FAME AND WEALTH MADE IN PATENTS

Review of the Wonderful Progress Made in American Inventions.

CHAPTER OF PATENT OFFICE LORE

Men Who Have Captured Big Stakes by the Ingenuity of Their Brains. Others Who Have Succeeded Only in Causing the Judicious to Smile. ury of the United States is \$4,566,757.73. Curiosities That Reach the Patent The question has been raised whether Office Each Year.

There is no advantage point like the United States patent office, says a writer in the Chicago Times-Herald, from which to measure and comprehend the wonderful progress of the world in mechanical appliances and in the utilfixation of nature's forces as applied to all the conveniences and accessories of life. If we consider the stride from a primitive plow with which the ancients tickled the soil to the marvelous farm implements of today; from the first brick libraries of Babylon and Ninevah to the superb treasures in movable types and sumptuous buildings that stand, plied tier on tier, in the British Museum and the library of congress, we may truly realize how the world has

Yethere is a still further thought that the most wonderful part of this advancement has been made within the last 100 years. During that time we have had the discovery of the telegraph the electric light and all the various uses of electricity. Within the same period we have seen the evolution of the printing press from the clumsy handever contrivance of Franklin's time to that great storehouse of miniature methe marvelous machine which prints and folds 75,000 copies of a complete eighth-page newspaper in an hour. In that time the locomotive engine, the steamboat and the luxurious sleeping within its archives are models of althe marvelous machine which prints chanical devices, has its curious and and dining cars have supplanted the primitive modes of travel which preceded them, and we have advanced from the old hand spinning wheel to the wonderful weaving looms and knitting machines of the present day. Besides all these we have the discovery of the telestophone, the phonograph, the sewing machine to an ice cream free-phone, the typewriter and even the convenient little lucifer match which receded them, and we have advanced toy pistol, and from a steam engine to place flint and friction. Let any man are jumping-jacks, dosing bottle and try to imagine the comparative condi- life-saving boats, cooking stoves, printtion of life and society if these patented ing presses and gate openers, horsediscoveries had never been made and shoes, railroad frogs and sausage mahe will measurably appreciate what the chines, corn planters, corn shellers and world owes to the genius of inventions.

THE PATENT OFFICE.

Few readers of daily newspapers have any definite idea what a wonderful and the same thing is astonishing. Coverimportant institution the American ing so small a thing as a wood screw patent office has grown to be. Although there are over 100 different patents: nine-tenths of the people of the whole in the class of lanterns nearly 1,000 pacountry are directly or indirectly inter-ested in the manufacture or use of patented inventions, only those who have pieces 475 patents have been issued, and given the subject attention have any for bottle stoppers upward of 600. These comprehension of the great interests are among the simplest devices, but involved or of the vast number who are laborers in the fields of invention or in there have been up to the last year 6,048 some manner allied to the industry. A patents granted for sewing machines, brief history of the growth of this great institution will be of general interest.

The first United States law pertaining to patents was enacted April 10, 1790, and exactly three months later the first patent granted under the authority of the government was issued. The first patent issued in America, however, was granted by the general court of Massa-chusetts March 6, 1646, to Joseph Jenkes, an Englishman, who settled in Lynn in 1643, and resided there until his death in 1683, and who was a rather de man in his time. He made the dies for coining the first money, and also built the first fire engine in this ber is 20,096. These are fair illustracountry. But patents of this kind were, like those issued in England in the early days of the English patent system, not even prima facie evidence of novelty, and the inventor was obliged to maintain his claim as best he could in the The law of 1790 remained in force until February, 1793, and under it only fiftyseven patents were issued. In the latter year a new act effecting some modifications was passed, which stood until 1836, a period of forty-three years,

during which 9,957 patents were granted. The year 1836, in which the present law was enacted, marked an epoch in the American patent system, and in the sixty years following, down to the beginning of this year, something over 552,000 patents have been issued. From the three patents granted in 1790 there was a growth to the high-watermark of 26,292 in 1890. Applications come from every city and every little hamlet in the land. During the fiscal year ending June 1895, the number of applications filed, including caveats, reissues, etc., was 41, 041, of which 25,555 were granted. This aggregate and that of the year next preceding, shows a slight falling off from the average for several years previous, especially in the number of patents issued, which is due to the hard times. It is the poor mechanics everywhere and the jacknife genius of the rural districts who make a majority of the claims for patents, and many of them do not find it easy in these times to rake together the means with which to pay the government and attorneys' fees. Not many years ago nearly all the inventive genius of the country was located in New England and the eastern states, but during the last two or three decades the west has developed its share of mechanical ingenuity, though Connecticut, the land of wooden nutmegs and Waterbury watches, still leads with the largest number patents in proportion to population, with Massasetts second, the District of Columbin third. New Jersey fourth, Montana

up in the list.

hives, but the patent office is more than any other aptly described by the term. It is a busy, bustling place, with its near-ly 650 employes—examiners, draughtsmen, clerks, copyists, etc.-crowded into fifty-six rooms. And with all the rest, it is the only bureau or department that is self-sustaining. In the year 1890, the banner year in the history of the office, the total receipts were \$1,340,372,66, while the expenses were \$1,099,297.74, giving a net profit of \$241,074.92. In 1892 the net earnings were \$175,592.59, and for the fiscal year ending June 20, last, the profits were \$157,390,999, notwithstanding the depressed condition of business generally. The total amount of net earnings to the credit of the office in the treas the government should go on accumulating this fund, which has been char acterized as so much blood money squeezed from the inventors of the country. If the fees are now larger than necessary to cover the cost of adjudging and acting upon all applications, say the objectors, why not reduc them? The object of the patent law is to encourage and stimulate invention Without this stimulus the great progress noted within the past 100 years would not have been witnessed, while under its operation we have seen that where, a century ago, Franklin, a man of science, was content to leave the printing press as he found it, and as Guttenburg had eft it 300 years before, the last 100 years have seen it advance to one of the most wonderful mechanisms in an age of wonders. And where a century ago, the workman and the artisan were satisfied to jog along with such crude implements and methods as were at hand, today he is alert and

plane of action. CURIOSITIES IN STOCK.

Patent office research has many in teresting features. The model-room, most every implement of human use, from the Hotchkiss machine gun to the corn extractors, fans, corset stays and glove fasteners, world without end. The number of patents that have been issued for variations or improvements of coming to the more important classes and their various attachments; for firearms, not including heavy ordnance, torpedo or machine guns, 4,356 patents; and knitting machines, 5,312. For agricultural implements, including planters, harvesters, thrashers and the whole range of machines and ap-pliances, the total number of patents is

36,575, of which 10,122 relate to plow drawing it back when thrown, made alone. In the class of electric lighting more money than the great big dredg-3,346 patents had been issued previous ing machine for deepening waterways. to the current fiscal year, and in that of carriages and wagons the total numtions. In the line of toys there is an al-200 toy savings banks, some of which are exceedingly ingenious and unique. these are among the most profitable

patents issued. AND STILL THEY COME.

It would seem that with this great so it seemed to many a few years ago, when a majority of the present inventions were undiscovered; yet inventive brains have gone on evolving new ideas, and more than half of all the patents issued have been granted in the last fourteen years. In the various classes of electricity the most extraordinary development has been shown within a few year, and the number of patents run well up into the thousands, of which the wizard Edison alone has obtained nearly seven hundred. The great aggregate of patents granted is vastly swollen by the continual improvement of important inventions. For instance, a single firm of passenger and lifting elevator manufacturers employ in their con-struction and operating mechanism more than 250 separate patents, and new improvements are being added constantly. The modern printing press manufacturers own hundreds of patents covering the various parts which go to make the complete machine, while the great electric companies have proof patents useful or necessary in the perfection of their various systems. And so it is all through the list. The field of invention is practically limitless, and great as are the rewards that have been realized for the wonderful and useful discoveries already made, still greater ones remain to be enjoyed by those who solve the numerous probems and possibilities yet remaining in the realm of the unattained.



-From the Chicago Times Herald. By the courtesy of H. H. Kohlsant.

actual beneficiary, either because his improvements in railway coaches, necessities compel him to sacrifice his which resulted in the early patents that prospective profits before the patent is proved so vauable, these having been secured or because he is so lacking in business capacity that he lets his interest slip away from him before its the vestibule and other devices. Commissioner Mitchell is authority for the statement that more than three-fourths of all the capital invested in finally ending in success and affluence; several large and wealthy corporations, arms bearing his name; Richard M. and the proportion which the patents Hoe, who by gradual steps, after many themselves contributed to this result improvements, finally produced the may be approximately measured by the remarkable drop in the prices of these were fed ribbons of paper five miles were fed ribbons of paper five miles remarkable drop in the prices of these machines since the patents expired. The long at the rate of 200 feet a minute; telegraph patents realized immense fortunes to a number of people. The Goodynar rubber patents, the original of year rubber patents, the original of rubber patents. which was a simple mixture of rubber and, inventor of the tack machine; John and sulphur, formed the basis of vast Ericsson, who designed the screw promanufactring industries and brought pellor for vessels and invented the iron-wealth to hundreds of persons. The clad Monitor, and James B. Eads, McCormick harvesters and many other agricultral machines have made several bridge and the New Oricans jettles, fortunes. The sleeping car patents and the electric and telephone patents have haps, because his inventions stood more haps, because his inventions stood more enormously enriched the inventors and all who are associated with them and the marvelous typesetting machines, which rank among the most wonderful inventions of the age, promise also to take a place among the most profitable, These are only a few conspicuous instances, yet it is not alone the wonder for car couplings, 6,780, and for weaving | ful mechanism or invention that attains great financial success. Sometimes a simple little device like the common buckle or the paper fastener will make several fortunes. The little toy return ball, with a rubber string attached for

Several of our well-known American millionaires owe their fortunes to valumost endless array, including nearly able inventions. Of these, perhaps the four most conspicious are George M. Pullman, of palace car fame: Alexander and dolls without number. Many of Graham Bell, who secured the first telephone patent; Cyrus H. McCormick, the harvester manufacturer; and Thomas A. Edison, the king of modern inventors. Whether Mr. Edison's tangible fortune at the present time equals number of patents already granted every possible improvement or device in these classes must be covered. But les and inventions bearing his name could be computed, probably his wealth would far exceed that of any one of them. He is not, however, an investor in the field of invention, and a glance and financier like some of the others, his attention and abilities being concentrated upon the intricate problems with which he is constantly wrestling. Mr. Edison was born in Ohio in 1847. In boyhood he was a printers' "devil," in youth a telegraph operator and in early manhood the inventor of the quadruplex telegraph, followed a few years later by the incandescent light and many other electrical and scientific appliances with which the public is familiar. He is the most prolific inventor in the world, having secured more patents, for his own inventions than any other one man. Alexander Graham Bell was born in

Scotland. For several years previous to the invention of the telephone he had been known as a writer on scientific subjects, but not as an inventor, no other patent having being previously cured or purchased scores upon scores | applied for by or issued to him. The protracted controversy in the courts instituted by Inventor Drawbaugh of Pennsylvania, who claimed to have filed the first application for a telephone patent, and that his discovery was stolen in some manner in the patent office, was finally settled in favor of the Bell patent, which has been one of the most profitable ever issued. George M. Pullman, ratentee of the Pullman palace sleeping and other cars, was born

of the happy idea which he believes he first to apply machinery to raising thoughtful, looking to the attainment has discovered; yet it is a singular fact whole blocks of stone and brick. In of better instrumentalities and a higher that the original inventor is rarely the 1859 he began experimenting with his

whose genius created the St. Louis More honored than any of these, perfor philanthropy than for possible profit, is Joseph Francis, who invented the life-saving boat used in government coast service. The fifty-first congress voted him a medal of pure gold, valued at \$6,000. It is the largest and finest ever given by the government to any individual, and was presented to Mr. Francis at the White House in 1890 by Francis at the White House in 1890 by President Harrison, with appropriate ceremonics. It is two-thirds of an inch thick and as large as a tea plate. On the occasion of his last visit to Washington four years ago, then in his 22d year, the medal was donated to the National Museum, where it is now on exhibition, together with his original life car, which in the different either than for the seasons of 1824 and 1891-5. I attribute much of it to a reduction in prices to 15, 25, 59 and 75 cents, and to give in the different either than the largest aumber of parameters and the largest aumber of parameters. Ayrshire on the coast of New Jersey in

FUNNY NOTIONS.

With all its other peculiarities and attainments, the patent office is known as the great American crank pen, and it is this feature of it that presents the humorous aspect. The great number of utterly impracticable and almost ridiculous devices for which patents are asked is a source of amusement and wonder to those who get an insight into the matter. "Wheels in the head" seems to be an apt designation of the mania which possesses hundreds of men who are busying themselves through the recent files at any time will reveal some new insanity in mechanism upon which a patent is asked. Years ago, in the days of frequent Indian depredations, when the frontier covered a good deal more ground than it does now, some rural genius invented a common plow that was to have its beam filled grape and caniszter ready for use in case of a surprise by the redskins. Another western chap designed a cyclone house which was to be anchored at the four corners as a protection against cyclones. Among the other oddities noted is a tapeworm trap, to be inserted through the mouth to eatch the unwary tapeworm when he ventures too far off his reservation, and an illuminated metal cat, with eyes of fire, designed to be a holy terror to rats and mice.

A later device of the funny sort but A later device of the funny sort but a way of bestowing chiking glances on one with some possible utility, is a hen's people which raise the expectation of the trap door as soon as deposited by the hea, the object being to make the hea believe she has not succeeded in laying

consists of an electric battery concealed pocket. Another Illinois man patented an electric contrivance to enable the be-fuddled club man in finding the keyhole when returning home late on a dark night. A small metal cylinder containing a powerful little incandescent is to be countersunk in the doorjamb near the keyhole, just over which is a push but-No matter how dark the night or how uncertain the gentleman's frame of mind, he has only to rub his hand down the side of the door over the button and the keyhole is disclosed to view.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

Modjeska will act next year. Black Patti will star next season. Henry E. Dixey may "star" in "His "Around the World in Eighty Days"

to build a monument to the famous ballasinger and composer, Johann Carl Gott-fried Loewe, whose centenary will be celefried Loewe, whose centenary will be cele-brated throughout Germany November 20, Melbourne McDowell, husband of Fanny Davenport, won the race of the Duxhury Yacht club last Saturday in the 20-foot class with his racing machine the Cleo-patra. Mr. MacDowell sailed his own boat, while the other yachts were sailed by experienced captains. At the finish he led the second boat by four minutes. Heary Miller, formerly of the Empire Theater Stock company, has signed a contract with A. M. Palmer as leading man for the company to open the Great man for the company to open the Great Northern theater in Chicago in October Miss Blanche Walsh will be the leading weman. The piece to be presented is a new romantic drama by Mr. Paul Potter, Louisa Payne's name used to be one to conjure with. She was a public idol in youth of many men still living, and a pto-neer of English opera, in England and the Inited States with the Pyne-Harrison troupe, she was a renowned prima donna in the operas of Balfe, Wallace and Ben-

with his original me car, of the law tailments that the largest number of pa-201 lives from the week of the tailments that the largest number of pa-trons prefer. The theater business, when conducted as any other successful com-mercial business, will always be satisfac-tory. In prices everything has come down why not theater prices and performer's salaries?"

edlet. She is still living, at an advanced

Adrienne Dairolles, who played several parts in New York admirabley last year, but failed to get a firm footing on our stage, has returned to London with a hatred of America. "Really fine comedy, she says in a talk about us, "is incomprehensible to the Yankess. It is utterly beyond the power of the American under-standing. To be blonde and blue-eyed is half the battle on the transatlant'e stage -indeed, it is more; I should say it is well nigh all that is necessary. The way ev-erybody tries to get his or her own effects without regard to the other members of the company, to the author, or to the result, is disconcerting; and when one con siders the Comedie Francaise, their methods are appalling!"

RUNNING A NEWSPAPER.

It is to Horace Voules that the success of the amazing newspaper, London Truth, is due from the business standpoint. The manager is practically never absent from the office, says Pearson's Weekly. It is related that on one occasion he was persuaded to take a holiday Mr. Labouchere promised to look after everything in his absence. He managed to get as far as Dover, and there he found a telegram awaiting him. It was from La-bouchere himself: "Will it matter very much if Truth does not come out next week?" Mr. Voules took the next train back to London. All of which reminds me of another an-ecdote. To appreciate it fully it must be known that Mr. Voules on occasions has

nest in which the egg drops through a more enterprising that the North Pole will some day be found somewhere around Truth office. One day, just as Mr. Voules had gone to press with the latest number believe she has not succeeded in laying an egg. Still later than this is an insurance as usual, in a ferment of excitement. He had made a discovery; he had lighted upon the realm of the unattained.

The financial side of the day o

consists of an electric battery concealed about the person, connected with a belt worn under the vest, which rings when a hand is inserted in the protected packet. Another Illinois man patented

Scenes at Hatcher's Creek and Petersburg Recalled.

John B. Scace Speaks to a Reporter of Stirring Scenes-Escaped with a Slight Wound, but, Like Other Vet erans, Has Suffered Since—A Story that Reads Like a Page from History.

From the Albany, N. Y., Journal.

the enth corps, and participated in the first Brigade, First Division, Nineteenth Corps, and participated in the source of the hottest battles of the great rebolion.

Mr. Scace, at the time, was but twenty-two years of age, and he remembers well with what a beating heart he first fell in line. His regiment was ordered South, directly through the enemy's country, with Baton Rouge as the objective point. After several months of weary marches, during which Company A. I shall do the several division which the enemy constantly hovering about the flanks and rear, the capital city of Louisiana was reached. An evacuation followed. Citizens and the rebel soldiery stationed in the city fed like frightened sheep, bearing with them what goods they could carry and setting torch to the rest. The beautiful capitol building, which had been converted into a war prison, had also been fired, and the boys in blue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in, just in time to save their capitue swarmed in just in time to save their capitue.

Scace, who had been, while en route, promouned to corporal, was in the thickest of the molec, and describes the scenes in a graphic manner. Although the city had fallen almost without a blow given or received, a fight was not far off, for word was received that a large and solve the capital in which Corporal Scace was severely wounded. A minimal and the city had fallen almost the capital in which Corporal Scace was severely wounded the manner. Although the city had fallen almost the capital in which Corporal Scace was sev

Black Path with Starl nets seed of "History Days" has been frevived in Paris.

"Around the World in Eighty Days" has been frevived in Paris.

Fred Fladlen, Somethy of the starring from of Hallen, formerly of the starring from of Hallen & Hart, has entered vau deville.

Sims Reeves, the veteran English tenor, has just been made a happy father at the case of 71 years.

Sims Reeves, the veteran English tenor, has just been made a happy father at the case of 71 years.

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