of a number of them, and the recruiting of men in Burlington, Vermont, to aid the insurgents. It seems almost incredible that such events were chronicled in a Montreal newspaper only sixty-four years ago. Another strange feature in such news is that the proceedings at Toronto were not published in this city until a week after. Thursday's paper contains, as the latest news, items that were dispatched by "the stage that left on Sunday morning," the journey from Toronto having occupied four days and four nights. This is now a nine hours' trip.

Patent Office Improvements.

When it is considered that a number of the most prosperous industries in operation were established by mechanical improvements or inventions, such as are usually sought to be protected from piracy by registration or patent, it becomes evident how important it is to give every possible stimulus and protection to mechanical ingenuity. When a new idea has occurred that promises to have practical value, it is very discouraging to the discoverer to learn that all kinds of obstacles are in his way when he desires to protect his invention from being pirated, and its pecuniary benefits reaped by some enterprising person who is destitute of honesty. One of these obstacles is the difficulty of finding out whether his idea is so original as to be worthy of a patent, or, whether it has been already protected. Within recent years very great improvements have been made in the system of classifying, recording and indexing inventions at Patent Offices, more especially in the States. At the recent meeting of the Manufacturers' Association, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh made an interesting statement on this subject. He showed that for many years the Canadian Patent Office, and the laws relating to patents, have been in an unsatisfactory condition. Even before this Association took up this matter as to the reorganization of the Patent Office, and the amendments of the laws relating to patents, inventors and manufacturers generally were aware that the Patent Office was in anything but a satisfactory condition. The examiners had no facilities, or practically none, for the proper and thorough examination of an application as to novelty. Besides this there were only three examiners, and such a number was entirely inadequate to cope with the work and give it that necessary attention which is so conducive to the issue of a patent of value.

In the past it has been the practice to appoint a deputy commissioner who was totally unversed with the mechanical arts, or who had no practical experience. In fact, the appointment was purely a political one, and necessarily not conducive to the best interests of inventors and manufacturers generally. To those familiar with the condition of affairs it appeared that a remedy should be applied which would bring up the office to a standard commensurate with the work it was required to perform.

The Hon. Sydney Fisher undertook to reform the Patent Office, Ottawa, and now the work of classification and compilation is fast approaching completion, and as an outcome of this work the office will be able at an early date to publish a complete and general index of inventions of all patents granted in the present year, the plan adopted being similar to that of the United States annual index.

This will prove a valuable index to manufacturers, inventors and those interested in patents, for the reason that there will be a complete uniformity throughout, which it is almost impossible to expect in indexes compiled year by year and by different persons.

The development of the manufacturing industries of Canada is largely dependent upon the development of mechanical dexterity in those employed therein. As the prospect of securing some prize by a patent is one of the most effective of stimulants to mechanical studies the Government should pay every possible attention to facilities being afforded for securing such protection as a patent provides.

Remarkable Law Case.

A very singular case, reported in "The Insurance Observer," was heard in the King's Bench, London, on 25th ult. The plaintiff applied on 31st May, 1900, for an accident policy, stating that he was not insured in any other company. The agent, to whom the proposal was sent, went away for his holidays after receipt of the proposal, and plaintiff did not hear from the company until June 14, when he was informed that his proposal was accepted. Between May 31 and June 14, however, plaintiff sent a proposal to the Royal Exchange Company, and effected an insurance with them. In July he met with an accident, which deprived him of the sight of one eye, and when he applied to the defendant company for payment under the policy granted by them, they refused to pay on the ground that he had concealed the fact that he was insured with another company.

Mr. Justice Wright, at the conclusion of the arguments, said it was a hard case, but the conditions on which the defendant company issued the policy was that the insured should let them know that he was insured with another company. That plaintiff had not done, and, therefore, by the terms of the policy, he forfeited his rights under it.

Judgment was entered for the defendant company.

Criticism of a judgment that is very much condensed is not safe. If, however, the above version is correct, the above judgment will stand a fair chance of being over-ruled. The insured could not have let the second company know he was already insured as he had not been advised of his proposal being accepted. When he knew this he should have then informed both companies, but an ordinary person, ignorant of insurance, might have retained both policies without any thought of deceit or wrong doing.