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(Illustrated articles are marked with an asterisk.)

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TRADEMARKS AND PATENTS AND THE WAR REVENUE BILL.

As we are going to press, the War Revenue Bill is reported to have been favorably acted upon by the conferees, and it is probable that the bill will be passed and be put in the hands of the President by the time the present issue is published.

In the first place, the joinder of patents and trademarks had nothing in reason to justify it. They have nothing whatever in common. The amendment was evidently based on the supposition that both inventors and owners of trademarks depend for their property rights on the national government.

As to trademarks, it would seem that their very nature and purpose had been lost sight of. A merchant or manufacturer adopts a mark solely that his goods may be identified by the purchaser, and it is a guarantee of good faith.

Trademarks do not depend on statutory enactment. They primarily are protected by common law. Indeed, only trademarks in use in foreign trade or trade with Indian tribes are registerable.

Clearly a tax should be impartially fixed on the goods of a certain character or description, and not on the mere trademark, which simply stands for the good name of the reputable merchant.

A tax on patented goods also would be prohibitive in most cases, because the patentee could not compete with the unpatented and untaxed goods of his rivals.

The great speech of Senator Platt, of Connecticut, in 1884, showing the necessity of encouraging inventors, may be read with profit by his fellow legislators.

It is gratifying to note that the conferees were led to perceive the mischievous consequences of the bill before it was returned to either House for consideration.

COMMUNICATIONS DURING THE SIEGE OF PARIS.

Among the most interesting subjects connected with the siege of Paris, in 1870-71, was the method by which the Parisians communicated with the outside world, and the story of their trials and triumphs never ceases to be interesting.

There were within the fortifications about 2,000,000 people, a quarter of whom were under arms, and it was remarkable that the beleaguered capital should have succeeded in obtaining almost constant communications with the departments during the siege—a circumstance which was only rendered possible by the rapid ad-

vance made in the few preceding years in science. The stubborn resistance which Paris offered to the enemy was due to a considerable extent to the facility with which they communicated with the outside world.

On September 18, 1870, the last regular dispatch of letters from Paris was sent, and at 5 o'clock P. M. the early mail train was forced to return; but on the 20th, the post office authorities attempted to send out the mails in three light-colored vehicles, drawn by three horses and accompanied by horse and foot couriers.

Naturally the idea of employing balloons to take out letters early suggested itself to every one. On September 21, the director of the Paris post office gave notice to the public to write their letters on extremely thin paper and to dispense with the envelope.

On September 23, the "Neptune," in charge of M. Duruof a well-known aeronaut, ascended with three mail bags containing 25,000 letters. The Prussians pointed cannon at the balloon, but the balls exhausted their impetus before the balloon was reached.

Energetic steps were at once taken to construct a number of balloons for postal purposes. All of the balloons in the city were utilized first. An aeronautic company was formed for the manufacture of the balloons. The cost of each was to be \$800, including the cost of gas for its inflation.

A balloon factory was organized at the Gare d'Orleans and under the vast iron and glass arched roof of this railroad station the balloons were built. Sailors balanced themselves on the metal girders and trusses and suspended long strips of colored calico reaching almost to the ground.

Among the most interesting subjects connected with the siege of Paris, in 1870-71, was the method by which the Parisians communicated with the outside world, and the story of their trials and triumphs never ceases to be interesting.

For a time France was really governed by balloons,