

was alleged that a combine by way of merger, trust or monopoly existed in the wooden match industry in Canada. The report alleged that a monopoly had been established in 1927 through the merger of the match businesses of three companies and that subsequently a number of independent companies or their properties were brought under the control of the dominant company. Prosecution was instituted in the Province of Quebec on the direction of the Minister of Justice and the five companies named in the report were charged with offences against the Combines Investigation Act in informations laid in September, 1950. The preliminary hearing was held at Montreal, Que., during October and the accused were committed for trial in the Quebec Court of King's Bench.

In the report of a special commissioner made in November, 1948, a combine was alleged to exist in the bread-baking industry in the Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Prosecution was instituted in Alberta on the direction of the Minister of Justice and six bread companies and one incorporated trade association were charged with an offence against Sect. 498(d) of the Criminal Code in an information laid in January, 1950. The preliminary hearing was held at Calgary during March and April and the accused were committed for trial at the conclusion of the hearing. The trial was later fixed for the autumn criminal sittings of the Alberta Supreme Court. On the advice of counsel, the charge against the trade association was not proceeded with.

In November, 1949, the Minister of Justice informed the House of Commons that counsel had recommended that no charges be laid in the optical goods case. A report alleging the existence of a combine among certain manufacturers and wholesalers of optical goods had been submitted following an investigation under the Combines Investigation Act. The principal reasons for the recommendation of counsel were related to difficulties of proof in connection with the evidence and the fact that there had been fairly complete abandonment of the arrangements that constituted the basis of the case. The Minister of Justice pointed out that while there were strong reasons of public policy against the practice of abandoning prosecution merely because the restrictive arrangements had been withdrawn in the face of various proceedings, the evidentiary difficulties were so formidable that it was considered that, in this case, the opinion of counsel should be followed.

During 1950 a variety of matters were disposed of on preliminary inquiry while in a number of other cases investigations were proceeding at the end of the year.

Section 3.—Trade Standards*

The Standards Division of the Department of Trade and Commerce consolidates under one director, the administration of the Electricity Inspection Act, the Gas Inspection Act, the Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act, the Precious Metals Marking Act, and the Weights and Measures Act.

Commodity Standards.—On Nov. 26, 1949, Parliament passed the National Trade Mark and True Labelling Act which provides a framework for the development of the National Standard and true labelling in order to circumvent public deception in advertising.

In brief, the use of the National Standard is voluntary, and compliance with commodity standards affects only those manufacturers who desire to use the national trade mark. In addition, where manufacturers label descriptively any commodity

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