

it is found that, with respect to any commodity, there exists any combine to promote unduly the advantage of manufacturers or dealers at the expense of the public, and that such disadvantage to the public is facilitated by existing customs duties.

Investigations in 1939.—A report on an investigation into the operations of alleged combines in the manufacture and sale of paperboard shipping containers and related products was made by the Commissioner on Mar. 14, 1939. A combine embracing all principal manufacturers in Canada was found to exist in the shipping-container industry. The Commissioner also found that several manufacturers of paperboard used in such containers were parties to a secondary and related combine. Court proceedings were begun at the instance of the Attorney General of Canada and true bills on two indictments were found by a grand jury in Toronto in September, 1939. One trade association officer and 23 corporations were charged with offences against Sect. 498 of the Criminal Code. Trial under this indictment was expected to proceed early in 1940.

Proceedings against the alleged combine of tobacco manufacturers and wholesalers, investigated under the Combines Investigation Act in 1938, were instituted by the Attorney General of Alberta in November, 1938, when informations were laid charging 44 individuals and companies with offences under Sect. 498 of the Criminal Code. After preliminary hearing of the Crown's evidence in April and May, 1939, the accused were remanded for trial, which was later adjourned to a date early in 1940.

A combine of certain wholesalers and shippers of fruits and vegetables in Western Canada was declared to exist in a report made by the Commissioner on Oct. 31, 1939. The report and evidence were remitted to the Attorney General of British Columbia, at whose instance informations were laid on Dec. 19 charging 4 individuals and 8 companies as parties to this alleged combine and charging the same accused and 2 others as parties to a conspiracy contrary to common law in relation to secret rebates. At the conclusion of the preliminary hearings before a magistrate at Kelowna, B.C., on Feb. 8, 1940, the accused were committed for trial on the combine charges; the conspiracy charges were dismissed.

Investigations made during 1939, in addition to those reviewed above, covered a wide variety of products and various types of trade practices. Complaints alleging the existence of injurious restraints of trade have been carefully investigated when it appeared possible that the public might be affected detrimentally by operations of an alleged monopoly or combination. Modifications of proposed or existing trade programs along lines designed to safeguard public interest have followed certain of these preliminary inquiries.

Section 11.—The Co-operative Movement in Canada.*

The Co-operative Union of Canada was formed in 1909, with six affiliated societies and 1,595 members. In 1938, 62 societies reported to the Union, their membership being 178,832. The sales of the reporting societies totalled \$14,013,232 and the purchase dividends returned to their members amounted to \$608,600. The classes of co-operative activities covered included retailing, wholesale trading, marketing, dairying, transportation societies, and buying clubs.

* An article on "The Co-operative Movement in Canada", by Miss Margaret Mackintosh, M.A., of the Department of Labour, Ottawa, appears at pp. 704-720 of the 1925 edition of the Year Book.