

51.—Statistics of Patents applied for, granted, etc., fiscal years, 1919-1923.

Classification.		Fiscal Year ended March 31.				
		1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Applications for patents.....	No.	9,025	11,198	13,446	12,274	10,806
Patents granted.....	"	6,052	9,527	11,152	7,393	12,542
Certificates for renewal fees.....	"	2,022	2,036	2,549	2,620	2,127
Caveats granted.....	"	349	408	410	420	452
Assignments.....	"	3,690	4,479	5,525	5,481	5,143
Fees received, net.....	\$	339,345	294,046	344,712	380,207	413,238

Copyrights.—The first Canadian Copyright Act was passed by the Legislature of Lower Canada on Feb. 25, 1832 (2 William IV, c. 53). This Act was repealed and replaced by an Act of the Province of Canada relating to copyright passed in 1841 (4-5 Vict., c. 61), allowing copyright to any resident of the Province on depositing with the Provincial Registrar a copy of the work and printing in the work a notice of the entry. In 1842 an Imperial Act (5-6 Vict., c. 45), gave to a work first published in the United Kingdom protection throughout the Empire. As at that time the United States had no agreement with the United Kingdom as to copyrights, United States publishers reprinted in cheap editions books copyrighted in the United Kingdom, and many such books naturally found their way into Canada. By the Foreign Reprints Act of 1847 (10-11 Vict., c. 95), the Imperial Government made it possible for Canadians to secure these cheap editions on making provisions safeguarding the rights of the British authors. This was done by Canada in 1850 by an "Act to impose a Duty on Foreign Reprints of British Copyright Works" (13-14 Vict., c. 6), and the duty so imposed was continued by the first Dominion Act of 1868 (31 Vict., chaps. 54 and 56), the latter Act authorizing the Governor in Council to impose a duty not exceeding 20 p.c. *ad valorem* on such reprints and to distribute the proceeds among the owners of the copyrights.

By the B.N.A. Act, exclusive legislative authority in matters of copyright was assigned to the Dominion Parliament. In 1875 an Act was passed (38 Vict., c. 88), allowing a copyright for 28 years to persons domiciled in Canada or in any British Possession, or who, being citizens of any country having an international copyright agreement with the United Kingdom, had registered their claim and complied with the usual conditions.

In 1886 an International Copyright Act (49-50 Vict., c. 33), was passed by the Imperial Parliament, giving to Queen Victoria the right to accede to the Berne Convention. As Canada thus became a member of the Berne Convention with the privilege of withdrawal, books published in Canada by Canadians secured the same privileges as books published first in the United Kingdom, an author of any country subscribing to the Convention obtaining in any other country in the union the same rights as an author of that country. An Imperial Act of 1911 set forth general copyright regulations for the Empire.

The Copyright Act of 1921 (as amended by the Act of 1923), which became effective on Jan. 1, 1924, sets down in section 4 the qualifications for a copyright and in section 5, its duration. "Copyright shall subsist in Canada . . . in every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, if the author was at the date of the making of the work a British subject, a citizen or subject of a foreign country which has adhered to the (Berne) Convention and the Additional Protocol . . . or a resident within His Majesty's