

cases through more expeditiously, or command more important facilities. But this is not so. The journey to the Patent Office is usually a mere waste of time and money. A reliable attorney must be employed after the inventor reaches there. No one can possibly have facilities other than possessed by all reliable patent solicitors, and any attorney stating that it is possible by personal attendance to have the application rushed through more expeditiously, does so maliciously or for the purpose of obtaining money for travelling expenses from the inventor by fraudulent means.

Attorneys.

On account of the multifarious patents granted and the necessity of making nice and strong distinctions between kindred inventions, great skill and judgment are required in *describing* and *claiming* the thing to be patented so as to secure to the inventor as broad, and at the same time as valid protection as the state of the art will allow.

The following is published by the Commissioner of Patents in the official rules of practice of the United States Patent Office:

As the value of the patent depends largely upon the careful preparation of the specifications and claims, the assistance of *competent counsel* will, in most cases, be of advantage to the applicant; but the value of their services will be proportionate to their *skill* and *honesty*, and too much care cannot be exercised in their selection.

Where establishments are organized for the purpose of procuring patents, they are apt to become more solicitous about the *number* than the *quality* of those which they obtain. This tendency is aggravated by those who solicit patents upon *contingent fees*, or who without special training or qualifications adopt this business as incident to a claim agency, and press for patents as they press for back pay and pensions. Such men are often more desirous of