

## THE PATENT CENTENNIAL.

The Congress of Inventors and Manufacturers of Inventions, to be held in Washington on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of this month, is certain to be a most enthusiastic and numerously attended assemblage, in every way worthy of such an occasion as the celebration of the beginning of the second century of the American patent system. We have been living in a period which has been distinguished by many noble centennial celebrations, from the great world's exposition in 1876, to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, down to the great assembling in New York to mark the corresponding anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution, but it is believed that none of these events have been more memorable, or have been more clearly significant of American progress, than will be the celebration to be held in Washington next week. There will be no disinterested onlookers, but in the large attendance, drawn from the remotest quarters of the country as well as from near-by places, and from workers in every industry and every department of science, there will be a keen appreciation of the dignity and the importance of the occasion.

Besides engaging the largest public hall in Washington for the regular meetings, provision has been made for overflow meetings, and it is expected that a far greater variety of subjects will be presented illustrative of the progress of American invention than the projectors had at first anticipated. The programme arranged by the literature committee has been most favorably regarded by all friends of the movement, and the responses from inventors, specialists, and prominent men in different sections indicate that the literary entertainment provided will be a most attractive one.

So far as at present arranged for, addresses upon the following subjects are promised at the public meetings: Edward Atkinson, Ph.D., LL.D., of Massachusetts.—Invention in its Effects upon Household Economy.

Dr. John S. Billings, Curator, U. S. Army Medical Museum.—American Invention and Discoveries in Medicine, Surgery, and Practical Sanitation.

Hon. Samuel Blatchford, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.—A Century of Patent Law.

Cyrus F. Brackett, M.D., LL.D., of New Jersey, Henry Professor of Physics, College of New Jersey, Princeton.—The Effect of Invention upon the Progress of Electrical Science.

Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, of Ohio, U. S. House of Representatives.—The Effect of our Patent System on the Material Development of the United States.

Octave Chanute, of Illinois, President of the American Society of Civil Engineers.—The Effect of Invention upon the Railroad and other means of Intercommunication.

Professor F. W. Clarke, S.B., of Ohio, Chief Chemist, U. S. Geological Survey.—The Relations of Abstract Scientific Research to Practical Invention, with Special Reference to Chemistry and Physics.

Hon. John W. Daniel, of Virginia, U. S. Senator.—The New South as an Outgrowth of Invention and the American Patent Law.

Major Clarence E. Dutton, Ordnance Department, U. S. A.—The Influence of Invention upon the Implements and Munitions of Modern Warfare.

Thomay Gray, C.E., B.Sc., F.R.S.E., of Indiana, Professor of Dynamic Engineering, Rose Polytechnic Institute, Terre Haute.—The Inventors of the Telegraph and Telephone.

Professor Otis T. Mason, Ph.D., of Virginia, Curator, U. S. National Museum.—The Birth of Invention.

Hon. Charles Eliot Mitchell, of Connecticut, Commissioner of Patents.—The Birth and Growth of the American Patent System.

Hon. O. H. Platt, LL.D., of Connecticut, U. S. Senator.—Invention and Advancement.

Col. F. A. Seely, of Pennsylvania, Principal Examiner, U. S. Patent Office.—International Protection of Industrial Property.

Hon. A. R. Spofford, LL.D., Librarian, U. S. Congress.—The Copyright System of the United States: Its Origin and its Growth.

Hon. Robert S. Taylor, of Indiana.—The Epoch-making Inventions of America.

Robert H. Thurston, A.M., LL.D., Doc. Eng., of New York, Director and Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Sibley College, Cornell University.—The Inventors of the Steam Engine.

William P. Trowbridge, Ph.D., LL.D., of New York, Professor of Engineering, School of Mines, Columbia College.—The Effect of Technological Schools upon the Progress of Invention.

Hon. Edwin Willits, of Michigan, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.—The Relation of Invention to Agriculture.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright, M.A., of Washington, Commissioner of Labor.—The Relation of Invention to Labor.

The names of the originators and principal promoters of this centennial celebration of our patent system are given herewith:

Central Committee.—John W. Babson, Chief of Issue and Gazette Division, United States Patent Office.

Robert W. Fenwick, Brainard H. Warner, President, Columbia National Bank. Professor Otis T. Mason, Curator, United States National Museum. Myron M. Parker, President, Washington Board of Trade. Hon. John Lynch, President, Potomac Terra Cotta Company. Marvin C. Stone, Manufacturer of Novelties. J. Elfreth Watkins, Secretary, Curator, United States National Museum.

Executive Committee.—Hon. John Lynch, Chairman. J. Elfreth Watkins, Secretary. John W. Babson, Marvin C. Stone, George C. Maynard.

In the accompanying illustrations we present portraits of a limited number of the imposing array of lawyers, judges, administrators, legislators, and patent specialists taking part in this centennial celebration, our space being all too small to attempt anything like so full a record as we should like to give.

In such a list we necessarily include the Hon. Samuel Blatchford, a Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who is to deliver an address on "A Century of Patent Law." His decisions in memorable patent cases in the United States Circuit Court, and in other important causes, having during many years always commanded the close attention of all members of the bar, and his promotion to the Supreme Court was generally looked upon as a thoroughly well earned advancement.

The Hon. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior in President Harrison's Cabinet, and thus the direct official head of all our patent business at present, has taken an active part in assisting to make the celebration a thoroughly imposing and representative one. He will personally preside at some of the meetings, and, with other prominent officials, hold receptions especially for inventors and manufacturers and their representatives.

The Commissioner of Patents, Hon. Charles E. Mitchell, of Connecticut, around whose office is centered the great interest of the occasion, is a man of the highest ability, wide influence and exalted character. He is distinguished by his clear judgment, and had previously been a most successful patent lawyer. He has proved himself well qualified for the arduous duties of his office. He is a graduate of Brown University, about fifty-five years of age.

The Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, of Ohio, who is to deliver an address on "The Effect of Our Patent System on the Material Development of the United States," has been so prominently before the public for many years, Commissioner of Patents and as a member of Congress, and a public speaker of great power and influence, that his participation in the celebration will be an important factor. He has been the chairman of the House Committee on Patents, and through many years has worked with energy and discrimination for the protection of the interests of inventors.

Dr. R. H. Thurston, director of Sibley College, Cornell University, who is to speak on "The Inventors of the Steam Engine," has a subject to the elucidation of which he brings a great store of knowledge. His treatment of the matter will be sure to be most instructive and interesting.

The Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor, who is to speak on the "Relation of Labor to Invention," has made a practical study of all phases of the labor question from an economic standpoint, and speaks on such questions with an authority everywhere acknowledged. He first made a science of this department of investigation as the organizer of the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics, and has brought to his present wider field a method and system heretofore unknown.

Dr. John S. Billings, who is to speak on inventions and discoveries in medicine, surgery and practical sanitation, is a United States army surgeon, in charge of the Army Medical Museum. He has an international reputation as a sanitarian, and his recent work on medical bibliography is to-day the leading authority on the subject.

Hon. John W. Daniel, U. S. Senator from Virginia, very appropriately speaks on the New South as an outgrowth of invention and the American patent law. He was born in Lynchburg, Va., in 1842, served in the confederate service during the war, rising from the ranks to a colonelcy, and since the war has become distinguished as a lawyer and orator.

Dr. Cyrus F. Brackett, Henry Professor of Physics in Princeton College, who is to speak on invention as related to the progress of electrical science, is a widely known authority in this field, and, in conjunction with Prof. Anthony, has published a recent book on physics with which many of our readers are probably familiar.

Thomas Gray, of Indiana, who is to speak on telegraph and telephone inventions, is a civil engineer and professor of dynamic engineering in an institute at Terre Haute.

The Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Hon. Edwin Willits, of Michigan, most appropriately has the subject of the relation of invention to agriculture.

Mr. Ainsworth R. Spofford, of the Advisory Committee, is the efficient and accomplished Librarian of Congress, and is from New Hampshire, where he was born in 1825. He became the principal Librarian in 1865, having previously served a term as assistant. Mr.

Spofford has seen the library grow from about seventy-five thousand to nearly half a million volumes, and he has had great influence with successive Congresses in securing legislative action for a proper building for the rapidly accumulating store of books, adequate provision for which has only recently been made, while the plans are but tardily being carried out. He is recognized as a bibliographer of great attainments, and peculiarly fitted for his responsible position.

Mr. J. W. Babson, of the Patent Office, is from Maine, and entered the Interior Department in 1866 as Chief of the Finance Division and Deputy Commissioner of Pensions. He was assigned to the charge of the *Official Gazette* in 1878, and in 1880 was appointed chief of the Issue and Gazette Division, which position he now holds. Of the 54 vols. of the *Official Gazette*, 41 have been published under his direction, and of the 448,000 patents granted by the Patent Office, more than half have been prepared and issued under his charge.

Llewellyn Deane, of Washington, D. C., a member of the Literature Committee, is a native of Maine, and descended from Pilgrim stock. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College, and a lawyer by profession, and makes the patent business a specialty. He was a principal examiner in the U. S. Patent Office for several years. In earlier years he had considerable legislative experience in Maine. He is actively connected with local scientific societies.

John Lynch, the chairman of the Executive Committee, is a native of Portland, Me., and is engaged in commercial business and interested in manufacturing and railroad enterprises. He was elected in 1864 from the first Maine district (now represented by Speaker Reed) to the Thirty-ninth Congress, and re-elected to the four succeeding Congresses, retiring in 1873. As chairman of committee on "The Causes of the Decline of American Shipping," he submitted a report with bills for the revival of American navigation interests which attracted attention not only in this country but in Europe. He was also the author of bills passed January 27, 1873, extending the life-saving service (then confined to the coasts of Massachusetts and New Jersey) along the whole Atlantic, Pacific, and lake coasts of the United States, and connecting same by telegraph with signal service and lighthouses. This is the foundation of the present life-saving service of the United States. Owing a large tract of land near Washington, upon which are beds of terra cotta clay, he established the Potomac Terra Cotta Works, and in connection with this manufacture has made several inventions which have been patented in this country and Europe.

Marvin C. Stone, of the Central Committee, was graduated from Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1872, and began life as a Washington correspondent, representing the New Orleans *Picayune*, the Cleveland *Leader*, and various other journals. Mr. Stone drifted into the manufacturing business, and to-day employs over four hundred operatives, and paying out considerably over one hundred thousand dollars annually in wages alone. He confines himself to the manufacture of novelties of his own invention. He has taken out a large number of patents on the various articles which he manufactures, but he bases his claim as an inventor especially upon the fountain pen with capillary feed.

Robert W. Fenwick, a patent attorney and a member of the Central Committee, was born in Washington in 1832. His uncle, Benjamin Fenwick, was one of the three who composed the Patent Office corps in 1812-16. Mr. Fenwick studied architecture, civil engineering, and mechanical drawing, and was for seven years employed in the patent department of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN at New York, being afterward similarly employed in charge of our branch office in Washington. Since 1861 Mr. Fenwick has followed business as a patent attorney in Washington. He was called to preside as chairman of the meeting at which it was determined that a celebration of the second century of our patent system should be celebrated in 1891. He was authorized by this meeting to appoint a committee to arrange the programme for the celebration.

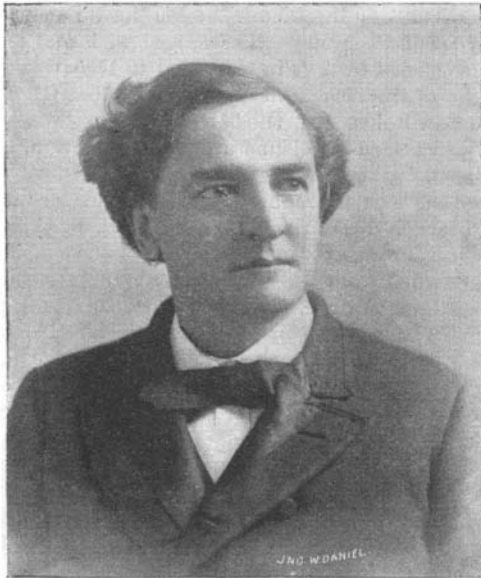
George Brown Goode, of the Advisory Committee, was born in New Albany, Ind., 13th February, 1851. He was graduated at Wesleyan University, in 1870, pursued a short postgraduate course at Cambridge and in 1871 took charge of the organization of the college museum at Middletown. In 1873 received an appointment on the staff of the Smithsonian Institution, and on the organization of the National Museum became its assistant director, and in 1887 assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. The natural history division of the U. S. government at the Philadelphia exhibition in 1876 was under his supervision. He was U. S. commissioner in charge of the American sections at International Fisheries exhibitions in Berlin in 1880 and in London in 1883, and was also member of the government executive board for the New Orleans, Cincinnati, and Louisville expositions in 1884, and of the board of management and control of the World's Columbian exposition of 1893. From 1872 until 1887 he was intimately associated, as a volunteer, with the work of the U. S. Fish Commission. In 1877 he was employed by

the Department of State as statistical expert in connection with the Halifax fisheries commission, and in 1879-80 was in charge of the fisheries division of the tenth census, and in 1887 was appointed U. S. Commissioner of Fisheries, resigning the position early in 1888. He has traveled through Europe for the purpose of studying the methods of administration of the public museums, and has made extensive natural history explorations in the Bermudas and Florida. His published

in the Patent Office in November, 1875, and chief clerk of that office in April, 1877. He held the latter office until June, 1880, when he was appointed principal examiner, and put in charge of the classes of invention which had heretofore formed the philosophical division, except electricity, which was made to constitute a separate division. To the new division was added trade marks, which had heretofore constituted a division by itself. Colonel Seely's division has re-

International Conference at Madrid. Colonel Seely was for many years Secretary of the Anthropological Society of Washington, and is at present one of the editing committee of its quarterly publication, the *American Anthropologist*. He has given much time to the study of the philosophy of invention, on which he has published several papers.

George C. Maynard, of the Advisory Committee, is a native of Ann Arbor, Michigan. He was educated in



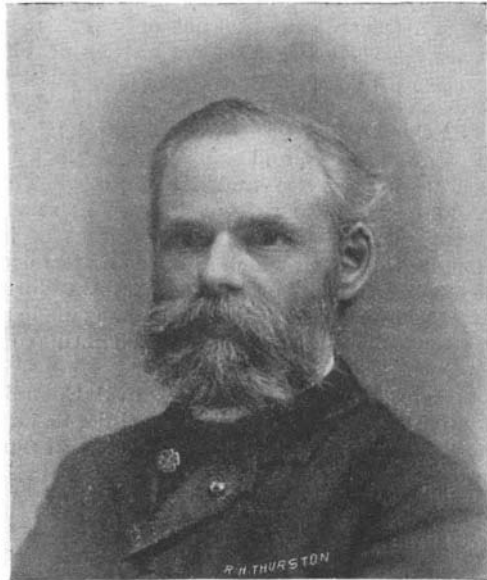
HON. JOHN W. DANIEL, OF VIRGINIA,  
U. S. SENATOR.



HON. EDWIN WILLITS ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF AGRICULTURE.



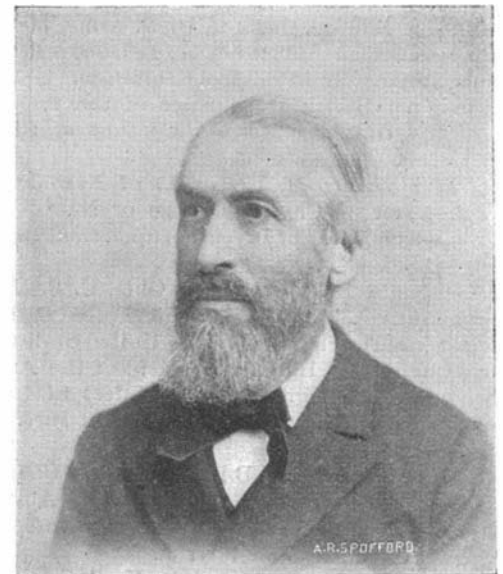
HON. SAMUEL BLATCHFORD, JUSTICE U. S.  
SUPREME COURT.



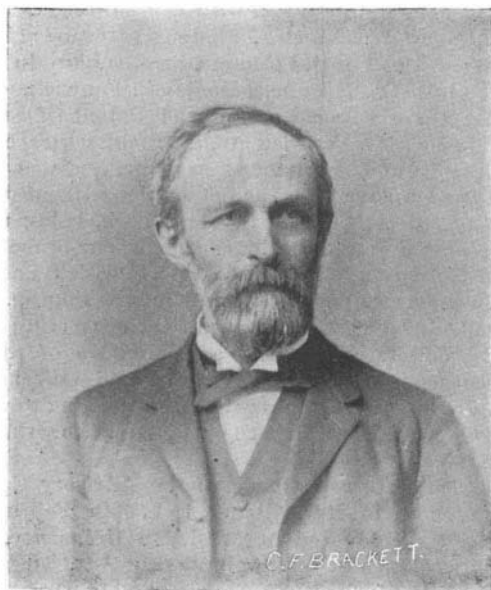
PROF. R. H. THURSTON DIRECTOR SIBLEY  
COLLEGE, CORNELL UNIVERSITY.



THOMAS GRAY PROFESSOR ROSE POLYTECHNIC  
INSTITUTE, TERRE HAUTE.



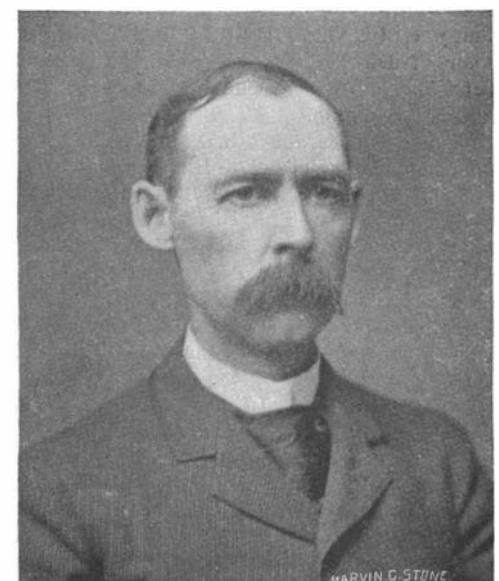
HON. A. R. SPOFFORD LIBRARIAN OF  
CONGRESS.



CYRUS F. BRACKETT LL.D. M.D. PROFESSOR  
OF PHYSICS, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.



HON. JOHN LYNCH MEMBER CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE.



MARVIN C. STONE MEMBER CENTRAL  
COMMITTEE.

#### THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM.

papers are numerous, and include, besides several books, about 200 minor titles on topics in ichthyology, museum administration, and fishery economy and American history.

Franklin A. Seely, of Pennsylvania, of the Advisory Committee, was born in 1834, graduated at Yale College in 1855, served in the Federal army during war of the rebellion as assistant quartermaster of volunteers, and was discharged in 1867 with the brevet rank of lieutenant colonel. He was appointed assistant examiner

remained substantially the same ever since. When the United States became a member of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property, the work of reviewing the Convention of Paris of 1883 was assigned to Examiner Seely, and his interpretations of that instrument have been accepted here and abroad as correct. Since then he has had charge in the Patent Office of all questions arising under the convention, and growing out of international relations, and a year ago was a delegate from the United States to the

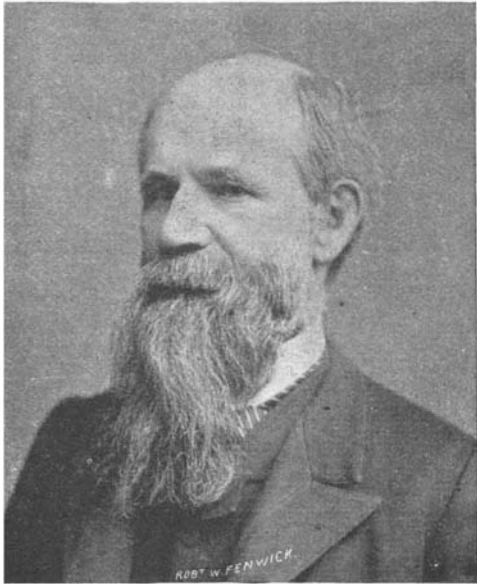
the public schools of that State and studied physics with the late Professor James C. Watson, Director of the Michigan Observatory. Commenced telegraphing at the age of fifteen and has been engaged in electrical work ever since. During the war he entered the Military Telegraph Corps, and after the close of the war was chief operator in the Western Union Telegraph office for several years. He organized the telegraph system of the weather bureau, and, after two years' service in the signal office, resigned to engage in

private business as an electrical engineer, in which he has continued until this time. He has been an extensive builder of telegraph lines, organized, and, for five years, managed the telephone business in Washington, and has been connected with many electrical enterprises. He is a member of the American and English Institutes of Electrical Engineers, president of the "Old Timers" telegraph society and the Washington editor of the *Electrical Review*.

General, and assigned to the Interior Department. In 1881, he was appointed, by President Arthur, Commissioner of Railroads, holding this position with the Assistant Attorney-Generalship. In May, 1885, he resigned from public service, since which time he has been practicing his profession in the city of Washington. He has been president of the Cosmos Club, of Washington, and is a member of several learned societies and social organizations.

laws. Mr. Britton is president of the American Security and Trust Company and vice-president of the Columbia National Bank.

James T. Du Bois was born at Hallstead Pennsylvania, in 1851. He graduated at the Ithaca Academy in 1871. President Hayes appointed him consul to Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, in 1877. He was transferred to the consulate at Callao, Peru, in 1883, and to the consulate at Leipsic during the same year. In 1889 Mr.



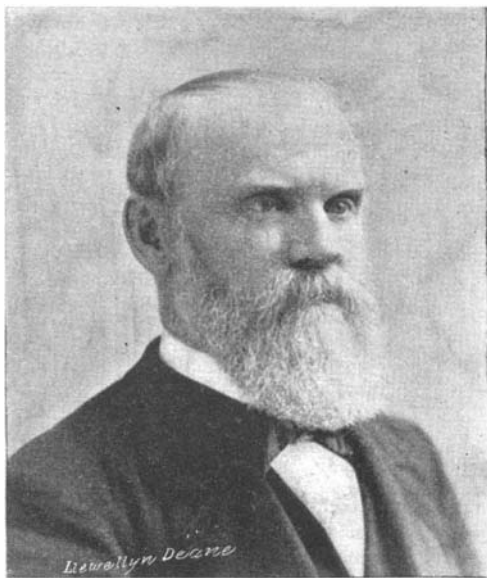
ROBERT W. FENWICK MEMBER CENTRAL COMMITTEE.



DR. G. B. GOODE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.



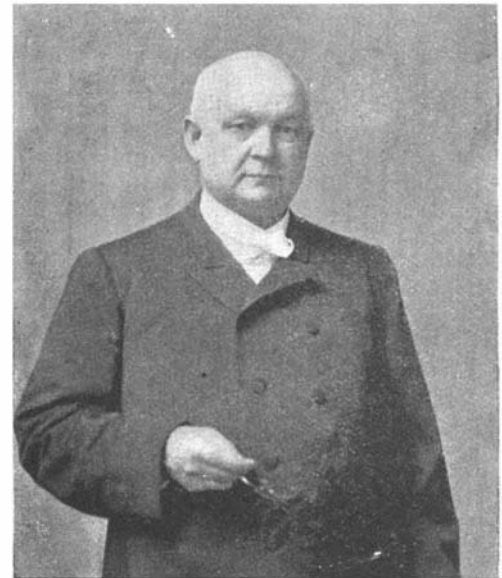
J. ELFRETH WATKINS, CURATOR U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM.



LLEWELLYN DEANE.



GEORGE C. MAYNARD MEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.



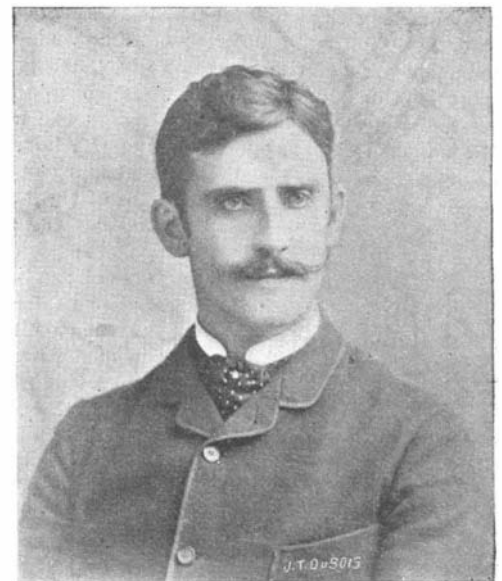
J. M. TONER M.D.



J. K. McCAMMON.



COL. A. T. BRITTON PRESIDENT AMERICAN SECURITY AND TRUST CO.



J. T. DU BOIS.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE AMERICAN PATENT SYSTEM.

Hon. Joseph K. McCammon, chairman of the Finance Committee, was born in Philadelphia, October 13, 1845. He graduated, in 1865, from the College of New Jersey, at Princeton. In 1868 he was admitted to the bar in Philadelphia; in 1870, appointed register in bankruptcy; and in 1871, special counsel for the United States before the Court of Claims, having special charge of suits in which the Pacific and other railroads were engaged in litigation with the government. In 1880, he was appointed Assistant Attorney

Alexander T. Britton, of the Advisory Committee, was born in New York City in 1835. He studied law in the office of James T. Brady, and subsequently went to college and graduated at Brown University. He has built up a large law business in Washington under the firm name of Britton & Gray, and in the department of railroad and corporation law has acquired an extended reputation. He was appointed by President Hayes a member of the Public Land Commission, and in that capacity revised and codified the public land

Du Bois established the *Inventive Age* at Washington, D. C. He has been an earnest promoter of the patent centennial celebration.

J. Elfreth Watkins, of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, has been the efficient secretary of the organization committee, and taken upon himself a large amount of the necessary detail work.

Dr. J. M. Toner, of Washington, a member of the advisory committee, has also been an active and efficient promoter of the movement for this celebration.