

THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT.

IX—THE PATENT OFFICE.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

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THE SUBJECTS TO BE TREATED IN HASKIN'S BIG SERIAL STORY

Following is a list of subjects in the great serial, "The American Government," by Frederic J. Haskin, which began in The Star October 4:

- 1—The National Machinery. 2—The President. 3—The State Department. 4—The Treasury Department. 5—The Army. 6—The Navy. 7—The Postal Service. 8—The Interior Department. 9—The Public Health. 10—The Geological Survey. 11—The Department of Agriculture. 12—The Weather Bureau. 13—The Department of Commerce and Labor. 14—The Census Bureau. 15—The Bureau of Standards. 16—The Patent Office. 17—The Smithsonian Institution. 18—The Panama Canal. 19—Interstate Commerce Commission. 20—Our Insular Possessions. 21—How Congress Legislates. 22—House of Representatives. 23—The Senate. 24—The Library of Congress. 25—The Government Printing Office. 26—The Civil Service. 27—The Supreme Court. 28—Other Federal Courts.



FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

[This is part of a chapter on the patent office from the book "The American Government" by Frederic J. Haskin, which will soon appear in the hands of our readers. See notice later.]

ALTHOUGH the patent right system of the world had its inception in England and now finds the most effective application in Germany, it probably has rendered its greatest service in the United States. The civilized nations of the earth have secured 3,000,000 patents, and of these more than a million have been issued by the American patent office. The genius of invention came with the empire builders to Jamestown and Cape Cod, and in 1611 the colony of Massachusetts granted Samuel Winslow a patent for a new method of making salt. In 1646 a patent was granted to Joseph Jenks for an "engine for the more speedy cutting of grass." This "engine" was nothing more than an old-fashioned mowing scythe that was the first of a long line of American agricultural machines which have revolutionized the farm life of the world. The patent system was provided for in the Federal Constitution and the First Congress passed a law creating a patent commission made up of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War and the Attorney General. They waited for three months before the first applicant for a patent appeared. Samuel Hopkins had invented a new process of making pot and ash, and he came to the patent office thereon July 31, 1790. Three years later another act was passed and the Secretary of State became the head of the patent office. Since that day the American inventor has led the world. He is bringing out new ideas at the rate of more than 20,000 a year. During the recent fiscal year 25,000 patents were granted out of 64,000 applications filed.

These patents covered the entire range of human ingenuity. Each decade brings some epoch-making basic invention, which in turn brings in its train thousands of applications. When the automobile was first patented there had been no need for the thousand-and-one attachments that have followed. No such thing as a siren horn or an anti-jump device was dreamed of before the automobile was invented. As soon as the flying machine becomes commercially feasible the patent office will do a tremendous business in the apparatus for the improvement of aerial navigation.

Indirectly the development of American inventions governs the industry in the indirect care of the patent office. It is estimated by statisticians that two-thirds of all the national wealth is the product of inventions. Great industries have been called into existence through the patent system. It has given employment to hundreds of thousands of people with wages and salaries aggregating hundreds of millions of dollars. In less than forty years the activities of the patent office in the field of electrical application have resulted in the filing of patents which have built up an industry with a total investment of \$7,000,000,000. There are forty-three divisions in the patent office under which applications for patents are made, embracing all the known arts. These general classes in turn are each divided into subclasses and there are many thousands of subjects upon which patents are issued. Every applicant for a patent pays a stated fee, for his patent. In the case of the receipts of the patent office, has created a net surplus of more than \$7,000,000. In other words, in spite of the vast benefits conferred upon the nation by inventors, they have been taxed \$7,000,000 more than cost to maintain the American patent system.

A great celebration was held in the city of Washington in honor of the first centennial of American patent history. Four hundred and fifty thousand patents had been issued up to that time. The celebration was given with the enthusiastic in boasting of the achievements of the century. Since that time only twenty years have passed, yet in those twenty short years more patents have been granted than in the full century that went before. In 1861 Congress made an act of the great problem, which showed that the average mechanic was then getting twice as much as his predecessor in 1840. The average mechanic of 1911 gets twice as

much as his predecessor of 1891. It will be seen, therefore, that wages for labor have practically quadrupled since the dawn of the age of labor-saving machinery in America. Yet at the present time laboring men were violently opposed to the adoption of such machinery. More patents have been issued for inventions relating to transportation than upon any other line of human activity. These inventions have resulted in a great saving to the people, and have made possible a civilization which could never have come into existence but for them. In the early days of the country it was no unusual thing to pay from 20 to 30 cents a ton per mile for the transportation of freight. Today the average cost of freight in the United States is but a full mile for less than 1 cent. In no other realm have the labors of the American inventor and the fostering care of the patent office served a better purpose than in the development of the apparatus with which the farmer produces the things that men eat and the raw material out of which they make their clothing. Without the farm machinery which the United States has given to the world, mankind necessarily would be still a race of small farmers. There could be no big cities, and a thousand arts and sciences could flourish only in an indifferent way, if at all.

The development of agricultural machinery has so enhanced the productive power of the individual farmer that fully three-fourths of those who formerly labored in the soil are now engaged in other vocations. According to authentic statistics, it cost an average of \$445 an acre to cut wheat with an old-time sickle. The invention of the grain reaper reduced this cost to \$2.80 an acre. The big steam harvester threshers have lowered it to 50 cents an acre. When the Chicago world's fair was held in 1893, the American agriculturists were taken to a big Dakota ranch and shown how American wheat is harvested at a smaller cost of food or slave labor under old-time conditions. It is estimated that if the world's crop of wheat were harvested without the aid of modern machinery of American invention the annual additional expense would be a billion dollars. More than 300 patents have been issued upon inventions relating to agriculture by the American patent office, and the present-day value of the farm machinery and tools in the

United States aggregates a billion dollars. These tools, therefore, that wages for labor to make his property holdings worth some \$40,000,000,000 and his annual gross income greater than the capital value of all the trusts of the United States. Yet the maker of agricultural implements declares that the application of machinery to farm work is only in its infancy. It has been demonstrated that denatured alcohol can be utilized as motive power for all sorts of farm operation, and that the farmer may make this motive power from potatoes grown on his own farm, and that with it he can conduct his farming operations more economically than with the horse. The arrival of the senseless age on the farm would result in the saving of nearly a hundred million tons of hay and grass, with grain in proportion.

Another illustration of the future which the patent office hopes some day to make possible is the wonder-working results that would be accomplished by the discovery of an economical process of gathering nitrogen from the air. This element, when applied to the soil in proper quantities, possesses the almost magical power of making four blades of grass grow where one grew before. It is one of the most plentiful things in the world, existing in incalculable quantities in the free air, but coming down to serve as plant food only upon the wings of the lightning and the bosom of the raindrop. The inventor who will find a cheap method of extracting it will make the United States able to support a population of 300,000,000 people more easily than it now supports 100,000,000. It is only sixty years since manufacturing became one of the national activities of the United States, largely through the stimulating influence of the American patent system. Since that time the value of our manufactures has increased more than fifteenfold, the wages of the factory employes of the country have been multiplied tenfold, and the number of men and women finding employment in factory work has been quintupled. Statistics figure that under former conditions it would require at least a hundred million employees to turn out the products now made in the factories of the United States by the 5,000,000 men and women engaged in factory work.

candidate nominated by steam-roller methods? "Popular selection of candidates for President and Vice President would mean a saving of hundreds of millions of dollars now wasted through industrial inactivity due to the unsettling of conditions incident to every presidential election. Under presidential primaries the party electorates would select their nominees in advance, thus possessing the confidence of the greatest number and the general electorate would elect the man in whom they had the greatest confidence. Confidence in our government is a prerequisite to full business efficiency. "Assuredly this plan of a nation-wide presidential primary should receive the cordial endorsement of every man who contemplates being a candidate for the nomination. No man could afford to neglect a presidential possibility if he questioned the ability of the people to express an honest and intelligent choice among the candidates. It is the nation's chief public servant."

Senator Jonathan Bourne, Jr., of Oregon, apostle of direct primaries, progressive among the "popular government" progeny and president of the National Republican Progressive League, wants the national republican committee, when it assumes a committee of the convention next summer to nominate President Taft's successor, to recommend the holding of presidential preference primaries in every state of the Union. "The power of popular selection of candidates for the presidency is the principle in principle because the members of the republican national convention, thus giving every member of the party an opportunity to express his preference for party candidates for President and Vice President."

"This system of direct vote for candidates," he goes on to say, "has already been tried in five states. It has been tried in Oregon in 1910 by the enactment of my presidential preference bill. It has been tried in New Jersey and Wisconsin. Where that law has not been enacted and where state laws do not prevent, a popular primary method of electing candidates for President and Vice President is being introduced by the national committee."

"I urge this action upon you because I believe it is right in principle, expedient as a party measure and beneficial to the industrial welfare of the nation. It is right in principle because the members of the party are entitled to an effective voice in the selection of candidates they are expected to support for election. It is expedient as a party measure, for no party candidate could go before the convention with a stronger argument than that he had been selected by a direct vote of the members of the party. It is expedient as a party measure, for no party candidate could go before the convention with a stronger argument than that he had been selected by a direct vote of the members of the party. It is expedient as a party measure, for no party candidate could go before the convention with a stronger argument than that he had been selected by a direct vote of the members of the party."

Viscount Chinda, now Japanese ambassador to Germany, who, it is reported, will succeed Baron Uchida as ambassador to the United States, is frequently mentioned in the present-day press. He graduated from an American university with the class of '81. The greater part of his career, since his graduation, has been spent in the foreign service of his country, starting as a clerk in the foreign office in 1881. He was then successively consul at San Francisco, consular general at Shanghai, minister plenipotentiary at St. Petersburg. He has held various positions in the Japanese foreign service, and was minister of foreign affairs of Japan, to act as his subordinate, and while Baron Komura was minister of foreign affairs and Peking took charge of the work of the foreign office. He has served as minister at Berlin since 1908, and only recently received his title of viscount.

Names Military Court. Acting Secretary of War Selects Trial Board for Court-Martial. In view of the ineffectiveness of Gen. J. Franklin Bell, commander-in-chief of the 12th Infantry, and First Lieut. George E. Price, 14th Cavalry, now on duty in the Philippines, to name a court-martial to try them, the acting secretary of war, Robert Shaw Oliver, has designated officers to conduct the trial. The nature of the charges is not known at the War Department. The court-martial will consist of Colonels G. K. Humphreys, John S. Swift, Henry C. Gresham and Frederic W. Sibley, Lieut. Col. Charles M. Gandy, Henry I. Raymond, Arthur C. Duca, Almer Pickering, Eben Swift, Henry Ripley, Charles K. Noyes and John H. Beaman. Capt. Edward T. Donnelly of the 12th Infantry will act as judge advocate.

Where Prefixes Are Used Here, Affixes Are Employed in Turkey. NEW YORK, October 12.—An official of the Turkish consulate here, tired of hearing the names of Turkish dignitaries bandied, offers the following advice regarding the building of names according to the Turkish custom: "All American prefixes, such as 'Mr.', 'Governor' and 'Honorable' are few in Turkey, and where there are few in America the Ottoman empire claims a multiplicity of them. Now, this is not a matter of 'Agia', corresponding to the American 'Mr.', and by courtesy the right of every citizen to a title. "Fasha is the highest title within the gift of the Turkish sultan. It is bestowed chiefly upon men who attain distinction in the service of the state. A caliph ranks next to the sultan, being a prince of the royal line, with the added distinction of being 'Mahomet's representative.' Next, in the Turkish religion, is the title of 'Sheikh', or the head of the Mahometan faith. A prince is addressed as 'Imam.' "The word 'Bey' affixed to a Turkish surname signifies that the man is distinguished in service to the state. There is no American equivalent. The term 'Governor' is applied to the man so addressed is the superior to the average man in birth, breeding and education. The word 'Pasha' is applied to the man so addressed is the superior to the average man in birth, breeding and education. The word 'Pasha' is applied to the man so addressed is the superior to the average man in birth, breeding and education. The word 'Pasha' is applied to the man so addressed is the superior to the average man in birth, breeding and education."

Remarkable Tale Of Haunting Monster, Told by Tramp Sailor. "The Specter of Unrest," by D. H. Couzens, will be found in our next Sun-day Magazine. Mr. Couzens has traveled a great deal, having spent years in government work in the South seas and also working through the west with the United States interior revenue service. This is a South sea story, told in the first person. The teller was sitting in his house one sticky, stormy evening, when a tramp sailor appeared, and, after drinking a few high balls, proceeded to draw a picture of a haunting monster, which he called "The Specter of Unrest." The man was a South sea story, told in the first person. The teller was sitting in his house one sticky, stormy evening, when a tramp sailor appeared, and, after drinking a few high balls, proceeded to draw a picture of a haunting monster, which he called "The Specter of Unrest." The man was a South sea story, told in the first person. 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