

1.—Electricity and Gas Meters in Use, Years Ended Mar. 31, 1939-48

Year	Electricity Meters	Gas Meters				Total
		Manu- factured	Natural	Acetylene	Petroleum Gas	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1939.....	1,964,729	512,373	179,988	3	1,224	693,588
1940.....	2,037,563	514,170	185,499	3	1,184	700,856
1941.....	2,109,437	519,095	192,097	4	1,157	712,353
1942.....	2,181,945	524,669	197,781	4	1,196	723,650
1943.....	2,228,716	532,160	197,585	4	1,278	731,027
1944.....	2,268,500	540,240	201,522	4	1,392	743,158
1945.....	2,348,150	552,411	208,046	4	1,529	761,990
1946.....	2,459,672	550,949	215,330	4	1,651	767,934
1947.....	2,647,040	560,046	225,952	4	1,725	787,727
1948.....	2,746,685	587,629	217,068	3	1,046	805,746

The Electricity and Fluid Exportation Act came into force in 1907. Under its provisions no electric energy or fluid, whether liquid or gaseous, may be exported from Canada without a licence. Total exports of electric energy during the year ended Mar. 31, 1948, amounted to 2,025,189,526 kilowatt hours. There was also a small exportation of natural gas.

Section 3.—Combinations in Restraint of Trade*

Federal legislative measures for aiding and regulating trade include specific prohibitions of operation against the public interest by monopolies and similar commercial combinations. Monopolistic trade arrangements tending to eliminate competition in price, supply or quality of goods, and thereby to restrain trade unduly, are illegal under laws including the Combines Investigation Act and Section 498 of the Criminal Code. These laws are designed to promote reasonable competitive opportunities for the expansion of production, distribution and employment.

The first federal legislation in this field was enacted in 1889 and is still effective in amended form as Section 498 of the Criminal Code. Legislation providing for investigation of trusts or combines was first enacted in 1897 as part of the Customs Tariff Act. In 1910 a separate Combines Investigation Act was provided and further legislation was enacted in 1919 and 1923.

The Combines Investigation Act.—The Combines Investigation Act (R.S.C. 1927, c. 26, as amended in 1935, 1937 and 1946) provides for investigation of trade combinations, mergers, trusts and monopolies alleged to have been formed or operated in restraint of trade and to the detriment of the public. Organizations or commercial arrangements of this class which operate to the detriment of the public by enhancing prices, fixing common prices, restricting competition, limiting production or otherwise restraining or attempting to restrain trade, are defined in the Act as 'combines'. Participation in the formation or in the operation of a combine is an indictable offence, subject to penalties up to \$25,000 or two years' imprisonment. Investigations of alleged combines under the Act are conducted under the direction of the Combines Investigation Commissioner who reports to the Minister of Justice.

* Revised by F. A. McGregor, Commissioner, Combines Investigation Act, Department of Justice, Ottawa.