

*Statement showing Number of Charters and Licenses Granted to Companies from January 1st, 1891, to December 31st, 1901.*

Year.	Letters Patent and Licenses Issued.	Fees Received from Companies.	Year.	Letters Patent and Licenses Issued.	Fees Received from Companies.
1891.....	152.....	\$ 5,030.00	1897.....	358.....	\$34,650.00
1892.....	158.....	6,780.00	1898.....	295.....	23,820.00
1893.....	138.....	8,865.00	1899.....	416.....	60,817.50
1894.....	139.....	7,720.00	1900.....	438.....	71,179.00
1895.....	174.....	10,060.00	1901.....	547.....	82,713.34
1896.....	154.....	14,335.00			
			Total.....		\$325,969.84

*Extra Provincial Companies.*

Prior to the session of 1900, companies incorporated under the laws of other countries might and did come into Ontario and enter into competition with our own companies, observing no conditions and paying no imposts other than the municipal taxes common to all. Up to that time, the legislation affecting outside companies was purely permissive in character in so far as taking out licenses was concerned, and, accordingly, few licenses were issued. In 1900, however, the Legislature passed a Bill providing that every extra provincial company carrying on business in Ontario for gain should take out a license and make an annual return, thus placing such companies on a fairer footing, so far as our own Ontario companies are concerned, and enabling creditors and others interested to learn something as to their antecedents, etc., the names of their officers and other useful information theretofore not obtainable in the Province. Dominion companies were included among the other extra provincial companies, but they were charged merely nominal fees for their licenses, while doubt as to their power to hold and convey land in Ontario was removed, a valuable concession, there having been vexatious litigation on this point in the Courts.

Under the present Act 63 Victoria, Cap. 24, there have been granted already 289 licenses.

*Growth and Work of the Provincial Secretary's Office.*

The following statistics show how rapidly the business of the Provincial Secretary's Office has increased :

	1871.	1901.	Estimated.
Number of files .....	1,264	6,974	
Letters, etc., received.....	1,690	23,000	

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