

An organization of electrical contractors in the city of Toronto, known as the Electrical Estimators Association, was investigated under the Combines Investigation Act in 1930. The report of the Commissioner conducting the investigation was completed in October, 1930. It stated that members of this Association had been guilty of participating in a combine contrary to the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act and that they had also committed similar offences in violation of section 498 of the Criminal Code. The principal method used by the members of this association was to discuss tenders before submitting them. Each contractor submitted to the secretary of the association an estimate of his costs of material and labour on a particular job; these costs were averaged and the contractor whose costs were nearest to the average was declared to be entitled to the job. He added an agreed-upon percentage, and informed the other members of his tender price. The other contractors then saw to it that none of their tenders was submitted to the architect or owner below that price.

Investigations into alleged combines in the motion picture industry and the bread-baking industry were among the other principal cases dealt with under the Act. An investigation into an alleged combine in the motion picture industry was commenced by a Commission in October, 1930, and was not completed at the end of the year. The annual report of the Registrar of the Combines Investigation Act contains reference to other investigations in progress during 1929 and 1930.

## PART II.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

### Section I.—Wage Rates.<sup>1</sup>

Statistics of rates of wages and hours of labour have been collected for recent years by the Dominion Department of Labour, and are published in a series of bulletins supplementary to the *Labour Gazette*. Report No. 1 of this series was issued in March, 1921. The records upon which the statistics are based begin in most cases with the year 1901. Index numbers have been calculated to show the general movement of wage rates; the series covers 21 classes of labour back to 1901, 4 classes of coal miners back to 1900, and common factory labour, miscellaneous factory trades and lumbering back to 1911. The index numbers are based upon wage rates in 1913 as 100.

The accompanying table of index numbers (Table 1) shows the relative changes from year to year. A downward movement appeared in most of the groups in 1921 and 1922, after the peak had been reached in 1920. The index numbers for 1923 and 1924 showed on the whole a slightly upward trend, but while there were slight increases during 1925 in some groups, a substantial decline in coal miners' wages reduced the average. In 1926 slight increases took place in the wages paid by the building, metal and printing trades, electric railways

<sup>1</sup>See pp. 774-783 of the 1927-28 Year Book for an article on the "Wages Statistics of the census of 1921".