

QUALIFICATIONS

OF

Patent Solicitors or Attorneys

To be competent to prepare and prosecute applications for Patents at this stage of inventive progress, the attorney should be:—

1. Thoroughly versed in the Patent Laws of Canada, the United States and the principal foreign countries; well read in the Commissioners' and Court decisions, and perfectly conversant with the Patent Office practice.

2. Quick to grasp mechanical ideas, and possessed of a naturally scientific turn of mind.

3. Skillful in preparing exact and thorough descriptions, and in pointing out nice distinctions.

4. Able to construct comprehensive and valid claims as broad as the invention (some of the best legal talents have acknowledged their total inability to originate claims).

5. Persistent and clever in prosecuting applications rejected for insufficient cause.

6. It is unquestionably desirable that a Solicitor of Patents should be a GRADUATE civil and mechanical engineer. A trained and technically educated engineer is much better able to cope with the exceedingly fine distinctions and intricate questions constantly arising in patent practice, than one without technical education.

Inventors should remember that any person, man, woman or child, can truthfully claim to be a "Solicitor," as "soliciting" means "asking;" or they could advertise as an "agent" or "attorney," as both these terms mean one who acts for another. They would not, however, dare to claim to be graduate "Civil or Mechanical Engineers" without fear of disbarment and prosecution for misrepresentation. It therefore behooves the inventor to use great care in selecting his attorney; and, bearing on this point, we call attention to a report of the Commissioner of Patents, wherein he says: "*As the value of patents depends largely upon the careful preparation of the specification and claims, the assistance of competent counsels will be of advantage to the applicant; but the value of their services will be proportioned to their skill and honesty. So many persons have entered this profession of late years without experience that too much care cannot be exercised in the selection of a competent man.*"