

The Commissioner of Patents reports that during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1924, the land vehicle class was still the largest single class of invention, while internal combustion motors, inventions pertaining to tillage, grain separation, wireless communication, telephony and telegraphy have also been among the more important. The coal shortage of recent years provided a stimulus to inventions connected with the use of fuel oil furnaces. Inventions in typewriters have increased considerably, many of them being directed to the elimination of noise.

**51.—Statistics of Patents applied for, granted, etc., fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1920-1924.**

Classification.	Fiscal year ended March 31,				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.
Applications for patents.....No.	11,198	13,446	12,274	10,806	10,441
Patents granted.....“	9,527	11,152	7,393	12,542	9,000
Certificates for renewal fees.....“	2,036	2,549	2,620	2,127	1,793
Caveats granted.....“	408	410	420	452	415
Assignments.....“	4,479	5,525	5,481	5,143	5,061
Fees received, net.....\$	294,046	344,712	380,207	413,238	459,780

**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 This Act was repealed and replaced by an Act of the Province of Canada relating to copyright passed in 1841 (4-5 Vict., c. 61) allowing copyright to any resident of the Province on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 the 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., cc. 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