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INFORMATION AS TO THE PATENTABLE NOVELTY OF INVENTIONS.

The list of claims published from week to week in these columns, indicate truthfully the extent of business being transacted at the Patent Office.

It will be observed that inventors are far from being dormant, if they are not as numerous and active, as they were a year ago. Since the first of July we have received a great accession to our subscription list of new subscribers, and for the information of each, we would state that it is the custom, at the office of this paper, to examine models or drawings and descriptions of alleged new inventions, and to give written or verbal advice as to their patentability, without charge. Persons having made what they consider improvements in any branch of machinery, and contemplating securing the same by Letters Patent, are advised to send a sketch or model of it to this office. An examination will be made and an answer returned by early mail. Through our Branch Office, located directly opposite the Patent Office in Washington, we are enabled to make special examinations into the novelty and patentability of inventions. By having the records of the Patent Office to search, and the models and drawings deposited therein to examine, we are enabled to give an inventor most reliable advice as to the probabilities of his obtaining a patent, and also as to the extent of the claim that it is expedient to set up when the papers for an application are prepared. For this special examination at the Patent Office we make a charge of Five Dollars. It is necessary that a drawing and description or a model of the invention should accompany the remittance. Address—

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REMARKS ON THE DIRECT TAX BILL.

We publish upon another page a summary of the Direct Tax Bill which has been recently passed by Congress. This subject is one so novel and so peculiar that it strikes the American people with surprise, and already we hear whisperings of discontent at some of its provisions. The object of this direct tax is to raise \$20,000,000, an amount sufficient to pay the yearly interest on the public debt. Our people hate to be taxed, but none more so than our Southern brethren in arms against us. Hitherto we have been able to maintain a powerful government at comparatively a small expense raised by indirect taxation; none felt the burden of the government, while all enjoyed its inestimable blessings. For once in its whole history, by a strange combination of events, a citizen taken from the common walks of life, was constitutionally elected President who was regarded with much disfavor by a portion of the States, and this was seized upon as a pretext on their part to declare themselves independent, and a rush was made to arms to vindicate this position. The government

was assailed long before the present incumbent entered upon the duties of his office, and large amounts of property was wrested from its possession by violence, such as no other government on earth would have submitted to without a struggle. The government was tottering upon its base and was threatened with overthrow.

Only two alternatives presented themselves. Either to allow the government to be overthrown by armed violence, or for the people to rise in its defence. The loyal citizens determined on the latter course. They saw it was their only hope, and they were swift to obey the call of the country, not simply as partisans of the President in power, but as loyal supporters of a kind and forbearing government.

All governments have their severe trials, and ours ought at least to show vitality enough to withstand one election of Chief Magistrate for four years without suffering an overthrow, even though he may be distasteful to a certain section of the country. If defeated parties are to learn from this solemn lesson in our country's history, that their discomfiture at the polls can be removed at once by a resort to arms—bullets instead of ballots—then there remains to this people nothing but anarchy and confusion, the reëment of those violent struggles such as have marked the history of Mexico during the past few years.

We confess that all our ideas of good government founded upon social order, and security for person and property, revolt instinctively against such theories. Of course no one could have conceived the ridiculous idea of a government undertaking to sustain itself from overthrow against a formidable rebellion, without a most serious drain upon the taxable resources of the people. The cost of our vast military and naval operations necessary to achieve the great ends which the government has in view are enormous, and it rests with the people now to say whether these ends shall be urged forward or whether we shall let the government go to a quiet and ignominious grave.

These are the two plain propositions now before the people, and it is for them to determine which horn of the dilemma they prefer. Some say it is the politicians who have done it all. True, indeed, and if about a hundred rabid ones on both sides had been hung during the last twenty years we should have had no such troubles. This reflection, however, does not mend the matter. We must now meet the issue forced upon us, and there seems to be but one honorable course left open, viz.: to uphold the government by all proper means, and to cheerfully contribute to its support. Our fathers in the revolution suffered and bled and died to lay the foundation of a free government. Its last hope would expire upon the ruins of the Republic.

AN EXTRAORDINARY PATENT SCHEME EXPLODED.

The following paragraph has recently made its appearance in a Southern journal and has been copied into two of our city journals. As it deeply concerns the character of the Editors and Proprietors of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, we make room for the extract, which runs as follows:

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE.—A gentleman of New Orleans has furnished us with the following extract from a letter addressed to him by a New York firm. The writers are rabid Black Republicans, but show that they have, at the same time, a sharp eye for business. It will be seen that they regard it as a fixed fact that "the Southern States will soon be a recognized government independent of the North." On this idea, these precious souls who have been contributing to the wicked invasion of our country, are laying their plans to make money out of us, and asking a Southern citizen to become a partner in his Yankee scheme. They will have the consolation of knowing that they missed their man; and if they pursue their inquiries they will find that our government has already taken the necessary legislation to forestall any such handsome business operation as they propose.

NEW YORK, April 21, 1861.

DEAR SIR:—Knowing your long connection with the Patent Office and familiarity with its details, we are induced to address and make a proposition which we hope will be both acceptable and profitable to you. The fact is now patent to the world that the Southern States will soon be a recognized government independent of the North, and amongst its other steps will be the establishment of a Patent Office. Undoubtedly, the patents heretofore granted by the United States will be in some form recognized and secured to the inventor or assigns. We have now control of several hundred, and by an effort can secure as many more. You, we suppose, can control as many more. Now, we propose that our firm and yourself obtain the control of as many as possible, and that you take the necessary steps to secure the patents for the Confederate States. We will advance, from time to time, all the money necessary, and divide equally the profit. The South must, of necessity, in a few years, become somewhat a manufacturing country, and by securing the control of existing patents, we can, to a great extent, secure to ourselves a monopoly. There is scarcely a machine or instrument of common use but is covered by one or more patents; and, to a person of your practical sense, it is unnecessary to say what the effect would be, both

to ourselves and others. By the control of the patents we can dictate our own terms to manufacturers and mechanics. Yours, &c., MUNN & CO.

Language is too poor to do justice to this subject, but we will venture upon it. The letter above printed, purporting to have been written by us, is an impudent forgery from beginning to end, and its author is an unmitigated scamp and deserves to be strung up within the coils of a hempen noose. The editor who published the letter and furnished the comments, is either a dupe or a knave. If the former, he will correct his error; if the latter, we shall only expect additional abuse from him. No such letter, written by us, nor anything like it, can be produced, and we challenge any party to bring it forward.

We have repeatedly been solicited by Northern and Southern men (and probably by this scamp also) to enter into some arrangement with them for securing patents in the "Confederate States," but we have uniformly declined to do so upon the ground that no patent system of the "Confederacy" could have any legitimate bearing upon our citizens until the independence of those States is formally recognized by the Federal government.

Our government is proceeding upon the theory that the Union is not dissolved, and until this position is abandoned, citizens would be guilty of a certain amount of treason to connive in any way with those who are in arms against its authority. We wish our readers to understand that we have not yet reached that degree of abasement.

The author charges us with saying that "we have now the control of several hundred patents," which is a base lie. We have not the control of a single existing patent, and have not a cent's interest, peculiarly, either directly or remotely, in any patent ever granted by the United States government.

Whenever the independence of the "Confederate States" is recognized, we shall then be prepared to do business for inventors in those States as with any other foreign power, but we never expect to be guilty of any such conspiracy to defraud inventors and the public as is set forth in the above letter. Its author is a scoundrel. Can we speak plainer?

Inventors Should not Confine their Ingenuity to War.

No class of the community has contributed more for carrying on successfully the war against rebellion than our inventors, and they have not done yet. Every mail brings to this office scores of letters suggesting improvements in articles of warfare. Many of the inventions presented are absurd and impracticable, but something new and useful in this line is being invented every day, and should the present war spirit continue, it will not be long before the inventors in this country will have revolutionized, by their ingenuity, the science of warfare as now practiced.

But inventors should not overlook other branches of science and mechanism. The war is not going to last always, and when peace comes, the public will demand other improvements than those pertaining to warfare, and many will be wise in taking the hint and giving their attention to other branches of mechanical invention—something better adapted to their turn of mind. Now is a good time to invent and to take patents on any class of improvements. Inventions will be wanted before long, if there is not a demand for them now, and we advise inventors to prepare themselves for the demand, by having their patents in hand when the good time of peace comes. It costs no more to take a patent now than it will six months hence, and the slackness of business at the Patent Office is such as to enable the Examiners to act upon cases very soon after coming before them.

Changes in the Patent Office.

The official guillotine is doing vigorous execution in the Patent Office, ten Examiners and Assistant Examiners having been turned out on the 1st instant. Some of the very best men in the office have been decapitated and for reasons best known to the heads of the department. Some of the most objectionable are still retained.

ENGLISH SUPPLY OF COTTON.—By the latest news from Europe the estimated stock in Liverpool was 1,130,210 bales, against 1,334,360 at the same period last year. The money value is, perhaps, about ten millions and three-quarters sterling, against twelve millions and a half last year, when the stock was an unusually large one.