

may be exported from Canada and no gas imported into Canada without a licence. Total exports of electric energy during the year ended Mar. 31, 1958, amounted to 4,809,850,411 kwh. There were also exports of natural gas and crude oil as well as imports of natural gas.

Section 4.—Government Aid to Small Business

The Small Business Branch of the Department of Trade and Commerce was established in November 1958 to provide liaison between the Government and small business, to study the problems of small business, and to advise the Government on measures that should be taken to meet them. More specifically, the functions of the Branch are as follows: (a) to act as a clearing house in referring inquiries of small business to the appropriate departments of government—federal, provincial and municipal—and to other organizations and institutions; (b) to compile and distribute bulletins and reports on topics of general interest to small business, including information on government procurement; (c) to assist small business, on request, in obtaining statistical, technical and other information on management, production and marketing problems; (d) to undertake studies concerning small business, particularly for the guidance of the Government in developing new policies in this field, and as background material for dealing more effectively with the problems of small business; (e) to consult and co-operate with educational institutions, representative business associations and other private organizations.

Section 5.—Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks*

Letters patent are issued subject to the provisions of the Patent Act (R.S.C. 1952, c. 203), effective since 1935. 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, 1954-58

Item	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Applications for patents..... No.	18,565	19,448	21,048	21,762	22,257
Patents granted..... " "	9,414	10,282	11,862	15,513	16,261
Granted to Canadians..... " "	606	570	652	761	772
Caveats granted..... " "	288	337	289	245	242
Assignments..... " "	13,127	20,062	17,783	19,124	19,744
Fees received, net..... \$	847,874	1,086,278	1,234,810	1,405,136	1,438,218

The number of Canadian patents granted increased fairly steadily each year from 4,522 at the beginning of the century to a peak of 16,261 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1958. Roughly, 72 p.c. of the patents granted were to residents of the United States, 10 p.c. to residents of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries and 5 p.c. to residents of Canada.

Printed copies of patents issued from Jan. 1, 1948, to date are available at a nominal fee. The Canadian *Patent Office Record* gives a brief digest of each patent.

Canadian and foreign patents may be consulted at the Patent Office Library. The Library has records of British patents and abridged specifications thereof from 1617 to date, and of United States patents from 1872 to date, as well as many patents, indexes, journals and reports from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, India, Pakistan, France, Belgium, Austria, Norway, Mexico, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Korea and Brazil.

* The material relating to patents and copyrights was revised by J. W. T. Michel, Commissioner of Patents, and that relating to trade marks by J. P. McCaffrey, Registrar of Trade Marks, Department of the Secretary of State, Ottawa.