

BLACK MARKET SUGAR TRAFFIC IS HALTED BY MOUNTED POLICE

Seize 136,000 Counterfeit Ration Coupons in Quebec Over Week-End

Montreal, Sept. 11.—(CP)—The view that Canada's sugar ration administrators "are well ahead of the game" with regard to black market activities, was expressed last night by H. J. Hobbins, deputy sugar administrator, shortly after an announcement by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of the seizure at Amos, Que., of 136,000 counterfeit sugar ration coupons during the week-end.

Ahead of Game

Mr. Hobbins said that wherever there is rationing, there are inevitably black market activities, "but in the case of sugar the administrators and the R.C.M.P. are well ahead of the game." He added that in general illegal trafficking has been relatively small and the loss is "perhaps one ounce per head per annum."

R.C.M.P. officials said that with the arrest of a man in Amos and the recovery of 136,000 counterfeit coupons, the illegal traffic of black market sugar which threatened to flood the nation by organized distribution had been halted and the racket sliced to one-sixth.

The latest raid was one of a series in the province of Quebec during the last several weeks. Three weeks ago in Montreal, the federal police seized 500,000 counterfeit coupons in a private garage in Montreal. Police said the haul was part of an issue of 1,500,000 coupons, but "we have accounted for most of the missing half-million and a very small quantity is still at large."

Few Circulated

R.C.M.P. officials at Toronto reported later that a few of the counterfeit coupons were circulating in Toronto and other Ontario centres.

In Quebec city, during the trial of a city merchant charged with black market sales, Maurice Boisvert, Prices Board prosecutor, said the sugar black market had reached "alarming" proportions in the Quebec district and said a number of arrests would be made shortly in connection with the distribution of counterfeit coupons.

A Montreal candy manufacturer had his license cancelled by the Prices Board in August on the third conviction in obtaining sugar illegally. A statement issued by the board said the manufacturer had in recent months secured at least 220,000 pounds of sugar in a series of deals involving illegal sugar transactions.

Mr. Hobbins refused to specify whether the sugar black market was more widespread in one section of Canada than another, but he said that "usually we get the jump on the black market rings and halt them before they get started."

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