

in the pre-war period. It included an examination of needs for the prevention or public control of types of commercial combinations that were capable of unduly restricting Canadian trade. The results of the inquiry were published in a report entitled "Canada and International Cartels", made by the Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act to the Minister of Justice in October, 1945. The report included recommendations that the Act be strengthened in certain matters of procedure; that more adequate facilities be provided for investigations; that wider use be made of Government powers to prevent the development of combines and that Canada co-operate in the establishment of an inter-governmental body dealing with international aspects of undesirable cartel practices.

The 1946 amendments to the Combines Investigation Act gave legislative form to the recommendations respecting procedure and facilities for investigation, including investigation of alleged breaches of Sects. 498 and 498A of the Criminal Code which concern offences related to those covered by the Combines Investigation Act. The section in the cartel report showing how patents may be used to assist in monopolization of trade against the public interest is reflected in the amendment authorizing the Exchequer Court to prevent by court order certain uses of patents or trade marks in undue restraint of trade.

During the war years, no formal investigations were conducted under the Combines Investigation Act as the greater part of trade and industry in Canada remained subject to the extensive wartime control measures administered by the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, the Department of Munitions and Supply and other governmental wartime agencies. Accordingly, matters which in times of peace would have been subjects for investigation under the Combines Investigation Act were dealt with by the appropriate wartime authority. Since the cessation of hostilities and with the gradual relaxation of wartime controls, the need for resumed activity under the Act has been recognized by reorganization of staff, amendment to the Act, and increased investigation activity.

Action initiated in 1943 in the Exchequer Court to impeach certain optical goods patents was still pending at the end of 1946. The action had arisen from an earlier investigation under the Combines Investigation Act.

Inquiries were made during 1946 in a number of industries and trades in which it was alleged that trade practices of a restrictive or discriminatory character were being followed.

In several cases where possible conflict with combines legislation might have arisen, representatives of trade associations have, during 1946, discussed their tentative plans with the Combines Investigation Commission and have avoided the adoption of restrictive policies that might have been questioned as being possibly contrary to the Act. In dealing with such matters, much may be accomplished in a preventive way where the organizations concerned are prepared to discuss their tentative programs in the light of the need for maintenance of competitive conditions and to see that the public interest therein is not likely to be prejudiced by the policies that may be adopted.

International Restrictions in Trade.—In December, 1945, the Government of the United States published a document entitled "Proposals for Expansion of World Trade and Employment" copies of which were transmitted to other govern-