

to persuade wholesalers to sell at prices suggested by the Company. On Nov. 16, 1953, the Minister of Justice announced that the opinion of counsel, with which he concurred, was that the case was not a suitable one for prosecution, as the offence was technical and isolated and had been committed without the knowledge and approval of the management of the Company, and apparently against its policy.

Also in May 1953, the Commission submitted a report to the Minister of Justice concerning alleged price discrimination by a manufacturer between retail hardware dealers in North Bay. The Commission stated it did not feel that it should express an opinion as to whether an offence had been committed, nor did it feel the evidence permitted it to draw general conclusions about the industry. On Nov. 16, 1953, the Minister announced that the opinion of counsel, with which he concurred, was to the effect that this was a borderline case of a technical violation and was not a suitable case upon which to found the first prosecution under Sect. 498A of the Criminal Code unless the conduct was persisted in.

In a report in January 1954, concerning an alleged attempt at resale price maintenance in the sale of certain household supplies in the Chicoutimi-Lake St. John district, the Commission concluded that there was an attempt at resale price maintenance on the part of a salesman of a manufacturer of these supplies, although responsibility for this should not, in the particular circumstances, be imputed to the Company itself. Following the institution of prosecution proceedings under Sect. 34 of the Combines Investigation Act in the police court at Chicoutimi, Que., a plea of guilty was entered by the salesman and he was fined \$5 and costs on Nov. 18, 1954.

In February 1954, the Commission submitted a report concerning an investigation into the distribution and sale of gasoline in the Vancouver area. The report expressed the conclusion that gasoline retailers had entered into agreements or arrangements fixing and enhancing the retail price of gasoline, preventing or lessening competition, and substantially controlling the retail sale of gasoline in the area concerned. Prosecution proceedings under Sect. 32 of the Combines Investigation Act against two incorporated trade associations and 32 individuals were instituted in Vancouver, B.C. in January 1955.

In a report in March 1954, concerning alleged instances of resale price maintenance in the sale of china and earthenware, the Commission concluded that a Canadian distributor for figures and other earthenware products had induced or attempted to induce various retailers in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia to maintain retail prices specified by such distributor and had also induced a Vancouver wholesaler to maintain wholesale prices specified by it. The Commission also found that the distributor had attempted to induce four Vancouver wholesalers to refrain from selling figures to a Vancouver retailer because the retailer had been selling them at prices less than the resale price specified by such distributor; also, that one such wholesaler had refused to supply the retailer in question for this reason. Following the institution of prosecution proceedings under Sect. 34 of the Combines Investigation Act in the police court at Toronto, Ont., the distributor pleaded guilty on Nov. 17, 1954, and was fined a total of \$1,000 on two counts.

A report of an inquiry concerning alleged instances of resale price maintenance in the distribution and sale of television sets in the Toronto district was submitted by the Commission to the Minister on Oct. 25, 1954, and made public by him on Nov. 18, 1954. The report stated that, following a newspaper advertisement by a dealer offering television sets of a particular manufacture at substantially reduced