

The Canadian Patentees were distributed among the Provinces of the Dominion as follows:—

Provinces.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
Ontario.....	348	380	340	315	308	334	361	351	385
Quebec.....	136	152	132	102	134	124	143	129	165
New Brunswick.....	24	19	22	16	16	15	19	26	21
Nova Scotia.....	14	21	34	17	16	18	23	25	26
Prince E. Island.....	.....	.....	2	3	2	.....	2	2	7
Manitoba.....	.....	1	.....	.....	2	1	4	4	6
British Columbia.....	1	2	3	1	1	.....	6	1	2
Totals.....	523	575	533	454	479	492	558	538	613

An important amendment to the 17th section of the Patent Act was passed at the last Session of Parliament, and came into force on the 24th May. It provides that patents issued up to that date, since the year 1872, shall be deemed to have been granted for fifteen years, subject, however, to prior termination for the non-payment of fees, and it likewise provides that in future the duration of every patent shall be limited to fifteen years, subject also to the payment of fees in the manner required by the Act of 1872.

To carry out this alteration in the Act, it was necessary to amend the rules and forms with reference to applications for patents; this was done with as little delay as possible, the new rules and forms being ready in June.

The wording of the patents and certificates of the payment of fees to be attached to patents, have been much simplified in form, which enables patents to be issued more promptly after the necessary examination of the papers has been completed.

Patentees find it frequently difficult to commence the manufacture of their patented inventions before the expiration of the two years allowed after the date of their patent, and where application has been made, and it appeared that the non-commencement of manufacture occurred through circumstances beyond their control, additional time, generally a period of one year, was granted.

Fifty applications for patents were objected to for the various reasons allowed by law. In a few of these cases, after alterations in the specifications and claims had been made, patents were allowed to issue. Some appeals to the Governor in Council, against decisions of the office, have been made.

The business of the office is rapidly increasing in volume and the present Staff has, at times during the past year, had difficulty in despatching work as promptly as it was desirable. It has been found necessary to supplement the permanent Staff by the employment of Extra Clerks from time to time, as required.