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The New Patent Bill.

Inventors and sound thinking men, interested in patents and improvements, with whom we have conversed during the past week, are decidedly opposed to the New Patent Bill. The Press of our country, too, which has always very generally sympathized with inventors, is opposed to the Bill. Our editorial brethren, who have read it carefully, believe it to be unworthy of the present enlightened age, and opposed to the democratic nature of our institutions—some of their views we present in another column. The general feeling among inventors, and the honest assignees of patents, respecting it is, that "it appears to be framed for annoying and injuring them." It provides for such a tedious and expensive variety of processes for patents, that if it became a law, it would undoubtedly operate to retard improvements in the arts. Any law that would exert such a tendency, would be a public calamity; therefore, the interests of the people demand them to oppose it, and this they do. The object of any amendment to the patent law should be to lessen the number of processes through which patents have to pass; also to render those processes more simple and less expensive. The spirit and provisions of the new Bill, are of the opposite character.

The first sections of the new Bill, providing for the raising of the Patent Office into a U.S. Court, to try cases of priority in invention, and increase the expenses of the office enormously, is not required at all. The same ends could be obtained in a more equitable manner, without any extra labor on the part of the Patent Office. The way to do this, would be by a provision requiring every applicant to furnish the testimony under oath of two witnesses, respecting the *exact date* of the invention represented in the model and drawings for which a patent is applied for. Upon this evidence of priority, let the Patent Office decide every case presented, and let that end the matter in that quarter. This plan would prevent the possibility of manufacturing evidence for particular interfering cases, and would simplify the business of the Office.

The *confirming* clause of the Patent Bill is certainly a disgraceful feature in it. The sum of $100 is charged to perform a certain act regarding a patent, while *it* (the patent) bears upon its face evidence that it had been already confirmed. Thus every patent bears the signature of the Secretary of the Interior, and the Commissioner of Patents, and it is stamped with the seal of the Patent Office. Have not these gentlemen thus confirmed the patent as a legal instrument already, and is it not so held by all the Courts? Certainly. Then why charge $100 for a work of supererogation? Such a provision in the Bill is a hundred dollar insinuation, (to be paid by the patentee,) upon the integrity of those who administer the affairs of the Patent Office. In fact, such a provision in the Bill is neither more nor less than a declaration that all patents are to be suspected of illegality or fraud until they are *confirmed*. Poor patentees would never be able to sell their patents under such a Bill until they were confirmed. It would therefore do them rank injustice, and tend to make them lose their patents altogether, as they would never be able to pay the extension or confirming fees. The Bill should not pass, and will not pass, for the united voice of the people and press is against it.

Agencies for Selling Patents.

We are frequently inquired of as to agencies for selling patents, many persons supposing that we are engaged in that branch of business. We wish to state that we are not thus engaged, never have been, and never mean to be. We find our hands as full of occupation as we could wish, in our legitimate business of obtaining patents; with their sale we have nothing to do.

There is no reason, however, why agencies for selling patents ought not to succeed well and in some instances they do. The business is a legitimate one, and when conducted honestly and honorably can hardly fail to result satisfactorily, both to the purchaser, the patentee, and the agent. Quite a number of agencies for negotiating patent sales have been opened during the past few years; among them is that of Mr. T. H. Leavitt, No. 1 Phœnix Buildings, Boston, Mass., and Ellsworth & Co., No. 64 Randolph st., Chicago, Ill. We have confidence in these gentlemen, and therefore mention their names for the benefit of inquiring readers.

The number of patents issued increases every year, and agencies for their sale are springing up in every city. The demand for new inventions was never greater, and the prices realized for patents never so high as at present.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON THE NEW PATENT BILL.

[From the New York Express.]

The New Patent Bill.

The Boston *Bee* points out the following prominent objections to the Patent Bill introduced into the Senate by Senator James.—Such objections deserve the serious attention of members of Congress, and if the measure is calculated to lead to much mischief, the end may be the overthrow of all laws for the protection of inventors. As it is, the discoverers of ingenious works of art are about the last to receive the benefits of their inventions. In the main, assignees reap the profit of other men's brains and labor, and it has been so in this country for fifty years past.

[From the Boston Daily Bee.]

Some days since a telegraphic dispatch from Washington was published in Boston, sent most industriously over the country purporting to represent this bill as one calculated to protect the public against dishonest patents, and on the other hand, the meritorious inventors against dishonest pirates. This is indeed a very easy kind of bill to frame, and every way desirable. We have read the bill itself, and according to our reading this bill of General James, does just the opposite. It takes from the meritorious inventor and gives to speculators on both sides of the water, creating a system of monopoly wholly at variance with the Constitution and the simplest dictates of common justice, and taken as a whole is the most objectionable patent scheme ever yet attempted. It violates the Constitution of the United States by giving patents to mere introducers of new inventions from other countries. It forever in effect bars the public from testing the question of novelty by a jury. It gives unlimited, final, and dangerous powers into the hands of the Commissioner of Patents. It affords no substantial means of repealing a fraudulent patent, and never at all after the second year, and before the patent can be sufficiently introduced to attract attention.

It prevents the meritorious inventor, who has failed to acquire a reasonable compensation for his money and time expended in introducing his invention, from any benefits therefrom when extended, as it gives assignees and licensees in the extended patent the benefit which was always designed solely for the original inventor.

It places all manufacturers, railroad, steamship, and other proprietors of public travel at the mercy of patentees after the fourteen years have expired of all existing patents, unless a special contract shall have been made for an extension, and acts as a surprise upon innocent parties. It will tend to interminable litigation, complicating still more the old system, which only lacked the *scire facias* to make it a good system of laws.

For one inventor benefitted by it, this bill would seriously impair the rights of twenty present patentees. The greatest beneficiaries, indeed, almost the only ones, are assignees of patents, for whose especial benefit this scheme seems to have been got up.

It proposes a system of stealing from other countries, and making the thing stolen a monopoly in this, against the use of the true author, who might desire to patent his discovery in the United States. It opens the door to fraud and oppression a hundred-fold wider than the present system.

It proposes by legislation to debar the subjects of Great Britian the right to take out a patent in the United States, if under British rule one of her colonies does not chance to have a system by which American can make a monopoly in such Province. The same effect towards other countries similarly situated.

It is alleged that those under whose importunities this thing has been brought forward intend to lavish unlimited wealth to carry it through. Will they? That is the question.

[From the New York Herald.]

A New Patent Trap.

Senator James, of Rhode Island, as Chairman of the Committee on Patents, introduced in the Senate a new law on the subject. We have received a copy of the bill and examined it with some care. We trust that Members of Congress will follow our example. It is well known that the owners of several patents, worth millions of dollars, such as Colt's, Woodworth's, and Goodyear's, have been endeavoring, for the past two sessions, to get an extension. So far they have failed, but it seems to us that this law hides an attempt to extend them. The Colt and Goodyear patents were issued for fourteen years, and the sixth section of this act provides as follows:—

And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, every patent, except such as by this act are limited to seven years, shall be granted for five years. Upon the application of any patentee or assignee of a patent for the extension of a patent so granted, previous to its expiration, and on payment of one hundred dollars to the credit of the Patent Fund, the Commissioner of Patents shall extend such patent for a term of fifteen years, which extended term shall be subject, however, to the conditions and restrictions for the confirmation of such patent, and the proceedings for annulling such patent hereinafter provided in this act. And all patentees and assignees of patents which are now in force, may, after the lapse of five years from the date of the letters patent, avail themselves of the provisions of this act: *Provided*, That the term for which such patents may be extended shall not exceed the term of twenty years from the date of issue of the original letters patent; and in no case shall any such patent be renewed or extended after the expiration of said twenty years. *And provided, further*, That no patent granted under the third section of this act for an invention not original with the patentee, or for a design, nor any registry patent, shall be extended for a second term.

The proviso, "that the term," &c., will extend all the old patents six years. By the provisions of the thirteenth section it is made the law that the right to extension can only be controverted by the validity of the patent. We trust that the members who are, as John Van Buren says, "opposed to stealing," will look sharp after this law.

[From the New York Sun.]

Proposed Change in the Patent Laws.

A Bill for the amendment of the Patent Laws, by which several very extraordinary and dangerous changes are sought to be enacted, was read in the United States Senate by Mr. James, of R. I., on the 10th inst., ordered printed, and passed to a second reading.

The existing patent laws, it is well known, are extremely simple. To obtain a patent the applicant deposites a model, drawings, and pays a fee of $30. This is the whole process. Nothing more is needed. This simplicity and cheapness, by placing the obtaining of patents within the reach of all classes, has stimulated and encouraged invention among us to a marvellous extent. The whole world pays homage to American ingenuity. Our patent system, harmonious and successful in its operations, stands to-day a model for every government in christendom.

In the face of these undeniable facts, and in the midst of the greatest prosperity, so far as respects new inventions, patents, and patent property, it is proposed, suddenly, to subvert the established order of things, to undermine the market value of new inventions, and to discourage our citizens from seeking patents.

The new Bill proposes to increase the official fees from $30 to $210—in cases where six claims are made—or seven-fold; to destroy the simplicity of obtaining and holding patents by surrounding them with interminable legal quibbles and forms, which render the employment of lawyers and agents indispensable, but for whose services the inventor must roundly pay; to deprive patentees of the last fourteen years, who have assigned their patents, of the existing right of extension; to make worthless patents valuable, and invalid patents sound.

This bill also converts the Patent Office at Washington into a huge government printing warehouse, and exalts the Commissioner of Patents into an absolute petty monarch. It makes him the judge and jury in all patent cases, and authorizes him to appoint agents throughout the land, who are to have the power to punish people, by fine and imprisonment, for contempt of them, or the mandate of their new ruler.

Such are only some of the evils which this new bill appears designed to inaugurate. Its principal object seems to be to give extension, under disguise, to certain profitable patent monopolies—relating, in part, to pistols and india rubber,—that are now about to expire, and can be renewed in no other way. The people have not asked for any such changes as are contained in Senator James' bill, neither have inventors. They are not wanted; they are wrong; and therefore should never be introduced. The present system has worked, and still operates most admirably. "Let well enough alone," or at least alter only so as to amend and simplify, if that be possible.

[From the New York Times.]

Senator James' Patent Bill.

When the exciting topics which are now engrossing the attention of the Senate shall have been disposed of, the very remarkable bill introduced by Senator James, of Rhode Island, on the 9th inst., to amend the Patent Laws, will doubtless come up for consideration, and cannot fail to elicit a warm discussion. Mr. James' bill proposes certain changes of so radical and startling a character, and which must affect so many important public interests, that it will not be permitted to slip through the Senate without a searching investigation. The bill has an innocent look enough on its face, but a close examination of its principles will show that the amendments which it proposes to the existing laws are not calculated to promote the public good, though they may possibly be of great profit to certain individual interests.

Recent American Patents.

Artificial Stone.—By Robert Neisch, of New York City.—This invention consists in calcining a quantity of plaster of Paris, and mixing with it sulphuric acid, a solution of alum, carbonate of ammonia, and sand. The paste thus formed is pressed into molds of any desired form. After a short time it hardens into a species of stone, which water or moisture, it is said, will never affect.

Improved Brick Machine.—By Edmund Kingsland, of New York City.—The molds are arranged on a rotating cylinder. In most of the brick machines of this class the mold cylinder is made very large, and the finishing is done by smaller rollers. The chief novelty in the present improvement, consists in employing a segment cylinder to do the finishing, and in causing the face of the segment to pass with a scraping movement over the molds. This arrangement permits the use of a mold cylinder of much smaller diameter than is usual, reduces the expense, results in better work, &c.

The molds are furnished with pistons for regulating the depth, and also for pushing out the bricks. By a peculiar device within the mold cylinder, all of the pistons are moved simultaneously.

Solder-iron Stove.—By James Wilson, of Brandywine, Del.—Consists in extending hollow tubes from the outside of the stove into or through the center of the fire. The solder irons are heated by placing them within the tubes. This improvement permits the use of anthracite coal with success, saves fuel, heats the irons better, &c. It appears to be a very good and useful invention.

Improved Vise.—By Orlando V. Florey, of Yellow Springs, Ohio.—The jaws of this vise are constructed in the usual way, the stationary jaw, B, requiring to be firmly secured to he bench, A. Instead of a screw, a simple, round rod, D, passes through both jaws. To the lower end of movable jaw C a rigid brace, G, is secured, extending up through a slot in the stationary jaw to the end of rod L, which it embraces by a fork, as represented, so that jaw C cannot move without also moving rod

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