

The Committee was appointed by the House on Feb. 29, 1888. It was to "examine into and report upon the nature and extent of certain trade combinations." On March 8 a resolution was adopted extending the enquiry to include alleged combinations of fire insurance companies in Canada. A resolution by Mr. J. D. Edgar for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the existence of alleged combinations was withdrawn on March 8 on account of the prior adoption of the resolution by Mr. H. Clarke Wallace on the subject.

The Committee held twenty-six meetings in all; examined sixty-three witnesses, and made a comprehensive investigation. Its report was presented to Parliament on May 16, and two days later a Bill was introduced by Mr. Wallace for the prevention and suppression of trade combinations. There was not opportunity at that session to take up the measure, but on Feb. 6th, the year following (1889) Mr. Wallace introduced a similar measure.