

THE NEW GERMAN PATENT LAW.

The New German Patent Law which went into force on July 1, 1877, possesses some points of interest not only to such of our readers as are the patentees or manufacturers of mill machinery, but also the whole milling fraternity, as it may show how some of the defects of our present law may be remedied. Until last July the greatest confusion existed in Germany in regard to patents, there being twenty-one States of the Empire which granted patents of their own. All this disorder is now at an end, and one law now governs all the States of the Empire, the same as in this country. The following is a brief synopsis of the principal points of the new law:—

1. Pharmaceutical compounds, medicines, alimentary preparations and chemical products cannot be patented, although the process by which they are obtained is patentable.
2. New inventions are defined as being those not publicly known or worked within the realm, or described in printed works to such an extent as to enable any one to work the invention therefrom.
3. The operation of a patent is to restrain others from manufacturing, trading in, or importing the article, or using the process patented.
4. Any one who has already used the invention in Germany before the date of application for the patent, can continue to use it, even though such prior use has been kept secret.
5. The Imperial and State Governments have a right to use the invention patented for Imperial or State purposes, but the patentee can claim compensation for such use.
6. The original cost of a patent, including agency charges, will be from \$60 to \$75.
7. Patents will be granted for fifteen years, and will be subject to a tax of 50 marks (\$11.90) at the end of the first year, 100 marks at the end of the second year, and an increase of 50 marks each succeeding year, making the total cost of a patent for fifteen years about \$1,260.
8. Patents of addition can be obtained at the same cost as the original patent, 50 marks (\$11.90), although they are not subject to the annual tax, they being considered as incorporated in the original.
9. Failures to pay the annual tax within a reasonable time, forfeits the patent, although in the cases of poor patentees, the tax may be postponed or altogether remitted.
10. A patentee is bound to work his patent in Germany within three years of the date thereof, on pain of forfeiture, and should licenses be required for the public interest, the patentee is bound to grant them at a reasonable royalty.
11. Persons not residing in Germany can only apply for a patent through a duly qualified agent or proxy residing in Germany.
12. The Patent Office is situated in Berlin, and its staff is composed of examiners appointed by the Imperial Chancellor and Federal Council who have power to call in experts.
13. The inventor must thoroughly explain the invention, by specification, and drawings, types, models, and patterns, as may be required to make it clear. These are examined by the examiners, and, if objected to, the applicant or his agent can alter them to suit before being published. If the examiner approves of the description, it is immediately published, unless the Imperial Government reserves it for State purposes.
14. Any one can, during the ensuing eight weeks, oppose the grant of the patent on the grounds of fraud or want of novelty. All interested parties, in case of opposition, have a right of hearing at the Patent Office. Should no opposition take place, the patent is officially granted.
15. The decision of the Patent Office may be appealed against at the Supreme Imperial Tribunal of Commerce.
16. Deliberately infringing a patent is a criminal offense, and the infringer is liable to a fine of not exceeding 10,000 marks (or \$2,380), or imprisonment for one year at most, besides damages to the injured party.
17. In criminal cases the injured party is entitled to publish the sentence at the cost of the condemned party, and in all cases may, besides the penalty, demand an amercement of \$5,000 at most from the condemned party in lieu of damages.
18. No action can be brought for any infringement that took place more than three years before the date of the action.
19. A fine of 150 marks, or \$35.70, or imprisonment, will be inflicted on any one falsely representing a thing to be patented, or by marking the cases, advertising, or otherwise doing anything to induce people to believe that an unpatented article is patented.

20. All existing German patents are exempt from this law, and continue in force as heretofore.

21. During the existence, however, of any German patent, the owner has the option of getting it transferred to the Imperial Patent Office, and making it operative over the whole of Germany.

22. In such cases the Imperial patent will be dated, and held in every respect as if applied for at the date of the earliest dated individual State patent for the same invention.

23. After a patent is granted, a short specification will be published in the *Patent Journal*.

24. Before the lapse of a patent, notice will be given to the inventor, and a proper time allowed him to fulfil the requirements of the law.

It will be seen from a survey of the above points that ample protection is afforded the patentee, while care likewise is taken to protect the public. The taxing of patents is a wise provision and is well calculated to weed out worthless patents in a few years after they are granted. Another sensible point is the fixing of a limit to the time when a patentee can bring suit for infringement, and compelling the patentee to work his patent within a stated time under pain of forfeiture. These three points, taken together, would be quite effectual in preventing the extortions practiced by the patentees of machines which never have and never could be put into use.

TAMING MALICIOUS HORSES BY ELECTRICITY.

There is now in California a mottled gray thorough-bred stallion called Cognac, born in Normandy, France, of a most symmetrical and powerful mold. At his native home he was docile, and was worked at the plough. He was imported to the United States two years ago, being then five years old, and became the property of a man in Illinois. One day his owner put a halter on him, the style of which he took as a mortal affront, and he became refractory. All attempts to subdue him were in vain. He was so terribly beaten about the head that for some weeks he was but little better than a dead horse. He recovered, and has ever since exhibited a deadly hostility toward man, and was therefore called the "man-eating horse," though perfectly harmless to animals of his own species.

The way of taming horses by electricity, of which we have before spoken, is now practiced in San Francisco by Prof. Tapp, and this gentleman undertook to tame Cognac in this way, and did it at a public exhibition of his method. Some two or three hundred spectators assembled to see how the animal would conduct himself under the electrifying effects of a galvanic battery. The novelty of the experiment and the fame of the tamer and of the horse attracted the spectators. The ring inclosure was about seven feet high, and the seats for spectators were elevated still over this, so that they were presumably out of the reach of Cognac. Notwithstanding this, he came very near making a square meal of a wholesome citizen who was unwarily leaning over the temporary rail that surmounted the ring inclosure.

The horse was running at his freedom in the ring, and charged with a wild fury at every person who approached the railing, although they were above his head. He seized the gentleman in question by the coat lapel, taking also his vest, shirt and undershirt in his teeth, and, being an immensely powerful animal, it was with the greatest difficulty that the man was kept from being dragged into the ring and killed. As it was the horse got away with a large piece of broadcloth coat and a hearty mouthful of vest, shirt, and red flannel under-garment, and the man's breast was discolored as if he had received a very heavy blow. This was before the audience had assembled or the horse-tamer had come in.

At two o'clock the work of securing Cognac began, and by a little manœuvring two ropes were made fast to the headstall he wore. This was accomplished by the Professor and an assistant, who stood on the outside of the entrance door, which was opened sufficiently to admit a man's arm; Cognac keeping his nose thrust close to the opening in the apparent hope of getting a nip at somebody. One of the ropes was then passed up along the corridor in front of the seats and made fast to an upright post. Then the trainer entered the ring and secured the other rope to the tent-pole. Thus Cognac found himself unable to follow the bent of his inclination any further.

Prof. Tapp then retired from the ring, and in a few moments returned armed, as he expressed it. He had on an overcoat and buckskin gloves. In the inside pockets of the overcoat he had two small electro-galvanic batteries, one on each side. These were connected by an insulated wire that passed behind his