

a jury. In a judgment delivered Jan. 12, 1932, (*Rex v. Harry Alexander, Limited, et al.*) Mr. Justice Raney found each of the defendants guilty of conspiracy or agreement to enhance prices and prevent or lessen competition unduly or unreasonably and against the public interest, contrary to the Combines Investigation Act and Section 498 of the Criminal Code. Fines totalling \$26,200 were imposed; \$2,500 on each of the seven corporations, \$1,000 on each of the eight individual contractors and \$100 on each of the seven representatives of the corporations involved.

Investigation of an alleged combine in the motion picture industry in Canada was completed in June, 1931, by Mr. Peter White, K.C., who was appointed Commissioner on Sept. 23, 1930. A finding of a combine against the public interest was made by the Commissioner. The alleged combine was found to have employed various improper methods in securing control of theatres throughout Canada and in influencing the operations of film distributors, independent theatre owners and others. The case was referred by the Minister of Labour to the Attorney General of Ontario, who instituted proceedings at the criminal assizes in Toronto in October, 1931. A true bill was returned by the grand jury and the case was adjourned to the winter assizes to be opened in January, 1932.

An alleged combine in the bread-baking industry in Canada was the subject of an investigation completed by the Registrar in February, 1931. No contravention of the Statute was reported, but attention was called to the control of Canadian bakeries secured by four of the largest flour-milling companies and to the consequent possibilities of monopoly and price enhancement, possibilities which should "warrant continued governmental interest in the situation, and, should the need arise, further governmental action on behalf of the consuming public"

The annual report of the Registrar of the Combines Investigation Act, dealing at greater length with the above subjects and referring also to other inquiries, is published as a section of the Annual Report of the Department of Labour.

PART II.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Section 1.—Wage Rates.¹

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

¹ See pp. 774-783 of the 1927-28 Year Book for an article on the "Wages Statistics of the Census of 1921