

Under the terms of the Precious Metals Marking Act, 1946 (RSC 1952, c. 215), commodities composed of gold, silver, platinum or palladium may be marked with a quality mark describing accurately the quality of the metal. Where such mark is used, a trade mark registered in Canada or for which application for registration has been made must also be applied. Gold-plated or silver-plated articles may also be marked under certain conditions outlined in the Act. The inspection staff of the Standards Branch is engaged in the examination of advertising matter, in verifying the quality of articles offered for sale, and in checking the marks applied.

Weights and Measures.—The Weights and Measures Act (RSC 1952, c. 292) prescribes the legal standards of weight and measure for use in Canada; it also requires control of the type of all weighing and measuring devices used for commercial purposes and their periodic verification and surveillance directed toward the elimination of sales by short weight or short measure. During 1963, 638,888 prepackaged articles were checked for weight or measure and 481,942 inspections of devices were made.

Electricity and Gas Inspection.—Responsibilities of the Standards Branch, 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 the staff numbers 205. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1963, 1,323,020 meters were tested. In 1962, there were 5,659,848 electricity meters and 1,440,344 gas meters registered in Canada.

Patents.*—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.

4.—Patents Applied for, Granted, etc., Years Ended Mar. 31, 1959-63

Item	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Applications for patents..... No.	22,912	24,292	24,529	25,447	26,409
Patents granted..... “	18,293	22,021	22,014	21,659	21,225
Granted to Canadians..... “	1,515	1,903	2,056	1,844	1,682
Caveats granted..... “	296	291	281	226	256
Assignments..... “	20,208	22,015	22,587	24,161	24,180
Fees received, net..... \$	1,559,705	1,793,685	1,806,279	1,858,965	1,922,250

The number of Canadian patents granted increased fairly steadily each year from 4,522 at the beginning of the century to 21,225 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1963. Roughly, 68 p.c. of the patents granted resulted from inventions made by residents of the United States, 6 p.c. by residents of Britain and other Commonwealth countries and 6 p.c. by 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 1845 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, Egypt, Germany, Ireland, Colombia, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Copyrights, Industrial Designs and Timber Marks.*—Copyright protection is governed by the Copyright Act (RSC 1952, c. 55) in force since 1924. Protection is

* Revised by the Commissioner of Patents, Department of the Secretary of State, Ottawa.