

Electricity and Gas Inspection.—Responsibilities of the Standards Division under the Electricity Inspection Act (RSC 1952, c. 94) and the Gas Inspection Act (RSC 1952, c. 129) comprise the testing and stamping of every electricity and gas meter used throughout Canada for billing purposes, the object being to ensure the correct measurement of all electricity and gas sold. Canada is divided into 21 districts for administration of the two Acts and staff numbers 185. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1959, 1,153,516 electricity and gas meters were tested as compared with 1,191,180 in the preceding year. Revenue derived from the testing amounted to \$903,087 and expenditure to \$949,805.

1.—Electricity and Gas Meter Registrations, 1950-59

Year	Electricity Meters	Gas Meters			
		Manufactured Gas	Natural Gas	Petroleum Gas	Total
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
1950.....	3,405,342	610,096	252,468	33	862,602 ¹
1951.....	3,591,056	609,062	264,154	68	873,289 ¹
1952.....	3,779,868	599,140	277,248	1,270	877,663 ¹
1953.....	3,968,020	593,698	298,166	429	892,297 ¹
1954.....	4,175,534	420,432	486,768	532	907,736 ¹
1955.....	4,380,889	416,338	507,875	3,147	927,364 ¹
1956.....	4,571,391	350,558	599,633	4,843	955,034
1957.....	4,748,636	67,726	943,783	4,570	1,016,079
1958.....	4,941,667	35,967	1,069,892	5,101	1,110,960
1959.....	5,157,495	32,799	1,162,678	4,266	1,199,743

¹ Includes five acetylene meters in 1950, 1951 and 1952 and four in 1953, 1954 and 1955.

Section 5.—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 6.—Patents, Copyrights and Trade Marks*

Letters patent are issued subject to the provisions of the Patent Act (RSC 1952, c. 203), effective since 1935. Applications for protection relating to patents should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa.

* 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.