

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 Mar. 31, 1913, when 8,681 applications were received and the total fees amounted to \$218,125. In the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1927, there were 11,406 applications, with fees amounting to \$438,690, as compared with 11,133 and \$455,211 respectively in 1926. For the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1927, the number of patents granted was 10,018, as compared with 11,001 in 1926, a decrease of 983. Of the patents of 1927, 6,962 or 69 p.c. were issued to United States inventors, 1,232 to Canadians and 711 to residents of Great Britain and Ireland, while Germany with 305, France with 194 and Australia with 131, came next in number of patents issued. Table 23 shows the distribution of the Canadian patentees for the years 1917 to 1927 by province of residence.

23.—Number of Canadian Patentees, by Province of Residence, for the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1917-1927.

Provinces.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	3	3	-	9	2	4	9	7	2	2	5
Nova Scotia.....	29	18	21	29	29	22	35	41	26	30	19
New Brunswick.....	26	14	9	22	33	14	21	14	24	24	21
Quebec.....	287	220	172	312	331	276	430	312	302	272	320
Ontario.....	465	393	386	636	708	508	845	673	659	661	499
Manitoba.....	84	91	66	86	118	75	158	83	66	68	89
Saskatchewan.....	62	84	76	94	119	101	166	106	101	90	68
Alberta.....	50	61	75	116	127	96	155	123	95	95	82
British Columbia.....	72	83	70	147	177	108	203	174	127	150	129
Territories and Yukon.....	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>2,021</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>1,302</b>	<b>1,293</b>	<b>1,233</b>

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 the number of patentees in relation to population shows that, for the fiscal year 1927, the greatest relative inventiveness was displayed in British Columbia. Thus, in this province, in 1927, one patent was granted for every 4,455 persons, the other provinces, as regards the number of persons to each patent granted, being placed