

Nine Firms Alleged Operating In Vast Sugar Black Market

Montreal, Oct. 12 (Special).—Investigation into what local Wartime Prices and Trade Board officials termed "the biggest sugar black-market yet uncovered," involving 1,000,000 pounds of illegally obtained sugar, resulted today in 36 complaints being laid against nine Montreal firms which require sugar in the manufacture of their products. At the same time, it was learned that John G. Ahern, K.C., special prosecutor for the W.P.T.B., was studying reports prepared by W.P.T.B. and Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigators, with the probability that as many more charges will be laid against other companies.

The complaints were issued against a feed and grain merchant, bakeries, soft drink manufacturers, and a straw company. Varied infractions of W.P.T.B. regulations are charged, including conspiracy to commit transgressions against the regulations and to enter into transactions designated to evade the regulations.

Other charges were of using sugar in an unauthorized manner; of wrongful possession of sugar ration forms; of selling sugar to quota or industrial users without obtaining surrender of ration checks or purchase documents covering the quan-

ties sold; of selling sugar at prices higher than the maximum or specific prices; and of not keeping books as required by the regulations.

It is understood W.P.T.B. investigators have worked on the case for two months. The present black-market activities are said to be much more extensive than those reported involved in a recent theft of sugar from a refinery.

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