

States Patent Office revenue and expenditure of some time ago with that of this Office of recent years is given below :—

				<i>United States.</i>		Proportion of Expenditure to Receipts. Per Cent.				
				Receipts.	Expenditure.					
				\$	\$					
1841 to 1850	554,448	465,578	83.97				
<i>New Zealand.</i>										
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1909 to 1918	70,036	6	5	29,586	16	11	

PATENTS.

During 1918, 1,386 applications were received, being 57 more than in 1917. The following figures, giving the number of applications received on the first six months of each of the years mentioned, are of interest as showing the effect of the war on the number of inventions recorded. For the purpose of comparison the applications in Great Britain for the corresponding period are added.

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
New Zealand	869	951	647	565	665	744	897
Great Britain	15,105	15,690	9,587	9,265	9,495	10,774	14,561*

* To the 7th June.

In 790 (789) cases provisional specifications were lodged with the applications, and complete specifications with 596 (540), while 261 (355) complete specifications were lodged in respect of applications with which provisional specifications had been previously filed.

The total number of applications received to the 31st December, 1918, was 41,041, and the number of patents then in force 4,352.

£6,576 11s. 6d. was paid last year in patent fees, an increase of £1,516 0s. 3d. over the previous year, which was £781 6s. 9d. less than that received in 1917. The increase was chiefly in the number of patents sealed, £1,464 (£996), and sixth year's renewal fees, £918 (£144), such fees being payable only on comparatively few patents in 1917.

The number of cognate cases—*i.e.*, in which the contents of more than one provisional are embodied in one complete—was 20, involving 44 provisional specifications.

The number of entries of dealings with patents was 52 (59).

No patents were sealed after the prescribed time.

The restoration of lapsed patents was effected in 3 cases, and the fees from that source amounted to £102. In 1917 3 patents were restored and £44 paid in fees.

Applications from women inventors numbered 35.

Patents of addition were sealed in 8 cases.

Countries from which Applications received.

Of the 1,386 applications 885 were received from residents of New Zealand in 1918, while in the previous year out of 1,329 applications 889 were by persons residing in this country.

From Australia 223 (Victoria 126, New South Wales 65) came to hand, as compared with 211 (Victoria 111, New South Wales 68) for the preceding year. Of others applying for New Zealand letters patent, 156 (117) lived in Great Britain, 94 (82) in the United States, and 9 (9) Canada, the figures in brackets being for the year 1917.

Trend of Subject-matter of Inventions.

With one or two exceptions there is nothing calling for any special mention in this respect. Inventions relating to milking machinery still account for a fair number of applications, 51 having been received during the year, as compared with 37 in 1917. The development of the kauri-gum industry has resulted in a slight increase in the small number of applications on that subject—25 (19)—and the same remark applies to some extent to honey-production and other industries. Inventions relating to cultivating and tilling and fibre-dressing show a falling-off to 29 last year from 49 in the preceding year in one case, and to 19 from 24 in the other. The most marked increase is in the number of inventions under the heading of “Vehicles,” chiefly on account of motor vehicles, tires, and other accessories, the total number being 91 last year, as compared with 57 in 1917.

DESIGNS.

Registration of Designs.

There were 53 applications received, and registration was effected in 50 cases, as compared with 83 applications and 80 registrations in the previous year.

The fees amounted to £19 5s., being less than in 1917.

NOTE.—The figures in parentheses are those for the previous year—*i.e.*, 1917.