

following charges of price agreements among Ontario basket manufacturers. The report of the investigation was not published and was referred to the Attorney-General for Ontario, who issued instructions for prosecution, but the case had not reached the courts at the end of 1932. An alleged combine of manufacturers of radio tubes was investigated by the Registrar. The application alleged the fixing of common selling prices at unreasonably high levels and a detrimental lessening of competition. The report was not published and was remitted to the Attorney-General for Ontario. No court proceedings were taken. An inquiry into an alleged combine in the importation and distribution of Welsh and Scotch anthracite coal was instituted in November, 1932, and hearings were held in Montreal and Quebec in December and January. An investigation into an alleged combine of buyers of Ontario-grown tobacco was also in progress at the end of 1932. No Commissioners were appointed under the Act during the year.

Prosecution of fifteen companies and three individuals engaged in the motion picture industry in Canada, on charges laid under the Combines Investigation Act and Section 498 of the Criminal Code, resulted in the acquittal of all of the accused. The trial followed an investigation in 1931 by Mr. Peter White, K.C., as a Commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act. The prosecution was conducted under the Attorney-General for Ontario. The judgment of the Court, delivered by Mr. Justice Garrow in March, 1932, held that the prosecution had failed to prove the existence of agreement among the accused to lessen competition in, or substantially control the supply of, motion picture films in Ontario. An appeal by the members of the Electrical Estimators' Association, a combine of electrical contractors in the city of Toronto, against their conviction by Mr. Justice Raney in January, 1932, following an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act, was dismissed in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Ontario in October, 1932. Members of fifteen firms paid fines totalling \$26,200.

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.

¹See pp. 773-783 of the 1927-28 Year Book for an article on the "Wages Statistics of the Census of 1921".