

15. Information in relation to pending cases will be furnished only so far as it becomes necessary in conducting the business of the office.

16. The office cannot respond to enquiries as to the probability of an alleged invention being patented in advance of an application for a patent ; nor to inquiries founded on brief or imperfect descriptions, propounded with a view of ascertaining whether alleged improvements have been patented, and, if so, by whom ; nor can it act as an expounder of the Patent Law, nor as Councillor for individuals, except as to questions within the office.

17. All business with this Office should be transacted in writing. The action of the Office will be based exclusively on the written record. No attention will be paid to any alleged verbal promise or understanding in relation to which there is any disagreement or doubt.

18. Assignments of patents are to be accompanied by a copy thereof ; such copy will be kept in the Patent Office, and the original will be returned to the person sending it, with certificate of registration thereon.

19. All cases connected with the intricate and multifarious proceedings arising from the working of the Patent Office, which are not specially defined and provided for in these Rules, will be decided in accordance with the merits of each case under the authority of the Commissioner ; and such decision will be communicated to the interested parties in writing.

NOTICE.

I. Correspondence with the Department is carried through the Canadian mail, free of postage.

II. Papers forwarded to the Office should be accompanied by a letter, and a separate letter should be written on every subject.

III. In order to avoid unnecessary explanations and useless loss of time and labor, it is particularly recommended that reference be made to the law before writing on any subject to the Patent Office ; and it is also recommended, in every case, to have the papers and drawings prepared by competent persons, in the interest both of the applicant and of the public service.

IV. The specification of a *Caveat* should be sufficiently precise to enable the Office to judge whether there is a probable interference when a sub-