

but this restriction was removed in March, 1946, subject to the requirement that the dealers must meet all priority demands before selling to persons without priority certificates.

The few civilian trucks manufactured during the period March, 1942, to August, 1945, when restrictions on production were lifted, were also strictly rationed under permit from the Motor Vehicles Control. In September, 1945, a priority system was announced to cover sales of new trucks. Two priority groups were established, and dealers are required to give preference in filling orders to those placed by holders of priority certificates.

Tires and Tubes.—Tire rationing was introduced in May, 1942. In June, 1945, it was possible to terminate the rationing of tubes, and at the same time the list of persons eligible for new or used tires was extended. Further relaxations were made at the beginning of December and the larger size of truck tires, some farm machinery tires and all used tires were removed from the ration. At the end of the year, rationing of tires was completely removed.

Gasoline.—A coupon-rationing plan for gasoline was introduced, effective Apr. 1, 1942, and each motor-vehicle owner was required to register the vehicle with the Oil Controller and to obtain a gasoline allowance and ration book. Motorcycles, commercial vehicles and water-craft were also provided with gasoline under various categories. In 1945, the value of a ration coupon was increased after V-E Day and the whole rationing system terminated following V-J Day.

Section 2.—Combinations in Restraint of Trade*

Dominion legislative measures for aiding and regulating trade include specific prohibitions of operation against the public interest by monopolies and similar commercial combinations. Monopolistic trade arrangements tending to eliminate competition in price, supply or quality of goods, and thereby to increase unduly costs or prices, are illegal under laws including the Combines Investigation Act and Section 498 of the Criminal Code. These laws are designed to assist in achieving the widest desired use of the nation's economic resources by promoting reasonable competitive opportunities for the expansion of production, distribution and employment.

The first Dominion legislation making statutory provision against unlawful restraint of trade was the Act for the Prevention and Suppression of Combinations Formed in Restraint of Trade, passed in 1889 and now effective in amended form as Section 498 of the Criminal Code. Legislation providing special facilities for the investigation of trusts or combines was first enacted in 1897 and was included in the Customs Tariff. In 1910 a separate Combines Investigation Act was provided, administered under the Minister of Labour. Succeeding Combines Investigation Acts were enacted in 1919 and 1923. Summaries of public proceedings respecting combinations in restraint of trade, including principal investigations and prosecutions, have appeared since 1900 in the *Labour Gazette* published monthly by the Department of Labour.

The Combines Investigation Act.—The Combines Investigation Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 26, as amended in 1935 and 1937) provides for investigation of trade combinations, mergers, trusts and monopolies alleged to have been formed or operated in restraint of trade and to the detriment of the public. Organizations

* Revised by F. A. McGregor, C.B.E., Commissioner, Combines Investigation Act, Department of Justice.