

to both Upper and Lower Canada, and the B.N.A. Act assigned the granting of patents exclusively to the Parliament of Canada. The Dominion Patent Act of 1869 repealed the provincial Acts and has formed the basis of all succeeding Acts.

The Patent Act as it now stands (13-14 Geo. V, c. 23) provides in section 7 that "Any person who has invented any new and useful art, process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter . . . not known or used by any other person before his invention thereof, and . . . not in public use or on sale with the consent or allowance of the inventor thereof for more than two years previous to his application for patent therefor in Canada, may . . . obtain a patent granting to such person an exclusive property in such invention". The exclusive right in the patent has duration for eighteen years.

The first Canadian patent was issued under the Lower Canada Act of 1824 to Noah Cushing, of Quebec. 165 patents were granted under the Acts of Upper and Lower Canada, and under the consolidating and later Acts of the provinces of Canada, 3,160 patents were granted. The growth of invention is shown by the fact that in 1923 alone 2,021 Canadian patents, a record figure, were issued to Canadians by the Patent Office.

Applications for patents in Canada from inventors in other countries were first received in 1872. In that year the total number of applications for patents made to the Canadian Patent Office, Department of Agriculture, was 752, and the total fees amounted to \$18,652. The business of the Office has gradually continued to expand and the number of applications and total fees increased each year without a break from the beginning of the present century until the fiscal year ended March 31, 1913, when 8,681 applications were received and the total fees amounted to \$218,125. In the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1926, there were 11,133 applications, with fees amounting to \$455,211, as compared with 14,834 and \$474,614 respectively in 1925. For the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1926, the number of patents granted was 11,001, as compared with 9,508 in 1925, an increase of 1,493. Of the patents of 1926, 7,891 or 72 p.c. were issued to United States inventors, 1,292 to Canadians and 732 to residents of Great Britain and Ireland, while Germany with 276, France with 185 and Australia with 128, came next in number of patents issued. Table 57 shows the distribution of the Canadian patentees by province of residence for the years 1916 to 1926.

57.—Number of Canadian Patentees, by Province of Residence, for the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1916-1926.

Provinces.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	3	3	3	-	9	2	4	9	7	2	2
Nova Scotia.....	21	29	18	21	29	22	35	41	26	30	30
New Brunswick.....	17	29	14	9	22	33	14	21	14	24	24
Quebec.....	237	287	220	172	312	331	276	430	312	302	272
Ontario.....	540	465	398	386	636	708	508	845	673	559	561
Manitoba.....	89	84	91	66	86	118	75	153	83	66	68
Saskatchewan.....	65	62	84	78	94	119	101	166	106	101	90
Alberta.....	60	59	61	75	116	127	96	155	123	95	95
British Columbia.....	92	72	83	70	147	177	163	202	174	127	159
Territories and Yukon.....	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	1,125	1,091	978	875	1,451	1,645	1,199	2,021	1,533	1,302	1,292

It will be seen from the table that the more populous provinces of Ontario and Quebec obtained the largest absolute number of patents, but a calculation of