

- (d) The wholesale and tank wagon prices, and the retail prices, at which gasolines and automobile lubricating oils were sold under each brand or trade name at forty-eight of the most important points in Ontario and upon specific dates mentioned in the questionnaire.
- (e) The costs, laid down, to each distributor, on specific dates mentioned, of gasolines and automobile lubricating oils purchased by him and sold under each brand or trade name, together with the prices paid for the same at the points of production and the costs per gallon to the point of delivery with freight, duties, import taxes, exchange and other relative charges thereupon.
- (f) The volume, in gallons, of gasolines and oils sold by each distributor within the periods between January 1st and December 31st, 1924, and between January 1st and June 30th, 1925; also statements of the expenses within such periods to each distributor of doing business, including the cost to him per gallon of all gasolines and automobile lubricating oils so sold.
- (g) The service stations within the province owned and operated by each distributor, also the names and locations of all service stations not directly operated by the distributor but in which he or it had an interest.
- (h) The number and location of all curb pumps in Ontario operated direct by the distributor or in which he had any interest, direct or indirect.

In addition to the information required from them by way of completion of the questionnaire, I also made request upon the three companies operating refineries and four other of the most important distributors of gasolines and lubricating oils in Ontario that they furnish me with certain specific information relative to the ownership and control of their capital stock, their investments in plant and working assets, the profits obtained by them from all sources, the prices paid for raw materials purchased (crude oils), the volume of business done by each, service stations owned, controlled or operated by them and with respect to other items and matters deemed by me to be relevant to the enquiry. It was necessary to obtain such facts from the refiners and distributors mentioned for the reason that refining crude oils or blending gasolines or oils, as they do, it is not possible, with accuracy or otherwise than in an arbitrary manner, to determine the costs on any specific date, of the individual products dealt in by them, but the question as to whether they had sold or were selling such products to the public at reasonable or unreasonable prices had to be determined by the amount of profits recovered when compared with the volume of business done and the capital employed by such refiners and distributors in the periods under review.

The necessity for obtaining such information was explained by me to officers of each of the refiners and distributors mentioned at the time when request was made to them for it. Certain of those from whom it was required expressed an immediate willingness to provide it, but there were others who took the attitude that it was beyond the power of the Province of Ontario to compel the giving of such information and they contended that the Federal Government was alone competent to do so. They stated that they were unwilling and would refuse to give the information if it was to be used as the basis of an inquiry where confidential facts relative to their businesses might be made public or left open to the inspection of competitors. Ultimately they expressed a willingness to provide the information if it were agreed that it should be held confidential within my possession and employed only for the purposes of ascertaining the facts which I was called upon to investigate.

The above conditions were reported by me to the Government of the Province of Ontario, through the Hon. George S. Henry, Acting Premier, following