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## PATENTS

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- 39,132 Milk can cover and cooler, N. H. Terens, June 11th.  
39,133 Sewer ventilating shaft, J. Jolliffe and F. Moses, June 13th.  
39,134 Automatic car coupler, W. N. Robinson, June 13th.  
39,135 Nut lock, C. P. Sherman, June 13th.  
39,136 Foot supporter for telegraph poles, E. A. Streeter, June 13th.

### ELECTRICAL.

- 39,046 Electric headlight, R. Pattison and D. J. Desmond, June 1st.  
39,048 Electric switch, F. Davey, June 1st.  
39,075 Electric controller, F. E. Kinsman, June 4th.  
39,090 Governor for dynamos, M. S. Conly, June 7th.  
39,093 Signal device for telephone pay stations, W. Gray, June 9th.

### SCIENTIFIC PROCESSES.

- 39,045 Medicine, A. Bouillon, June 1st.  
39,058 Food product and process of producing same, C. Saville, June 3rd.  
39,131 Artificial tartaric acid, B. G. Talbot, June 11th.

### INVENTORS AND MANUFACTURERS.

It is very noticeable that an inventor when absorbed in the idea of carrying out one of his pet schemes loses sight of everything save the one object in view, of making his machine or invention carry out his idea and accomplish the work for which he has designed it. In this way he is very apt to become narrow in his views, and has little patience with anyone who does not see just as he does. It is natural after spending several years in the study of one subject for him to think himself well informed on that point. There can be no question but that a careful study of any one subject should give a person great advantages over those who only casually look into it, and on this ground, therefore, an inventor has at least one good argument to support his claims. But a great many good men have spent years of their lives in vain, and a great many inventions have remained imperfect and of no practical use through the existence of this idea.

The average inventor is very apt to encumber his invention with a great many unnecessary and impractical attachments. Very few have the means for placing their inventions on the market, and must, therefore, depend on capitalists to develop their ideas. On carrying an invention to a capitalist with a request to manufacture it the average inventor is apt to make the mistake of insisting that

his invention be manufactured and sold exactly in accordance with his own ideas. The capitalist probably knows nothing of mechanics and does not attempt to criticize the mechanical construction and details of the invention. He wishes to know at what price the invention can be placed on the market, and is usually in a position to form an opinion as to whether it can be made a financial success at the price given. On the other hand, the inventor, after having spent an enormous amount of time and labor on the invention, imagines it to be much more valuable than it really is, and thinks it ought to command a price far beyond that named by the capitalist. There are in consequence frequent sharp controversies engendered between the men on such points, which makes it very difficult for them to work together and cause a great deal of unnecessary worry and annoyance in carrying on the business.

It is very common to hear an inventor complain that he is not satisfied with the way his invention is handled, and he wishes to get it in different hands. In many cases he has good ground for making such a complaint, but on the other hand there are very few cases indeed where good sound reasons for making an important improvement will be ignored by a manufacturer. There are a great many companies constantly advertising for articles to manufacture, but as the money risked is theirs, they naturally wish to use their own judgment in regard to the management of the business. Each man has his own ideas and thinks he is entirely right because he sees only his side of the case. In most cases the inventor is very apt to forget how much the capitalist has at stake in his manufacturing, and knowing very little, if anything, of the difficulties and hard work in connection with the business part of a manufacturing enterprise does not realize the importance of this part of the work. He therefore does not attach the value to this department which it deserves.

Another mistake which inventors make is by continually making attempted improvements in their inventions and wishing to constantly change designs of machines already established on the market, and it is very hard for them to understand the reasons given by the capitalist for not making such alterations; they can see the advantages to be obtained by such changes, but cannot understand the objections which are raised by buyers and consumers to continual modifications, and do not, therefore, realize how difficult it is to explain away objections which are thus put forth. The markets of to-day are filled with mechanical devices of all kinds. Points which a few years ago would have been regarded as possessing little significance are now strongly urged both for and against every device placed in the market, and any change, unless it be a very decided improvement, is to-day usually looked upon with great disfavor. Most of the arguments advanced, particularly in railway work, are in the line of adopting more uniform devices for all classes of work, and avoiding the confusion and the annoyance caused by the great variety of designs which are at present being used for performing the same class of work. Some inventors