

A company composed of capitalists from the United States have purchased from the inventor the proprietorship of a new, economical and highly ingenious process, by means of which textile plants, wood, straw and other ligneous substances are disintegrated in a few minutes, and the fibres thus prepared are at once fit for the carding or paper making machine, without the process of steeping or of the use of alkalies. This method, which would become a source of wealth by at once rendering profitable the culture of flax, hemp, &c., belongs, as above stated, to an American company, who will naturally decline investing a large amount of capital amongst us unless they obtain the protection of a patent. The striking importance of this case naturally induced me to select it from amongst a host of minor instances.

I deem it unnecessary to dwell any further upon the necessity of following, in the matter of patents for inventions, the example of liberality and of reciprocity afforded us in this respect by older countries, more advanced than ourselves in the development of the various branches of manufacturing industry, a course the adoption of which, it would seem, they have never had reason to regret.

Another consideration which should go far to induce us to modify our laws in this direction is, that the Province must necessarily derive from the fees to be levied a large amount of revenue; for a majority of the Americans who incur the expense of taking out a patent at home, would not fail to claim protection here. Now, as the department charged with this branch of the public service already meets its expenses out of the revenue derived from the comparatively small number of patents granted, it could without any large increase of expenditure, receive a far larger number of applications, which would thus give a large net surplus, increasing from day to day.

#### U. S. PATENT OFFICE, 1863.

The following tables are taken from the Annual Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Patents, for the year 1863; and show a remarkable degree of activity on the part of inventors, in spite of the deplorable and tremendous strife of civil war, then and now raging amongst them:—

##### No. 1.

Number of applications made during the year 1863 .....	6,014
Number of patents granted, including reissues and designs .....	4,170
Number of caveats filed during the year .....	787
Number of applications for extension of patents .....	40
Number of patents extended.....	48
Number of patents expired 31st December, 1863 .....	968

Of the patents granted, there were to—

Citizens of the United States .....	4,048
Subjects of Great Britain .....	58
Subjects of French Empire.....	37
Subjects of other foreign governments.	27

4,170

##### No. 2.

##### Statement of money received during the year 1863.

On applications for patents, reissues, &c.	\$178,617 00
For copies and for recording assignments.	16,976 29
	<u>195,593 29</u>

##### No. 3.

##### Statement of expenditures from the patent fund.

For salaries .....	\$89,569 94
For contingent expenses .....	42,715 29
For temporary clerks. ....	54,488 44
For withdrawals.....	1,680 00
For refunding money paid by mistake....	720 50
For judges in appeal cases.....	800 00
	<u>189,414 14</u>

##### No. 4.

##### Statement of the patent fund.

Amount to the credit of the patent fund	
January 1, 1863 .....	\$38,861 15
Amount paid in during the year .....	195,593 29
Total .....	<u>233,954 44</u>
Deduct amount of expenditures during the year.....	189,414 14
Leaving to the credit of the patent fund, January 1, 1864, the sum of.....	<u>44,540 80</u>

Another table gives the increase in the business of the patent office during each of the past 26 years, from which we learn that the number of

	1843.	1853.	1863.
Applications were.	819	2,673	6,014
Patents issued.....	531	958	4,170
Fees Received \$35,315 81	\$121,627 45.	\$195,593 29	

Table exhibiting the business of the office for twenty-seven years, ending December 31, 1863..

Years.	Applications filed.	Caveats filed.	Patents issued
1837.....	.....	.....	435
1838.....	.....	.....	520
1839.....	.....	.....	425
1840.....	765	228	473
1841.....	847	312	495
1842.....	761	291	517
1843.....	819	315	531
1844.....	1,045	380	502
1845.....	1,246	452	502
1846.....	1,272	448	619
1847.....	1,531	553	572
1848.....	1,628	607	660
1849.....	1,955	595	1,070
1850.....	2,198	602	995
1851.....	2,258	760	869
1852.....	2,639	996	1,020
1853.....	2,673	901	958
1854.....	3,324	868	1,902
1855.....	4,485	906	2,024
1856.....	4,960	1,024	2,502
1857.....	4,771	1,010	2,910
1858.....	5,364	943	3,710
1859.....	6,225	1,097	4,588
1860.....	7,653	1,084	4,819
1861.....	4,643	700	3,340
1862.....	5,088	824	3,521
1863.....	6,014	787	4,170