

**Patents.**—Letters patent, which in England have been in the gift of the Crown from the time of the Statute of Monopolies and earlier, are, in Canada, a purely statutory grant and have always been so. The earliest Act was one of Lower Canada, passed in 1824, wherein provision was made for the granting of patent rights to inventors who were British subjects and inhabitants of the province. Upper Canada passed its Act in 1826, and Nova Scotia and New Brunswick passed theirs at later dates. In 1849, after the Union, a consolidating Act was passed applying 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 The Dominion Patent Act of 1869 repealed the provincial Acts and has formed the basis of all succeeding Acts.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 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 3,160 patents were granted.

Letters patent of inventions are now issued subject to the provisions of Chapter 150 R.S.C., 1927, and applications for protection relating to the same should be addressed to The Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa, Canada.

Invention means any new and useful art, process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter or any new and useful improvement in any art, process, machine, manufacture or composition of matter.

The growth of Canadian inventions is shown by the fact that an average of 1,422 patents was issued annually to Canadians during the decade 1920-29. 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, 1931 there were 13,229 applications, with fees amounting to \$472,636, as compared with 14,288 and \$478,327 respectively in 1930. For the fiscal year ended Mar. 31, 1931, the number of patents granted was 11,262 as compared with 10,401 in 1930, an increase of 861. Of the patents of 1931, 7,298 or 65 p.c. were issued to United States inventors, 1,109 to Canadians and 1,004 to residents of Great Britain and Ireland, while Germany with 821, France with 291 and Sweden with 87, came next in number of inventors to whom patents were issued. Table 20 shows the distribution of the Canadian patentees for the years 1920 to 1931 by province of residence.

**20.—Number of Canadian Patentees, by Province of Residence, for the fiscal years ended Mar. 31, 1920-31.**

Province.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island...	9	2	4	9	7	2	2	5	3	1	3	3
Nova Scotia.....	29	29	22	35	41	26	30	19	24	18	17	14
New Brunswick.....	22	33	14	21	14	24	24	21	12	17	16	18
Quebec.....	312	331	276	430	312	302	272	320	298	293	282	265
Ontario.....	636	708	508	845	673	559	561	499	637	538	500	491
Manitoba.....	86	118	75	158	83	66	68	89	71	61	72	74
Saskatchewan.....	94	119	101	166	116	101	90	68	100	93	81	66
Alberta.....	116	137	96	155	123	95	95	82	88	98	71	76
British Columbia.....	147	177	103	202	174	127	150	129	152	148	126	101
Yukon and N.W.T.....	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
<b>Totals.....</b>	<b>1,451</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1,199</b>	<b>2,621</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>1,362</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,232</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>1,265</b>	<b>1,169</b>	<b>1,109</b>