

Danger in Delay.

An inventor should make it imperative to have his application for letters patent prepared and filed as early as possible after he has completed his invention.

I have known instances where an inventor completed his invention and delayed patenting the same for six months, during which period another inventor over twelve hundred miles away conceived the same idea and patented it, and thus completely shut out the first inventor. In this instance two men conceived the same idea about the same time, and whilst one man delayed securing his rights, the other man obtained his Patent of Invention.

When the fact is taken into consideration that there are over 500,000 living inventors on this continent, it will readily be understood that it is possible for several minds to run in the same channel. I have also known of instances where an inventor had perfected his invention and exhibited it to his friends who stole it from him and patented it in their own names.

It will thus be seen that an inventor, by delaying to patent his invention, runs a very great risk of losing it altogether, solely by delay.

Advice as to the Patentability of an Invention.

On making an invention, the first point to be determined is whether it be a proper subject for a patent. To obtain this information, the intending applicant is invited to put the invention fully before me, as freely and clearly as possible, accompanied, if the invention be a mechanical one, by a sketch or model. A careful answer will be forwarded to him, usually by return mail, informing him as to the patentability of the invention—how to protect it and the like—*free of charge*.