

terested in the invention, that the reasonable requirements of the public have not been satisfied, by reason of the refusal or neglect of the patentee to work, or to grant licenses to work, the patent, and that the court, if the assertions of the claimant appear to be justified by the facts, shall make an order conferring a license upon the applicant on terms found by the court itself to be just and reasonable.

Reciprocity in patent matters is advised as between Great Britain and other countries prepared to offer similar facilities and protection for the foreign patentee. It would be an excellent reform could a real international reciprocity, based on the best practice of the United States, be arranged to include Germany; which country has illustrated some very objectionable and inequitable patent law methods.

Should the recommendations of the commission be accepted and the British Office be reconstructed as proposed, it will provide as practically satisfactory a system of protection as does that of the United States; changing thus from one of the most useless to one of the best of patent systems of the time. It will be interesting to note whether Great Britain, after all, will ultimately provide a more equitable system in regard to purposely delayed issues and unworked patents—the two main defects and abuses of the existing law of the United States—than our ‘pioneer’ code now offers. It will be most discreditable if our committees of Congress and our Commissioners of Patents do not initiate, and Congress perfect, remedies for these two radical and inexcusable defects in our own patent law.

R. H. THURSTON.

A MINERAL SURVEY IN TEXAS.

THE Legislature of the State of Texas has recently passed an act (House Bill 135), approved by the Governor, March 28, 1901, providing for ‘a mineral survey of the lands belonging to the public schools, university and asylum, or of the State, and to make appropriation therefor, and to provide a penalty for unlawfully disclosing information obtained by such survey; and to loan and authorize the removal to the University of the geological and scientific equipments, collections, specimens and

publications now in charge of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History; and also declaring an emergency.’

By Section 1 the ‘Board of Regents of the University of Texas are authorized and directed, as soon as practicable, to have made a mineral survey of all lands belonging to the public schools, university, asylums, or of the State.’

Section 2 requires that ‘said Board shall employ for that purpose persons skilled, who have had at least five years’ experience, in the science of mineralogy, geology and chemistry, who shall conduct said survey. * * *’

Section 3 relates to the publication annually ‘for free distribution among the people of the State [of] all practical information collected in the prosecution of said survey as it progresses.’ It provides, as a penalty, a fine ‘not exceeding one thousand dollars or two years in jail’ for divulging information concerning the public school, university, asylum or State lands in advance of publication.

In Section 4 provision is made ‘for assays, analyses and other scientific examinations of specimens of mineral substances found in the State, and for the collection and distribution of statistics relating to the mineral production of the State. * * *’ For the assays, etc., a ‘uniform and reasonable charge shall be fixed,’ except at the request of the Governor or Commissioner of the General Land Office the examination of specimens found upon any of the public lands shall be made free of charge.

Section 5 provides for instruction in the University of Texas ‘in practical economic and field geology and mineralogy,’ and for the distribution of duplicate specimens to the A. and M. College.

Section 6 authorizes the removal of the specimens, books, and equipment (brought together by the Dumble Survey) now in charge of the Commissioner of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History, to the University. These materials are ‘loaned to said board, until such time as the State may desire to otherwise use them.’

Section 7 reads as follows: ‘For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the sum of ten thousand dollars per annum for two years, or so much thereof as may be necessary,

is hereby appropriated out of the general revenue of the State; provided that said mineral survey of the State shall be completed within two years."

Section 8 repeals all laws in conflict with the Act, and Section 9 declares an emergency.

It is the intention of the Board of Regents to immediately institute the work of the survey, which will probably be under the direction of Dr. William B. Phillips, who is in charge of economic and field geology in the University.

FREDERIC W. SIMONDS.

SCHOOL OF GEOLOGY,

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, April 6, 1901.

PROPOSED SURVEY OF THE ANTIQUITIES OF MICHIGAN.

THE following bill has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, was reported favorably by the Committee on State Affairs, and is at present referred to the Committee on Ways and Means. An amendment limiting the survey to two years has been made.

The people of the State of Michigan enact:

SECTION 1. That a survey of the antiquities of Michigan be, and the same is hereby established.

SECTION 2. That the survey shall be in charge of a commission comprising the Governor of the State *ex-officio*, the President of the University of Michigan, the President of the Michigan Academy of Sciences, the President of the Pioneer and Historical Society and the President of the Detroit Archeological Society; this commission to serve without compensation, but to be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses.

The commission shall have the power to employ an archeologist and one or more assistants and to make such incidental expenditures as the nature of the work may require. The accounts for salaries and other expenses provided herein shall be paid upon the warrant of the Auditor-General monthly, upon the approval of the Governor. At the end of each fiscal year the commission shall cause to be made an annual report, the copy for which, as soon as completed, shall be forwarded to the clerk of the Board of State Auditors for publication by the State printer, the expense of such publication to

be paid from the general fund of the State upon the allowance of the Board of State Auditors.

SECTION 3. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, exclusive of the cost of publishing the annual reports, there is hereby appropriated from the general fund of the State for the fiscal year ending June thirty, nineteen hundred and two, and each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of two thousand five hundred dollars.

THE DAVENPORT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

THE annual meeting of the Academy was held on January 25th in Davenport, Iowa. The reports for the year were most encouraging.

We learn from Mrs. Mary L. D. Putnam, President of the Academy, that the Academy has purchased the corner property adjoining its present building and converted the church into a most attractive lecture hall; the high basement makes a fine room to relieve the former crowded museum. The two buildings are connected by a spacious and well-lighted passageway which may also be utilized for museum purposes.

The scientific library of 10,800 bound volumes has been completely catalogued exclusive of a large collection of pamphlets. The library has been acquired by the exchange of the proceedings of the Academy with home and foreign scientific societies.

The Academy is one of the oldest of the scientific institutions in the West, and on December 14, 1900, celebrated the 33d anniversary of its founding by the dedication of Science Hall. President MacLean and Professor Nutting of the State University of Iowa made addresses, and Professor Starr, of the University of Chicago, gave a lecture 'Among Mexican Indians.'

It is planned to give free scientific lectures from time to time in this hall.

With its large museum, especially rich in archeology and enlarged by the recent gift of the rare Griswold College Collection, including 2,000 scientific books, and with its valuable property, the Academy is on a permanent basis, needing only an addition to its general endowment fund.

The publication is assured by the Putnam Memorial Fund. The income of this fund of