CANADIAN PATENT LAW VERY STRICT

Idea Must be Entirely New Before Protection Granted — The Rotary Club.

Russell Smart of Fetherstonhaugh & Co., patent attorneys, was the speaker at the regular Rotary Club luncheon yesterday. He spoke on patents, tracing the history of the patent from the government monopolies existing prior to the time of the Stuarts to the present day,

It is by no means as easy to patent an invention in Canada as one might think, for, unlike the Old Country and the United States, things have to be really new before they can be pro-

tected under the Dominion law. If an almond-eyed Celestial far away in the Orient has thought of the same idea and patented it in his own land, that same idea cannot be patented by a Canadian in Canada. In Britain and the States, this does not hold good, provided that the idea has not been patented in either country in question previously. So Mr. Smart told his audience.

The Canadian law, too, is rendered even more difficult, for it is framed on the regulations obtaining the other side the line. When any dispute arises, however, the case is viewed in the light of British and not American precedents, and consequently trouble often occurs. This, Mr. Smart thought, was one of the chief reasons why so few people patented their own inventions, although patenting is a process open to all.

By Alien Enemies.

One peculiar sidelight of the speaker's remarks was in connection

with patents held by alien enemies. At the present time, these are open to British subjects who can manufacture such patents under government license for the duration of the war and for six months after. Comparatively few German patents, however, are protected here, and only one, a drug, is now, being produced under license in the Dominion.

The Ottawa Rotary Club has been admitted to the International Association, and, to conform with other clubs, the club year will end on May 31st instead of March 1st as at present.

The name of W. J. Irvine, tobacconist, has been proposed for membership of the local club.