

UNITED STATES PATENTS.

A NEW FIRM OF PATENT LAWYERS.

FROM THE *Toronto Globe*, Jan. 21, 1890.

"There can be no more emphatic comment on the unsatisfactory nature of public life in the United States than the voluntary retirement of so many public men to private life and to business or professional pursuits. A noticeable case of this kind is presented by the recent announcement of a new law firm having special reference to patent law, which has opened offices in Washington and Chicago, under the style of Butterworth, Hall, Brown & Smith.

"The senior member of the firm is well known to our readers as the Congressman who has championed the cause of Commercial Union with Canada. By a peculiar coincidence both Messrs. Butterworth and Hall have been Commissioners of Patents as well as Congressmen, Mr. Butterworth serving as Commissioner under the Republican Administration of the late President Arthur and Mr. Hall under the Democratic Administration of President Cleveland. Mr. Hall stands high as a lawyer in his native State of Iowa and throughout the country. He refused the nomination as Governor of his State last summer in order to devote himself to the new firm, though, as it turned out, the nomination would have been equivalent to an election.

Mr. Butterworth is still in Congress shaping legislation designed to mutually benefit Canada and the United States. By virtue of his position as Chairman of the Committee on Patents of the House of Representatives, he is also putting his impress upon the patent laws of the United States, and it is believed that from his efforts and influence will result the long-desired establishment of a special Court of Appeals for patent cases, certain needed modifications of the laws affecting foreign inventors, and a more liberal policy toward the United States Patent Office, a bureau that has accumulated a surplus of \$3,000,000, to which it is adding at the rate of more than \$200,000 a year. The appended letter from Mr. Erastus Wiman, which has fallen into our hands, will show the rank which the new firm will take in the profession:—

Messrs. Butterworth, Hall, Brown & Smith, No. 606 Eleventh street, Washington, D.C.:

GENTLEMEN.—I have just received a card announcing the formation of your new law firm, and I hasten to acknowledge the same, and congratulate you on the strong and well-balanced array of talent presented thereby.

"The association of two ex-Commissioners of the Patent Office, men of varied legal learning and prominence in public life, with two energetic young lawyers, former examiners in the Patent Office, and possessing with ripe legal experience the engineering and scientific knowledge so necessary in the branch of patent litigation and soliciting of which you intend making a speciality, renders your firm the best equipped one of the kind with my knowledge, and my interests in patent rights and acquaintance with members of your profession, in this country and abroad, are varied and extensive.

"As I have for some years past entrusted all the patent business which I control to members of your firm while practising individually, I shall take great pleasure in continuing it in the hands of the firm as now organized.

"Inasmuch as the Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, the senior member of your firm, is so well and widely known in Canada, I would suggest that you properly announce its formation there, so that my friends who are frequently asking me to recommend to them some one who can attend to patent law business in this country may know that he is now in a position to render them service of this kind.—Faithfully yours,

"211 Broadway, New York, Dec. 16, 1889."

ERASTUS WIMAN.