

that importers' gross margins, which had increased in the years preceding the first inquiry, had declined substantially since 1933. This change, he considered, was due in large measure to the proceedings under the Combines Investigation Act in 1933. His recommendations included maintenance of competitive conditions with respect to sources of supply and in the distribution of anthracite coal; with enforcement by municipalities of regulations to prevent fraudulent practices and inadequate descriptions of coal.

Other less extensive investigations were made during the year under the Combines Investigation Act with respect to complaints regarding conditions alleged to be existing to the detriment of the public in particular manufacturing and distributive trades. These included questions of alleged price agreements among manufacturers or distributors, exclusive dealing arrangements, resale price maintenance, price discrimination, the withholding of supplies for various reasons and other trade practices alleged in particular instances to be unfair to certain classes of persons and to be injurious to the general public.

#### Section 14.—Mothers' Allowances.

Seven 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, Nova Scotia, and Quebec. The Mothers' Allowances Act, 1930, of New Brunswick has not been proclaimed in effect, and no action has been taken under the Quebec statute.

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 provinces but New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, a wife, whose husband is mentally incapacitated. Under all the laws, except those of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, the wife of a physically disabled man is eligible but the section in the Alberta Act bringing such persons within its scope has not been proclaimed.

In Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, deserted wives are paid an allowance, and in British Columbia and Saskatchewan, the wives of inmates of penal institutions are eligible. Under all the statutes except those of Alberta and Saskatchewan, the mother must be a British subject, or the widow or wife of a British subject. Allowances may be paid to foster-mothers under certain conditions in all the provinces but Alberta, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, allowances are payable in respect of two or more dependent children, but in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia an allowance is payable for one child under 16 if there is an invalid child over 16 years of age. In the other provinces, allowances are payable in respect of one or more dependent children, but in Manitoba, under the regulations, no allowance is payable in respect of an only child, or an only child under 15 years of age unless the mother is temporarily or permanently unable to care for the child. A dependent child is a child under 16 years of age in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. In Alberta, a boy under 15 or a girl under 16 is deemed to be