THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF INVENTIONS

During the period of Fourteen Years which has elapsed since the business of procuring patents for inventors was commenced by MUNN & Co., in connection with the publication of this paper, the number of applications for patents in this country and abroad has yearly increased until the number of patents issued at the United States Patent Office last year (1859) amounted to 4,538; while the number granted in the year 1845—fourteen years ago—numbered 502—only about one-third as many as were granted to our own clients last year; there being patented, through the Scientific American Patent Agency, 1,440 during the year 1859. The increasing activity among inventors has largely augmented the number of agencies for transacting such business.

In this profession, the publishers of this paper have become identified with the universal brotherhood of Inventors and Patentees at home and abroad, at the North and the South; and with the increased activity of these men of genius we have kept apace up to this time, when we find ourselves transacting a larger business in this profession than any other firm in the world.

We may safely assert that no concern has the combined talent and facilities that we possess for preparing carefully and correctly applications for patents, and attending to all business pertaining thereto.

FREE EXAMINATION OF INVENTIONS.

Persons having conceived an idea which they think may be patentable are advised to make a sketch or model of their invention, and submit to us, with a full description, for advice. The points of novelty are carefully examined, and a reply written corresponding with the facts, free of charge. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park-row, New York.

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS AT THE PATENT OFFICE.

The advice we render gratuitously upon examining an invention does not extend to a search at the Patent Office, to see if a like invention has been presented there, but is an opinion based upon what knowledge we may acquire of a similar invention from our long experience, and the records in our Home Office. But for a fee of $5, accompanied with a model or drawing and description, we have a special search made at the United States Patent Office, and a report setting forth the prospects of obtaining a patent, &c., made up and mailed to the inventor, with a pamphlet, giving instructions for further proceedings. These preliminary examinations are made through our Branch Office, corner of F and Seventh streets, Washington, by experienced and competent persons. Over 1,500 of these examinations were made last year through this office, and as a measure of prudence and economy, we usually advise inventors to have a preliminary examination made. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park-row, New York.

CAVEATS.

Persons desiring to file a caveat can have the papers prepared on reasonable terms, by sending a sketch and description of the invention. The government fee for a caveat is $20. A pamphlet of advice regarding applications for patents and caveats furnished gratis on application by mail. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park-row, New York.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION FOR A PATENT.

Every applicant for a patent must furnish a model of his invention, if susceptible of one; or if the invention is a chemical production, he must furnish samples of the ingredients of which his composition is composed for the Patent Office. These should be securely packed, the inventor's name marked on them, and sent, with the government fee, by express. The express charges should be prepaid. Small models, from a distance, can often be sent cheaper by mail. The safest way to remit money is by draft on New York, payable to Munn & Co. Persons who live in remote parts of the country can usually purchase drafts from their merchants on their New York correspondents; but if not convenient to do so, there is but little risk in sending bank bills by mail, having the letter registered by the postmaster. Address MUNN & CO., No. 37 Park-row, New York.

Circulars of information concerning the proper course to be pursued in obtaining patents in foreign countries through our Agency the requirements of the different Patent Offices, &c., may be had gratis upon application at our principal office, No. 37 Park-row, New York, or either of our branch offices.

TESTIMONIALS.

The annexed letters, from the last three Commissioners of Patents, we commend to the perusal of all persons interested in obtaining Patents:—

Messrs. MUNN & Co.:—I take pleasure in stating that while I held the office of Commissioner of Patents, MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF ALL THE BUSINESS OF THE OFFICE CAME THROUGH YOUR HANDS. I have no doubt that the public confidence thus indicated has been fully deserved as I have always observed, in all your intercourse with the Office, a marked degree of promptness, skill and fidelity to the interests of your employers. Yours, very truly,

CHAS. MASON.

Immediately after the appointment of Mr. Holt to the office of Postmaster-General of the United States, he addressed to us the subjoined very gratifying testimonial:—

Messrs. MUNN & Co.:—It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the able and efficient manner in which you have discharged your duties of Solicitors of Patents while I had the honor of holding the office of Commissioner. Your business was very large, and you sustained (and, I doubt not, justly deserved) the reputation of energy, marked ability and uncompromising fidelity in performing your professional engagements. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant, J. HOLT.

Messrs. MUNN & Co.:—Gentlemen: It gives me much pleasure to say that, during the time of my holding the office of Commissioner of Patents, a very large proportion of the business of inventors before the Patent Office was transacted through your agency, and that I have ever found you faithful and devoted to the interests of your clients, as well as eminently qualified to perform the duties of Patent Attorneys with skill and accuracy. Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant, WM. D. BISHOP.

JERROLD & BEGGS' STEEL SPRINGS.

In addition to the spiral, the elliptic and the volute steel springs, we have in the invention here illustrated an entirely novel form, which may be called the flat coil, and which is said to be superior in all respects to any other form of steel spring; sustaining, with the same weight of metal, a larger load. It was invented by J. E. Jerrold and Eugene Beggs, of Paterson, N. J., who have secured patents in the United States and Great Britain through the Scientific American Patent Agency.

The mode of placing this spring is shown in Fig. 1 of the annexed cuts, and its construction is represented in Figs. 2 and 3. A flat ribbon or plate of tempered cast steel is wound in a circular ring, as shown in Fig. 2, and two stiff clasps, *a a*, of metal, are secured to opposite sides of the coil. In use, one of these clasps

Fig. 1

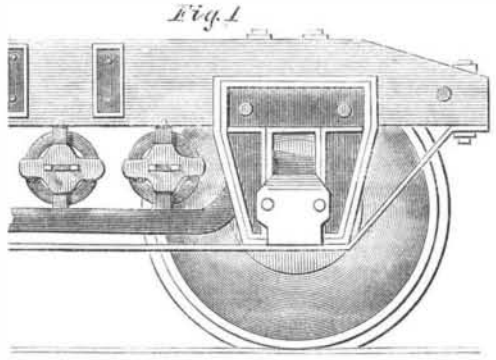


Fig. 2

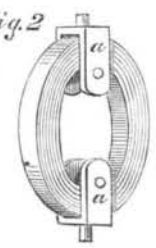
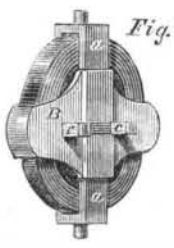


Fig. 3



is secured to the sustaining bar or table, while the body of the carriage rests upon the other, as shown in Fig. 1. To stiffen the spring and prevent its yielding too far to the load, a strong metal clasp, B, Fig. 3, is made to embrace it at right angles to the clasps, *a a*, thus causing it, under pressure, to yield outward at four parts of the circle. The clasp, B, may be secured in place by keys, *c c*, Fig. 3.

The patentees say that this spring will support 400 lbs. of load to 1 lb. of steel in the spring, while the elliptic springs sustain only about 80 lbs. It is especially adapted to strengthening elliptic springs, by being placed between the two halves at the middle of the opening. As rubber costs about 70 cents per pound and these springs can be made for about 25 cents, they will probably supersede that costly material in many situations. In short, these light, simple and durable springs seem destined to go into very extensive use.

The United States patent was issued on July 17, 1860, and further information in relation to the invention may be obtained by addressing Jerrold & Beggs, at Paterson, N. J.

A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

We find in the October number of *Presse Scientifique des Deux Mondes*, the following extract from a pamphlet by Mr. Figuier:—

They occupy themselves much in Spain with a project of a universal language, project renewed of the celebrated Raymond Lulle, and of some philosophers of the eighteenth century. The most important men of Spain in letters, in science and in politics have taken a deep interest in this humanitary enterprise, the initiative of which belongs to Mr. Sotos Ochando. The Society of the Universal Language is constituted at Madrid, and has already held several sessions. A commission has been established to direct the labors. By means of an assessment on all the members, national and foreign, the grammar and dictionary of the future universal language will be printed and published. Many persons of distinguished ability have much faith in the success of the project. Do not discourage them. The utopias of one century are often the common place familiarities of the following century.