

An amendment in the Alberta Mothers' Allowances Act reduces the proportion of the allowance payable by the municipality from 50 to 25 p.c. A wife deserted, without reasonable cause, for five years or longer is made eligible for an allowance.

An amendment in the Department of Trade and Industry Act of Alberta, makes the Act applicable to producers and manufacturers as well as to wholesale dealers, and the clauses are repealed which provided that it should not apply to the retail sale of second-hand goods or goods advertised in a *bona fide* mail-order catalogue and sold in the course of a *bona fide* mail-order business. The Minister may now recommend to the Lieutenant-Governor in Council that a trade not covered by the statute shall be brought within its scope. The amendment stipulates that codes must be approved by a majority of persons engaged in the trade or by the persons owning over 50 p.c. of the aggregate capital invested. Formerly such codes had to be approved by 66 p.c. of the persons engaged, or by those owning 66 p.c. of the aggregate capital. Maximum as well as minimum prices for commodities may now be fixed. Provision is made also for the appointment of the Price Spreads Board of from three to five persons to inquire into the production, supply, distribution or sale of any goods or merchandise or to any trade or industry to which the Act applies. After such inquiry, the Board may fix maximum or minimum prices or both for the sale or purchase of such goods by wholesale and retail or for services or work done.

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

A general article on Canadian legislation concerning trade combinations and monopolies against the public interest will be found at pp. 765-770 of the 1927-28 Year Book under the heading "Legislation Respecting Combinations in Restraint of Trade". The article outlines the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act and reviews the principal cases dealt with under the Act up to that time. A brief statement of the provisions against combines as contained in the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Excise Act and the Patent Act is included. 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 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 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.

Combines Legislation in 1936.—The administration of the Combines Investigation Act continued under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Trade and Industry Commission during 1936. The reference for determination of the consti-