

Mr. GARDINER:

1. 815, working under the direction of the bureau of statistics. The numbers employed varied greatly from time to time, from 389 in September and 572 in October to a maximum of 815, being reduced in March to 511. The work of approximately 350 of these will be completed soon.

2. Yes.

3. They were certified by the civil service commission.

4. 328 men; 487 women.

5. None.

6. Between the ages of twenty and twenty-one, 55; between the ages of twenty-one and forty, 159.

7. (a) Yes, if available and otherwise qualified; (b) Yes, if available and otherwise qualified.

WAR-TIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD

Mr. BOUCHER:

1. Have any prosecutions been laid by or on behalf of the war-time prices and trade board pursuant to its powers under the act to amend the Special War Revenue Act, 1940, or the War Exchange Conservation Act, 1940?

2. If so, what was the result of each such prosecution?

3. What other actions have been taken by the war-time prices and trade board under the aforementioned statutes to prevent unjustified increases in price?

4. Has any increase in price been discovered which is greater than the amount of the tax paid?

5. If so, in what commodities?

Mr. McLARTY:

1. No.

2. Answered by No. 1.

3, 4 and 5. A notice to all manufacturers, importers and distributors in Canada was sent out by the war-time prices and trade board on August 12, 1940, and a second notice on December 27, 1940, calling attention to the requirement of the board that no profit or "mark-up" may be taken on the tax, and that no person may take advantage of the import prohibitions or restrictions to increase prices in Canada.

Investigations by auditors of the board have revealed that some wholesalers when calculating their resale prices treated the war exchange tax as an addition to their laid-down cost and took their usual gross profit or "mark-up" on that amount. Some of the commodities affected were dental supplies, artificial teeth, automobile accessories, patent medicines, hospital supplies, workmen's tools, stationery, and builders' hardware. When this incorrect method of establishing selling prices was brought to their attention, the distributors concerned immediately changed their selling prices to comply with the requirements of the board.

COMBINES INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. STOKES:

1. How many reports have been made since October 23, 1935, by the commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act?

2. What action has been taken with respect to each such report?

3. How many prosecutions have been instituted since October 23, 1935, under the Combines Investigation Act?

4. What was the result of each such prosecution?

5. Were counsel engaged to conduct such prosecutions?

6. If so, what were their names and what amount by way of retainer fee, living allowances or travelling expenses has been paid or agreed to be paid to each such person?

Mr. McLARTY:

1. Seven, since his appointment April 15, 1937, in addition to making more or less extensive inquiries into approximately one hundred other cases.

2. In four of the principal cases, after extensive preliminary inquiries, no combine was found to exist, and no report was published. In the other three cases the reports and the evidence taken in the investigations were remitted to the attorneys general of the provinces concerned.

3. Two prosecutions under the Combines Investigation Act and three under section 498 of the criminal code.

4. One prosecution under the Combines Investigation Act is not concluded, one resulted in an acquittal. One prosecution under section 498 of the criminal code resulted in conviction of all accused, and fines of \$161,500 were imposed. This judgment is now under appeal. One prosecution under section 498 of the criminal code was stayed at the instance of the provincial attorney general, and one has not been brought to trial.

5. Yes, counsel engaged by dominion in respect of three prosecutions.

6.	Fees	Disbursements
J. C. McRuer, K.C.—		
1939-40.....	\$ 3,375 00	\$ 97 23
1940-41.....	11,681 25	1,210 69
R. M. Fowler—		
1939-40.....	1,787 50
1940-41.....	3,187 50	48 83
J. L. McLennan—		
1939-40.....	3,625 00	10 62
1940-41.....	3,677 00	17 25

RENT CONTROL

Mr. BENCE:

1. In what communities is rent control effective?

2. What principles govern the decision to introduce rent control in any particular community?