

Restrictive Business Practices, established under resolution of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to formulate proposals for an international convention to be considered by the Economic and Social Council.

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 or container, it must be labelled accurately to avoid public deception. One such regulation of interest applies to the labelling of fur garments, and has established itself as a code of fair practice throughout the merchandising field.

Under the terms of the Precious Metals Marking Act, 1946 (c. 26), commodities composed of gold, silver or platinum may be marked with a quality mark which describes accurately the quality of the metal. Where such mark is used, a trade mark registered in Canada, or for which application for registration has been made, must also be applied. Gold-plated, silver-plated or platinum-plated articles may also be marked under certain conditions outlined in the Act. The inspection staff of the Standards Division is engaged in the examination of advertising matter, in verifying the quality of articles offered for sale and in checking the marks applied.

Weights and Measures.—The Weights and Measures Act prescribes the legal standards of weight and measure for use in Canada. Responsibilities under the Act require control of the type of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes, their periodic verification and surveillance directed towards the elimination of sales by short-weight or short-measure.

The number of inspections made in the year ended Mar. 31, 1951, was 481,088, compared with 485,452 in 1949-50. The more important inspections comprised the following: weighing machines, including scales of all kinds, 231,431; measuring machines for liquids, 68,328; other weights, 128,454; other measures, 52,875. Total expenditure was \$576,041 in 1950-51, compared with \$512,539 in 1949-50 and total revenue \$499,455 compared with \$472,282.

Electricity and Gas Inspection.—Responsibilities of the Standards Division under the Electricity Inspection Act and the Gas Inspection Act comprise the control of the types of electricity meters and gas meters used throughout Canada, and the testing and stamping of every meter used for billing purposes, the object being to ensure the correct measurement of all electricity and gas sold. Canada is divided into 23 districts for administration of the two Acts, and staff numbers 156. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1952, 910,068 electricity and gas meters were tested as compared with 920,162 in the preceding year. Revenue derived from the testing amounted to \$657,548 and expenditure to \$549,048.

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