

INLAND TRADE COMMISSION PROPOSED

Western Wholesalers Urge Such an Organization—Powers Similar to Those of Railway Board in Railway Matters

FOR the purpose of regulating the production, manufacture and distribution of foodstuffs and other commodities, it has been suggested that a federal body be formed along the lines of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners. This scheme is being urged by the Wholesale Grocers' Association of Saskatchewan. Such a commission, it is urged, could have many branches, including a food branch. Provincial committees representing each class of trade under regulation would represent the executive body of the different provinces. The powers of the commission should be extensive, being a practical counterpart of those enjoyed by the Railway Commission Board. Following the formation of the commission all matters affecting production, manufacture and distribution would be considered and passed by it before presentation to parliament for action. In this way it is hoped that injudicious and harmful legislation may be avoided and the interests of the food producing and distributing agencies protected.

The duties of the commission should be the regulation and control of all food products grown, manufactured, prepared or offered for food in Canada. Where any complaints bearing on matters of food are heard they will be promptly investigated by this commission in the same way that the railway commission considers matters that come under its jurisdiction. The commission would have power also to take action without outside suggestion in matters where they believe the best industries of the food production and distribution trades were at stake.

In general the policy of such a commission as it affected the food trade would take in the following important questions:—

1. The standardization of quality and weights of canned goods, fish, fruits, vegetables, jams, cereals, flour, spices and all package goods.
2. The standardization of the pure food laws.
3. The question of establishing adequate help for infant industries, by the establishment of foreign markets, that would assure them of an opportunity of disposing of their goods at reasonable prices.
4. The advertising of home grown and home packed goods, both at home and abroad, with the idea of developing old avenues of distribution, and of creating a new demand.
5. The development of methods of protection against inferior goods coming into the country, to be achieved in part by examination at port of entry.

There is a movement under way for the organization of a Dominion-wide Wholesale Grocers' Association, and it is generally understood among western grocers that were this organization to be formed, the proposed commission would, in all probability, find ready sanction as one of the first actions of the new association.

CONTROL OF WATER CARRIERS' RATES

The Montreal Board of Trade is strongly opposing the effort which is being made to extend the jurisdiction of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners to tolls and tariffs of water carriers by bill number 6, now before the House. A protest along this line was forwarded a few days ago by the board of trade to the railway committee of the House of Commons. The railway committee will proceed with the consideration of the proposal at its meeting on Wednesday, the 30th instant. The Montreal board of trade has repeatedly, and heretofore with success, opposed the placing of the water carriers under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners with respect to tolls and tariffs, not because of any doubt as to the ability or impartiality of the Board of Railway Commissioners, but because of the conviction that it is in the best interests of shippers generally that water carriers should retain their right of contract in the matter of tolls and tariffs.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND FINANCE

A statement of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 1918, was submitted a few days ago in the Prince Edward Island legislature. The results were as follows:—

Receipts.

Dominion subsidy	\$372,181
Public lands	785
Provincial secretary, fees	1,535
Prothonotary's fees	1,587
Registrar of deeds, Charlottetown.....	3,506
Registrar of deeds, Summerside.....	1,830
County court fees	399
Fines and penalties	302
Falconwood Hospital fees.....	8,007
Private bills	290
Vendor's license	88
Peddlers' licenses	420
Casual revenue	468
Fire insurance companies	7,500
Life insurance companies	2,400
Accident and guarantee companies.....	606
Loan and trust companies.....	825
Banks	8,219
Telegraph company	500
Express companies	400
Electric light company	133
Miscellaneous companies	1,466
Income tax	18,757
Land tax	54,061
Fox tax	10,069
Succession duties	4,477
Motor vehicles, etc.	13,618
Oyster culture	17
Refund	41
	\$514,498
Less motor vehicle tax (net) transferred to public works department	12,650
Ordinary receipts	\$501,847
Interest, etc., on sinking fund investments	6,519
	\$508,367

Expenditure.

Administration of justice	\$ 24,716
Boards of health	2,381
Coroner's inquests	107
Department of agriculture.....	9,165
Department of education	173,579
Department of public works.....	70,000
Department of provincial secretary-treasurer	5,800
Executive council	2,872
Falconwood	89,761
Interest	49,679
Legislation	10,539
Library	1,412
Miscellaneous	12,094
Motor vehicles	968
Paupers	3,666
Postage	944
Provincial auditor's department	1,896
Provincial building	5,240
Public lands	1,013
Registry offices	5,104
Telegrams	67
Telephone extensions	700
Total ordinary expenditure	\$471,713
Capital or permanent expenditure	13,718
War expenditure	10,145
	\$495,577
Sinking fund (appropriation)....	\$10,470
Sinking fund interest, etc.	6,519
	\$512,566