

appraising the evidence submitted to it by the Director and the parties under investigation, and for making a report to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. When there are reasonable grounds for believing that a forbidden practice is engaged in, the Director may obtain from the Commission authorization to examine witnesses, search premises, or require written returns. After examining all the information available, if the Director believes that it proves the existence of a forbidden practice, he submits a statement of the evidence to the Commission and to the parties believed to be responsible for the practice. The Commission then sets a time and place for a hearing at which both sides are represented. The Commission prepares and submits a report to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs; such reports are ordinarily required to be published within 30 days.

Under the provisions of the Act, general inquiries may be made into restraints of trade which, although not forbidden or punishable, may affect the public interest. The courts, including the Federal Court of Canada, in addition to imposing punishment for a contravention of the legislation, may issue an order restraining persons from further contravention or directing the dissolution of a merger or monopoly as the case may be. Application also may be made to the courts for such an order in lieu of prosecuting and convicting for a contravention of the legislation. Prosecutions for offences against the substantive provisions of the legislation (other than the section dealing with price misrepresentation which is punishable only on summary conviction) may be taken either in the provincial courts or with the consent of the accused in the Federal Court of Canada.

Nine reports of inquiries under the legislation were published between January 1, 1968 and June 30, 1971 and are listed in the *1972 Canada Year Book* p 1033. Since then the report of inquiry into draught beer in Metropolitan Toronto has become available. Copies of all reports are available from Information Canada or the Office of the Director of Investigation and Research.

Patents. Patents for inventions are issued under the provisions of the Patent Act (RSC 1970, c.P-4) and Patent Regulations have been proclaimed to carry into effect the objectives of the Act. Applications for patents for inventions and requests for information about such patents should be addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Bureau of Intellectual Property, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In the year ended December 31, 1973, 20,028 patents were granted. Of these, 6.1% resulted from inventions made by residents of Canada, 6.3% by residents of Britain and 64.7% by residents of the United States.

Printed copies of Canadian patents issued from January 1, 1948 to date are available at \$1 each. The *Patent Office Record*, issued weekly, contains a list of patents issued during the week covered, information about services in the Patent Office and information of concern to the patent profession.

Canadian and foreign patents may be consulted at the Patent Office Library. British patents and abridged specifications thereof from 1617 to date and United States patents from 1845 to date are available, as well as many patents, indexes, journals and reports from Australia, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Austria, Belgium, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. A list of the foreign patents available is published in the Patent Office Record.

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