

PROFITTEERING IN

ELECTRIC BULBS BY ENGLISH CONCERNS

Three Leading Firms Have
Formed a Combination to

Keep Prices up.

London, May 3.—England has started an investigation of the post-war growth of alleged trusts and monopolies.

A profiteering committee which has been looking into the activity of electric light companies and lamp bulb manufacturers, in a report recently made public, says that "a single com-

It is known as the Electric Light Manufacturers Association, and report says, and has been created primarily in the interests of three firms—the British-Houston Company, the General Electric Company and the Siemens Brothers. It is reported to include from 90 to 95 per cent. of the industry, to fix prices and regulate output, says the profiteering committee.

The prices fixed by Association, the report says, became the standard for all lamps sold in the country, whether made by Association or non-association manufacturers, or imported from abroad. Because of this standard price policy, the committee

reap no benefit from lamps of cheaper manufacture, the advantage going wholly to distributors.

Standard vacuum lamps, now sold to the public for three shillings, state the report, could be sold at two shillings at which price the manufacturer and distributor would still have a satisfactory working profit.

"One and a quarter million half-watt lamps," adds the report, "sold to the public in 1919 at twelve shillings and sixpence each were purchased in Holland by three associated manufacturers at about three shillings a lamp. They could have been sold at not more than eight shillings which would still have left ample margin for the importers and distributors. Importers and distributors between them could make profits on these lamps of some-what would appear to us reasonable."

"Since the largest of the three domestic firms"

"The Report, issued under the majority control of an American electrical concern, there in thing like \$1,400,000 over and above what would appear to us reasonable. "Since the largest share of the dominant firms," continues the report, "is under the majority control of an American electrical concern, there is some danger that the bulk of the British lamp industry may be subordinated to American interests.

"There is a possibility of an international combination comprising British, Dutch and American manufacturers which would be able to control supplies and dominate prices over a considerable part of the world.

"The operations of an association which so effectively controls an important industry," concludes the Report, "should be watched."

to public supervision and control."

CIRCUIT COURT AT DORCHESTER

Three Cases Brought to Attention of Grand Jury — Small Civil Docket.

Special to The Standard

Moncton, N. B., May 4.—Two of the three criminal cases which the docketed at the May term of the Westmorland Circuit Court, which opened at Dorchester

ter this afternoon, were thrown out by the grand jury. Judge Chandler presided in the absence of Chief Justice McKeown.

The criminal docket was made up

On the civil docket there is one case James H. Latham vs Rufus King. This case is to be tried in chambers at Moncton.

This bill was found against the convict, Roy McDonald, who on being arraigned pleaded guilty and was sentenced to serve six months more in the penitentiary. No bill was found in the other cases and the court adjourned.

George McDonald, charged with escaping from the county jail, elected to be tried under the Speedy Trials' before Judge Bennett next week.

**BRITAIN CONSIDERS
STATE PURCHASE**

**Of Smaller Railways, Leasing
Them to Larger Companies
for Administration.**

London, May 4.—The Government is considering a proposal made by the

The newspaper adds that the railroads would be administered in four groups, and that large economies in administration and cost of running would be effected. There now are 156 distinct railroad companies, a majority of which are very small concerns.

— why? —

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