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mon salt, sulphide of derivan, surplace of allowing the property and per particul paper. Austro-Hungarian High Grinding. By Frederick Kick. A Lecture before the Polytechnic Institution, Prague. Showing the Progress of Roller Mills. Ganz & Co.'s. Wegmann-Ganz. Henry Hagenmacher's, Escher Wyss & Co.'s, and other mills, with power required, etc. Reducing Rollers. Cause of Variations in Color of Flour. Centrifugal Dressing Machines, etc.
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THE PROPOSED EMASCULATION OF THE PATENT LAW. Section II. of Mr. Wadleigh's amended patent bill, now be-

fore the Senate, reads as follows:

"On each and every patent for an invention issued after the passage of this act, there shall be paid to the Commissioner a duty, as follows, namely: Fifty dollars to be paid on or before the first day of January occurring next after January occurring next after the expiration of nine years from the date of the original patent; and in default of any such payment, the patent shall expire on the first day of fore such first day of April, in which case the patent shall other countries they are still of serious magnitude to poor not become void. The Commissioner shall annually, in the men. month of April, publish a list of the patents which have expired for non-payment of duties." (The remainder of the through the door it opens for the subjection of many invensection provides simply for the recording and certification of the prescribed payments.)

It is much to be regretted that a bill, otherwise commendable, should embrace a provision like this, since it involves out of their way is conclusive evidence of their value to nothing less than an abandonment of a characteristic and somebody. And it is quite possible that the prospect of envaluable feature of the American patent system. Hitherto | joying the free use of an invention at the end of four years this country has stood almost alone in giving to the inventor, might often induce covetous corporations to unite in its an absolute patent in return for the publication of his inven- condemnation, thereby depriving the public of the benefit tion, and its surrender to the public at the end of a term of of the invention during that period, as well as ultimately deyears. There have been no drawbacks or subsequent duties; frauding the inventor, who might be unable to perfect his once the patent was issued, the patentee entered into a full title or unwilling to sink more money in a right that promand exclusive right to control his invention for the stipulated ised no return.

The beneficial effect of this feature of our patent system country have the benefits of patent rights been so accessible ing the system to facilitate the robbery. to men of limited means.

The theory of the founders of the system was substantially this: The life of a patent is but an insignificant period compared with the life of the nation. Even should the patentee be unable or unwilling to develop his patent, the publication public for the special privilege which the patent confers. sheets of gayly colored pictures, into that part of the domi-At most, that merely deprives some other possible inventor cile sacred to the feminine members of the family usually of the same device, during the life of the patent, of the privi. indicates the beginning of the attack; the prevalence of said lege of controlling his invention; and the injury likely to jars and vases (which too often are liquid blacking bottles be done through such infrequent occurrences is as nothing | or ginger pots artfully disguised) in the parlors marks its adcompared with the good sure to flow from the issue of unrestricted patents. Accordingly no conditions were affixed to the attic, under the stigma of "looking cheap," denotes its the right. The inventor was not compelled to put his device, termination. Thus far the mania has appeared in three into practical use within a specified time on pain of forfeiture of his right, as in other countries.

He was not compelled to issue licenses to make or use his invention. He was not required to keep his patent alive by periodical fees. In short, his right, so long as it lasted, was absolute and unconditional. And the working of the system has abundantly demonstrated the wisdom of its founders.

It is now proposed to reverse this principle. In obedience to the wishes of wealthy corporations, which would natuagainst inventors of limited means. Worse, it is proposed to reduce the actual life of patents from seventeen years to quently one hundred dollars more.

Since the existing patent fees more than suffice to support the Patent Office, the proposed increase of cost cannot be justified on the score of necessity. Its sole purpose is to facilitate the confiscation of valuable patents by those who fore the passage of the act, provided the attention of the Senate is called to its vicious effect.

Inventors do not spend their time and strength and means in putting their ideas into material form, and thus commuthought and labor.

new bill be passed as it stands, the assured life of patents my, for while no one would wish to do away with the numlessening of the encouragement hitherto held out to in-conceiving, or would remove one source of pleasure to the

time enough to show whether a patent is worth anything, not think it worth fifty dollars, it had better be killed and woman's labor. out of the way.

ditional fees proposed would bear so heavily upon the in- nearly four million dollars' worth of china and stone ware,

ventor as to cause him to relinquish his apparently barren, yet really valuable, right; and there is just where this feature of Mr. Wadleigh's bill may be made the means of working grave injustice to deserving inventors, in addition to its general bad effect in discouraging invention. If any change at this point is to be made in the working of the system, it should rather be toward diminishing the fees, and thereby the expiration of four years from the date of the original increasing the inducement held out to poor men to develop patent, and one hundred dollars on or before the first day of their inventive genius. There is no telling how many suggestions of infinite possibilities for the public good may already have been allowed to die undeveloped, for the simple reason that their immediate promise has not seemed to war-April next thereafter. But the Commissioner, for good cause ant the sacrifices involved in taking out a patent. Small as shown, may allow the payment to be made at any time be-the charges of the Patent Office are, compared with those of

> But the worst phase of this obnoxious section is seen tors to the mercy of grasping corporations, whose inordinate selfishness needs no such encouragement. The manifest anxiety of such parties to have certain patents killed and

No doubt it is often unpleasant, both to individuals and corporations, to pay an inventor his price for the use of his has been amply demonstrated. In no other country have invention; but that does not justify their robbing him. poor men contributed so enormously to the progress of the Much less would it justify the public, which has been so arts and sciences through useful inventions, for in no other enormously benefited by the law as it stands, in emasculat-

## "KERAMICS" AND WOMAN'S WORK.

The desire to decorate pottery for purposes of household adornment seems to be a kind of chronic inclination which suddenly affects large numbers of people at the same time, of his idea and its surrender to the community at the close and as suddenly disaffects them. The influx of paste, paint, of a limited term of years more than compensate the and varnish pots, of jars and vases of glass and crockery, of vanced stage; and the contemptuous removal of the same to forms. About fifteen years ago it bore the name of potichomanie, and it took the form of pasting scrap pictures inside of clear glass jars, backing them with thick white paint, and then persuading yourself that an accurate counterfeit of Oriental porcelain had been produced. This gave place to decalcomanie, a useful species of decoration which enables colored pictures printed on gelatine films to be applied to any smooth surface. It is much in vogue yet for decorating cheap furniture, carriages, and safes; but during its fashionrally like to control all patents issued for inventions within able prevalence no object of household use was safe from its their spheres of operation, it is proposed to discriminate incursions, and the marble center table or the kitchen pails were beautified with indiscriminating impartiality. The term keramics has lately been twisted out of its proper signifour years, with the privilege of extending that life to the fication to be popularly applied to the sticking of paper picfull period on the payment first of fifty dollars, and subse-i tures on pottery of any kind, and adding a coat of varnish, an alleged imitation of painted china being the result.

Upon the broad general principle that anything which tends to increase the popular taste for beauty is to be encouraged, the above named manias may be beneficial apart from their obvious utility as a means of amusement; but, on want to use them without payment therefor; and we are the other hand, when it is remembered that the same incliconfident that the obnoxious section will be stricken out be- nations, directed in the proper channel, may with little or no more labor produce objects of real artistic merit and of far more value as educating and refining the tastes, it would almost seem that time and talents are being wasted. Nothing that is false is artistic. Decorated ginger pots are in truth nicating them to the world, from a pure love for invention | but ginger pots; blacking bottles cannot be foisted upon the They work like other men for pay. There is no public fund world as Etruscan vases or Haviland faience. A certain provided for the hiring or rewarding of inventors, nor is it amount of falsity is conventionally accepted, such as imitation desirable that there should be such a fund. It is desirable, wood and sheet iron architectural ornament; but when an however, that invention should be encouraged; and the object is diverted from its recognized use, especially if that simplest and best way to do this has been found to be use be humble, the deception is only tolerated for a time, through the granting of patents; that is, simple official reland eventually is repudiated; and the pity of it is that so cognition of a limited property right in the fruit of one's large an amount of the female energy in the world seeking an outlet finds it in such a way. The legitimate result is The life of a patent is now seventeen years. Should the the degradation of woman's work as a unit in social econowill be reduced to four years—certainly an unjustifiable berless delicate devices which the feminine mind delights in gentler sex, all must agree that if that work were, as a rule, But, the friends of this Section II. may urge, four years is directed to the production of objects, no matter how intrinsically trivial, which satisfied the precepts of correct artistic and fifty dollars is no great sum to pay for the perfecting of taste, and were capable of affording permanent gratification, an inventor's title for five years more. If the inventor does, there would be less heard about the lack of openings for

It requires but a brief glance at the statistics of our im-There are several fallacies and false assumptions here. ports and exports to show how largely dependent we are There have been multitudes of valuable patents whose real upon foreign nations for objects valuable only because beau-CHESS RECORD.—Biographical Sketch of Chas. H. Waterbury, with York has not been demonstrated during the first four years; upon foreign hands known as fancy goods: for the year Game between A. Anderssen and L. Paulsen.—Bisinguished Chess.—Often the inventor's reward does not fall to him until nearly! ending last June we exported these to the value of \$335,310, Players.—Three Problems by Conrad Bayer, Louis Quien, and Joseph of the allotted seventeen years.—Very often the addingnosted them to the value of \$3,828,302. We imported worth has not been demonstrated during the first four years; tiful. Take the class known as fancy goods: for the year the end of the allotted seventeen years. Very often the ad- and imported them to the value of \$3,828,302. We imported