

sentence and the application for the prohibition order was reserved. Charges in respect of certain other divisions of the rubber industry dealt with in the report are expected to be proceeded with in the autumn of 1953.

A report, comprising the results of an investigation into the fine paper industry, was submitted to the Minister of Justice on Oct 23, 1952. The report named seven manufacturers and 37 fine paper merchants as having been parties or privy to or knowingly assisted in the operation of a combine or combines within the meaning of the Combines Investigation Act. Decision to prosecute some or all of the manufacturers and some or all of the merchants mentioned in the report was announced by the Minister on Apr. 7, 1953.

On Jan. 22, 1953, a report was submitted to the Minister alleging that, at the time of commencement of the inquiry in 1949, a combine existed in connection with the distribution and sale of coarse papers in and around Vancouver. The report named six wholesale coarse-paper distributors as being the principal parties to the alleged combine together with three other wholesale firms and three manufacturers which from time to time had knowingly assisted in the operation of the alleged combine. On Feb. 4, 1953, the report was made public by the Minister, who stated that as soon as he had examined it carefully and received the opinion of counsel he would make a further announcement as to whether proceedings would be instituted with respect to the operations of the alleged combine.

A report of an investigation into an alleged combine in the purchase of maple syrup and maple sugar in the Province of Quebec was submitted to the Minister of Justice on Mar. 20, 1953, and made public by him on Apr. 1, 1953. The report stated that, out of ten firms engaged in the purchase of maple products in Quebec, six made an arrangement to buy their supplies of these products through a common agency at a common price. The Commission, however, was of the opinion that the evidence did not go so far as to prove the existence of a combine, since the parties who entered into the arrangement had not been shown to account for a sufficiently large portion of the market or to have such control over it as to make it appear conclusively that their arrangements were detrimental to the public, that is, in this case, the producers. This was the last report made by the Commissioner of the Combines Investigation Act and subsequent reports will be made by the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission.

During 1952 and 1953 a variety of matters were disposed of on preliminary inquiry while in a number of other cases investigations were proceeding. Numerous consultations and interviews were held with individuals and representatives of business groups interested in discussing the possible application of the Act to conditions encountered or to arrangements being considered. During 1953, the Combines Branch represented Canada at meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on 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.