

two bakers' associations in Alberta and British Columbia were, contrary to the Act, parties to the formation or operation of a combine referred to as the Western Chain Bakeries. This Chain produced approximately three-quarters of the bread sold in the three provinces. Price competition had been lessened by agreements to fix wholesale and retail prices, to maintain resale prices to consumers, to provide for uniform tenders on military and other contracts, to fix the price of bread shipped across the Saskatchewan-Alberta boundary and to divide territory within the Province of Alberta. The Attorney General appointed counsel in Alberta to undertake prosecution of members of the alleged combine.

Several other major investigations at varying stages of completion were in progress in the autumn of 1949. Preliminary inquiries were disposed of in many cases and in other instances features of trade programs which, if put into effect, might have led to question under the Combines Investigation Act, were abandoned.

Section 4.—Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks*

Letters patent are issued subject to the provisions of the Patent Act, 1935 (25-26 Geo. V., 1935, c. 32, as amended by 11 Geo. VI, 1947, c. 23), and applications for protection relating to patents should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa.

2.—Patents Applied for, Granted, etc., Years Ended Mar. 31, 1944-49

Item	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949
Applications for patents..... No.	11,227	12,672	14,778	16,922	16,585	12,751
Patents granted..... "	7,803	7,084	7,412	6,590	7,175	7,959
Granted to Canadians..... "	480	486	495	520	580	570
Caveats granted..... "	223	302	421	438	313	331
Assignments..... "	7,857	8,265	8,064	11,063	13,656	13,325
Fees received, net..... \$	366,254	388,593	421,539	452,193	631,929	625,451

The number of Canadian patents granted increased fairly steadily each year from 4,522 at the beginning of the century to a peak of 12,542 in 1923 and has remained between 6,500 and 8,500 for the past ten years. Of the 7,959 patents granted in 1948-49, 5,964 or 75 p.c. were from inventors resident in the United States, 570 from Canadian residents, 978 from residents of the United Kingdom and other British Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates, while residents of Switzerland obtained 79, of France 122, of the Netherlands 41, of Sweden 77, of Germany 34 and of other countries 94.

The year ended Mar. 31, 1949, showed a marked increase over previous years in many classes of invention. Applications in the fields of chemistry and electricity were most numerous.

In the former, artificial resins, processes of polymerization, dyes, additives to oils for use as lubricants, plasticizers, insecticides and therapeutic substances were the subject matter of many applications. In electrical and radio communication the trend was towards pulse code modulation, colour television, wave guides, refinements in amplifiers, pulse transmission and telemetric systems. In electronics,

* The material relating to patents and copyrights has been revised by J. T. Mitchell, Commissioner of Patents, and that relating to trade marks by J. P. McCaffrey, Registrar of Trade Marks, Ottawa.