

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.

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 1966, 682,620 prepackaged articles were checked for weight or measure and 455,672 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 20 districts for administration of the two Acts and the staff numbers 217. During the year ended Mar. 31, 1966, 1,425,479 meters were tested. In 1965, there were 6,137,398 electricity meters and 1,652,840 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.

5.—Patents Applied for, Granted, etc., Years Ended Mar. 31, 1962-66

Item	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Applications for patents..... No.	25,447	26,409	27,057	27,811	30,093
Patents granted..... “	21,659	21,225	23,230	23,451	24,241
Granted to Canadians..... “	1,844	1,688	1,763	1,734	1,131
Caveats granted..... “	226	256	266	250	275
Assignments..... “	24,161	24,180	25,313	26,487	27,795
Fees received, net..... \$	1,858,965	1,922,250	2,002,271	2,046,174	2,249,532

The number of Canadian patents granted increased fairly steadily each year from 4,522 at the beginning of the century to 24,241 in the year ended Mar. 31, 1966. Roughly, 68 p.c. of the patents granted resulted from inventions made by residents of the United States, 8 p.c. by residents of Britain and other Commonwealth countries and 5 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.

* Revised by the Commissioner of Patents, Ottawa.