

liminary examination and in preparing new cases.

This reference library is at the disposal of the inventors, patentees, and all interested in patents or inventions, and can be examined any day during business hours *free of charge*.

Value of a Patent.

In an official report a chief examiner of the Patent Office of the United States says : "A patent, if it is worth anything, when properly managed, is worth and can be easily sold for from \$10,000 to \$50,000."

These remarks apply only to patents of ordinary or minor value. They do not include such as the telegraph, the plaining machine, and the rubber patents, which are worth millions of dollars each. A few cases of the first kind will better illustrate my meaning :

A man obtained a patent for a slight improvement in straw cutters, took the model of invention through the Western States, and after a tour of eight months returned with \$40,000 in cash, or its equivalent.

Another inventor obtained an extension of a patent for a machine to thrash and clean grain, and sold it in about fifteen months for \$60,000.

A third obtained a patent for a printing ink and refused \$50,000 for it, and finally sold it for \$60,000.

These are ordinary values of minor inventions embracing no very considerable inventive power, and requiring no great outlay of money or time to perfect.

Experience shows that the most profitable patents are those which contain very little real invention, and are to an ordinary observer of very little real value.