

ments of the world. These proposals, which had been the subject of discussion with the United Kingdom, contemplated international action for the removal of barriers to trade, including those resulting from private restrictive business practices commonly referred to as cartel agreements. The suggestion of the Government of the United States that the United Nations should convene a world conference on trade was followed by the adoption of a resolution in February, 1946, by the Economic and Social Council setting up a preparatory committee to prepare a draft convention and to make recommendations for the holding of a general conference. Representatives from 17 countries, including Canada, met at London, England, in the autumn of 1946 as the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Trade and Employment. The Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act was a member of the Canadian delegation and sat on the Working Committee on Restrictive Business Practices. After several weeks of deliberation, delegates on this sub-committee reached general agreement on recommendations to the main preparatory committee as to arrangements that might be instituted by an International Trade Organization to receive and investigate complaints of restrictive business practices which hamper world trade and to transmit the results of such inquiries to the participating countries. The conclusions of the Preparatory Committee were to be considered at committee sessions to be held at Geneva, Switzerland, in the spring of 1947 prior to a general conference in the autumn of that year.

Section 3.—Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks*

Patents.—Letters patent, which in England have been in the gift of the Crown from the time of the Statute of Monopolies (1624) and earlier, are and always have been a statutory grant in Canada. An Act was passed in Lower Canada in 1824 wherein provision was made for the granting of patent rights to inventors who were British subjects and inhabitants of the Province. Upper Canada passed an Act in 1826, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick passed Acts at later dates. In 1849, after the Union, a consolidating Act was passed applying to both Upper and Lower Canada, and the B.N.A. Act (1867) assigned the granting of patents exclusively to the Parliament of Canada. The Dominion Patent Act of 1869 repealed the provincial Acts and has formed the basis of all succeeding legislation.

Letters patent are now issued subject to the provisions of c. 150, R.S.C., 1927 as consolidated in c. 32, 1935, and application for protection relating to patents should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa, Canada.

The Patents, Designs, Copyright and Trade Mark (Emergency) Order, 1939, was passed to deal with conditions arising out of the War of 1939-45. The Order confers on the Commissioner of Patents power to extend the time for doing anything prescribed by the Patent Act, the Design Act and the Copyright Act; to grant licences to manufacture under enemy-owned patents, designs and copyrights; to vary existing agreements; to hold secret or to withhold from publication any disclosure that might be of service to the enemy; and to grant permission to file patent applications abroad. The main object of the licensing provisions under the Order is to permit and encourage the working in Canada of inventions protected by enemy-owned patents, which for that reason could not be utilized during the War.

* The material relating to patents and copyrights has been revised by J. T. Mitchell, Commissioner of Patents, and that relating to trade marks by J. P. McCaffrey, Registrar of Trade Marks, Ottawa.