

and may extend the operation of the Act to cover workmen employed in the cutting, etc., of substances other than granite. An amendment to the Quebec Mining Act requires workmen employed below ground in a mine, or in dry rock crushing operations at the surface, to be examined annually for silicosis by a medical officer appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and to have certificates issued by him. Workmen employed underground for less than 50 hours per calendar month are exempt.

In Quebec and Manitoba legislation was enacted providing for the establishment of a Department of Labour, but in Manitoba the law will not come into force until proclaimed.

Section 13.—Legislation Respecting Combinations in Restraint of Trade.

In the 1927-28 edition of the Canada Year Book at pp. 765-770 a general article on Canadian legislation concerning trade combinations and monopolies against the public interest will be found under the heading "Legislation Respecting Combinations in Restraint of Trade". In addition to an outline of the Combines Investigation Act, and a review of the principal cases dealt with under the Act up to Mar. 31, 1927, the article includes a brief statement of the provisions against combines as contained in the Criminal Code,¹ the Customs Tariff,² the Excise Act,³ and the Patent Act.⁴ A further section of the article summarizes former Canadian legislation for the investigation of combines, including the Combines Investigation Act of 1910 and the Combines and Fair Prices Act of 1919.

The Combines Investigation Act.—The Combines Investigation Act (R.S.C., 1927, c. 26) is designed, as its full title indicates, "to provide for the investigation of combines, monopolies, trusts and mergers", and declares to be unlawful only such combines as "have operated or are likely to operate to the detriment or against the interest of the public, whether consumers, producers or others". The statute provides that a preliminary inquiry shall be made by the Registrar on receipt of an application signed by any six British subjects resident in Canada, or if the Registrar has reason to believe that a combine exists, or if the Minister of Labour so directs. If the preliminary inquiry discloses sufficient evidence to justify further investigation, this may be conducted by the Registrar or by a special Commissioner appointed by the Governor in Council. Full authority is given the Registrar and the Commissioner to examine witnesses on oath and compel the production of records and documents.

The remedies provided by the Act are those of publicity and penalty. The proceedings are conducted in private, unless otherwise ordered by the Minister, but the report of any Commissioner is required to be published within fifteen days of its receipt by the Minister. Whenever in the opinion of the Minister an offence has been committed, he may remit the report and the evidence to the Attorney General of the province concerned. The penalty section of the statute provides that any person who is a party or privy to or knowingly assists in the formation or operation of a combine is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding \$10,000 or to two years' imprisonment, or if a corporation to a fine not exceeding \$25,000. Provision is also made in the Act for the reduction or

¹ R.S.C., 1927, c. 146, ss. 496-498.

² R.S.C., 1927, c. 60, s. 27.

³ R.S.C., 1927, c. 44, s. 15.

⁴ R.S.C., 1927, c. 150, s. 40.