

between the years 1889 and the time the Liberal administration came into office in 1896. It remained, however, for the present government and the present Minister of Finance, immediately after coming into office, to endeavour to find a way to meet this deficiency, and this was attempted in the legislation introduced by the Hon. the Minister and carried in the session of 1897.

[See debates and reasons assigned at the time]

That criminal prosecutions were not likely to prove effective in curbing the "monopolies, trusts and combinations" which it was believed the new tariff had helped to develop, was made apparent by the Hon. the Minister of Finance in his budget speech of 1897. ~~That~~ It was apparent, too, assuming successful prosecutions, the provisions of the Criminal Code might lead to the penalizing of offenders without affording much in the way of redress to the consumer. These limitations of the existing law it was sought to remove by giving to the Governor in Council power to commission a judge to hold an inquiry in a summary way into any alleged combine, and when it was made to appear that a domestic combination controlled production in any line, power to place on the free list imported articles which would compete with the domestic production.

The legislation enacted was as follows:

~~Statute~~ [Take in--secure from Statutes of 1897]

also amended
1897