

24. Whenever an application shall be made for a Patent, which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, would interfere with any other Patent for which an application may be pending, or with any unexpired Patent which shall have been granted, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to give notice thereof to such applicants and Patentees as the case may be, and if either shall be dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner on the question of priority of invention, on a hearing thereof, he or they may appeal from such decision on the like terms and conditions as are provided in the twenty-third Section of this Act, and the like proceedings shall be had to determine which, or whether either of the parties is entitled to receive or hold a Patent.

Notice in case of interfering applications, and proceedings in each case.

25. Every applicant for the grant of Letters Patent of Invention, desirous of protecting his right till he shall have matured his invention, before proceeding to take out such Letters Patent, may, on payment of the fee hereafter provided, file at the Patent Bureau a provisional specification which shall contain a description of the nature of the Invention, setting forth the design and purposes thereof, and its principal and distinguishing characteristics, and every such provisional specification shall be filed in the confidential archives of the Bureau and preserved in secrecy, and the day and hour of the delivery of every such provisional specification shall be recorded at the said Bureau and endorsed on the said provisional specification, and a certificate thereof given to such applicant; and every such application shall be duly registered in the Register provided for by Section *ten* of this Act, and every such protection shall be termed Provisional Protection.

Protection for maturing invention.

26. Every such application shall be referred to the Patent Board, subject to the same examination and to the same provisions respecting *experts* or other assistants as are hereinbefore made for completed applications, and if such Board be satisfied that such provisional specification describes the nature of the Invention, they shall allow the same and give a certificate of their allowance, and such certificate shall be filed at the Patent Bureau, and thereupon the Invention therein referred to, may, during the term of six months from the date of filing such certificate, be used and published without prejudice to any Letters Patent to be granted for the same. Provided always, That in case the title of the Invention or the provisional specification be too large or insufficient, it shall be lawful for the Board to allow or require the same to be amended. And provided, that in case any applicant should require an extension of the time for completing such application, the Board may extend the said term for such period not exceeding three months longer, as to the said Board may seem fit, on sufficient cause being shewn by every such applicant.

Application to be referred to the Board.

Term of protection.

Proviso.

Proviso.

27. And if application be made by any other person during the term of provisional protection provided for in the two preceding sections, for a Patent for any invention in any way interfering with the invention so protected, it shall be the duty of the Commissioner to deposit the description, specification, drawing, and model of this latter application in the Confidential Archives of the Bureau, and to give notice (by mail) to the person to whom the provisional protection was granted of such application, who shall within the period to be fixed and set forth in the said notice by the Commissioner, after receiving the notice, if he would avail himself of the benefit of his provisional protection, file his completed application and model, and if in the opinion of the Board the specification of claim interfere with each other, like proceedings may be had in

Notice of interfering application to be given.