

or removal of the customs duty on any article of commerce, among the manufacturers or dealers in which there exists a combine, the operation of which is facilitated by the tariff. Similarly, the Exchequer Court may revoke a patent if there is evidence to show that the holder of such patent has made use of his exclusive rights to limit production or competition unduly, to enhance prices unreasonably, or to restrain or injure trade.

The constitutional validity of the Combines Investigation Act was given final confirmation by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in a decision delivered in January, 1931. This judgment confirmed the unanimous decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, given in April, 1929, after a reference for determination of this question had been made to the Court by the Dominion Government. Both courts upheld also the constitutional validity of Section 498 of the Criminal Code, relating to combinations in restraint of trade.

**Combine Cases in 1933.**—Members of a combine found to exist among manufacturers of baskets and other wood-veneer containers for fruits, vegetables and meats were indicted at Hamilton and pleaded guilty in January, 1933. The accused were fined \$100 each.

An extensive investigation into an alleged combine of importers of British anthracite coal was completed by the Registrar early in 1933. Some seventy witnesses were examined in hearings held at Montreal, Quebec, Toronto and Ottawa. The evidence and report of this investigation were remitted to the Attorney General of Quebec, who instituted prosecutions under the Act against the leading importers. In December, 1933, five firms were convicted and sentenced to pay fines totalling \$30,000. An appeal from this judgment was heard in 1934 and was followed by prosecutions of a second group of importers.

An inquiry into an alleged combine of buyers of Ontario flue-cured tobacco was concluded in 1933 and was made public in the early part of 1934. The investigation related principally to allegations that agreements among buyers had prevented competitive bidding and had caused prices paid to growers to be unreasonably low. No arrangement among buyers in contravention of the Act was found, although it was indicated that growers were found to be at a serious disadvantage in bargaining with the buyers of their product.

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.

### **Section 14.—Mothers' Allowances.**

Six of the nine provinces of Canada provide for the payment of allowances to mothers who are widowed or without adequate means of support. The province of Manitoba was the first to make such provision in 1916, and the example has been followed by the other western provinces and by Ontario and Nova Scotia. The Mothers' Allowances Act, 1930, of New Brunswick has not been proclaimed in effect.

All the mothers' allowances acts stipulate that the mother must be a resident of the province at the time of making application and a widow or, in all the pro-