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Extracts from an address by Rt. Hon. J. L. Ilsley

on

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAIR COMPETITION IN THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

to the

Thirty-third Anual Conference of The Association of Better Business Bureaus

at

Quebec City, June 11, 1947.

"Although free competition is recognized as the motive power of our economy, our law makers have realized that certain rules of the road must exist to prevent abuse and to ensure that competition be not only free and effective, but also fair. Economic liberty in this regard, like social and political liberty, must be qualified to ensure that the freedom of one is not exercised at the expense of the freedom of others. Consumers and businessmen must thus be protected against fraud, against misrepresentation of goods, against the use of deleterious substances, and generally against abuses of dominant economic power.

Our Criminal Code, for example, prohibits fraudulent dealings, the obtaining of money or goods by false pretences, secret commissions and certain types or false advertising and branding. Section 498A, enacted as a result of the reports of the Price Spreads Commission, bans certain kinds of unfair price discrimination and the use of economic strength to destroy competition by selling goods at unreasonably low prices. No one has the right to foist on the public harmful substances or to misrepresent the nature of goods necessary for health. To this end statutes such as our Food and Drugs Act and the Proprietary or Patent Medicine Act are actively enforced."

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