required to the Ministry for the purpose of registration in the Coal Importers' Register.

2.—On or before the 15th day of August, 1942, every person who has regularly dealt in coal by way of retail sale between 1st September, 1939, and the date of this Order shall furnish such particulars as may be required to the Ministry for the purpose of registration in the Coal Merchants' Register.

3.—On or before the 22nd day of August, 1942, every bellman shall compile and furnish to the Ministry a list of customers showing the name, address, and normal weekly consumption of coal and shall nominate the merchant from whom he ordinarily obtains supplies.

4.—On or before the 22nd day of August, 1942, every occupier of premises in which coal is consumed (hereinafter called a "consumer") other than a gas, electricity or railway undertaking or an industrial concern, ordinarily consuming more than 100 tons of coal in a year, shall complete and lodge with the coal merchant from whom at the date of this Order he ordinarily takes his principal supplies of coal the form set out in the First Schedule to this Order, save that consumers who take their supplies from registered bellmen shall not be required to complete the form. The merchant shall note in his books all the particulars shown on the form and on or before 29th August, 1942, shall transmit the form to the Ministry for the purpose of registration in the Coal Consumers' Register. For the purposes of this paragraph a consumer may nominate only one merchant for the supply of coal to any one set of premises.

5.—On and after 1st September, 1942, no person who is not registered in the Coal Importers' Register may import coal into Northern Ireland and no person who is not registered in the Coal Merchants' Register may deal in coal by way of retail sale and no coal merchant may sell or otherwise dispose of coal to a consumer other than a

consumer who has lodged a registration form with him for the supply of coal and whose particulars have been registered in the Coal Consumer's Register.

6.—Every coal merchant, on transmission to the Ministry of a consumer's registration form, shall indicate thereon the maximum quantity of coal which he proposes to supply to the consumer during the year ending 31st August, 1943, hereinafter called the "maximum supply." Such quantity shall not exceed three-fourths (or seven-eighths in the case of a farmer whose holding exceeds 5 acres and who signs a declaration that at least half of his supply of coal is used for agricultural purposes) of the quantity so supplied in the year ended 30th April, 1941, and shall not be less than two tons, provided that where the amount of such supply is not ascertainable, the maximum supply may be calculated proportionately to the quantities last supplied to the consumer's premises for a period of not less than two consecutive months. On the registration of a new consumer who has not previously obtained supplies of coal, the Ministry may fix the amount of the maximum supply.

7.—On and after 1st September, 1942, the quantity of coal which may be furnished or acquired for consumption in any of the premises covered by this Order shall not exceed the maximum supply in any year commencing 1st September nor one ton in any one consignment, save that up to one quarter of the maximum supply may be furnished in one consignment in any quarter year commencing 1st September, 1st December, 1st March or 1st June where the consumer's premises are more than two miles from the merchant's last loading point and more than two miles outside the boundary of an urban district.

8.—On and after 1st September, 1942, no supplies of coal may be furnished to or acquired by a consumer at any time while he has in stock a quantity of coal exceeding one ton and no consumer shall acquire more than a quarter ton of coal at any time unless he has previously signed and delivered to his merchant a declaration in the form set out in the Second Schedule to this Order, and a merchant shall not supply coal in excess of a quarter ton without having previously received such declaration from the consumer. A bellman shall not supply more than a quarter ton of coal to a consumer in one consignment.

9.—Every importer shall keep full and consecutive records of any coal supplied to merchants and bellmen and every merchant shall keep like records of any coal supplied to bellmen and to consumers and bellmen shall keep such records of coal supplied to consumers. Every merchant shall retain all declarations received in pursuance of paragraph 8 of this Order.

10.—The Ministry may, having regard to the existence of any exceptional circumstances, authorise such exceptions or exemptions,