

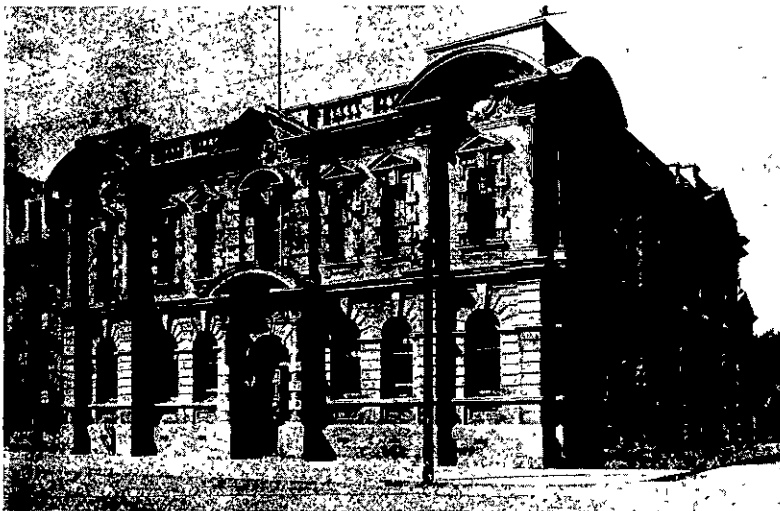
THE PATENT OFFICE.

WITH a fine library of technical literature (patents) stowed conveniently for reference of the promptest order, and a hall open to the public at all business hours for the use of the same, the Patent Office is hardly as well known to the public of this State as it deserves to be. To the inventor, the institution offers two advantages—protection for his invention, and information enabling him infallibly to avoid repetitions and errors, on the one hand, and on the other, to guide himself on the road towards perfection. Situated on the first

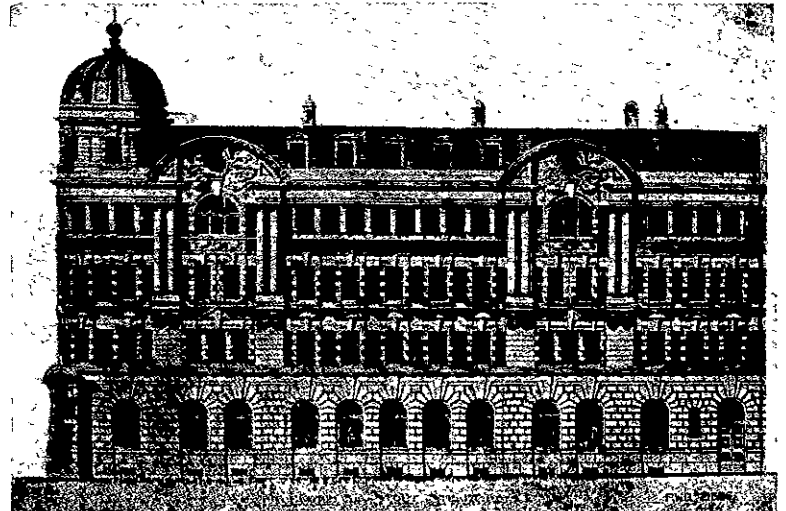
The revenue of the office for the year 1890 was £1900; for the year 1905, £4,000, and the estimate for the present year is £5,750.

The aim of the office has been to place every facility in the way of those who wish to avail themselves of the benefits of the Act. Local Patent Offices for the reception of applications for patents are established at the principal towns; and forms of information, with printed sheet of particulars concerning the fees and procedure, are obtainable at these offices, as well as at all Money Order Offices throughout the colony. A Patent Office Supplement to the Gazette, published fortnightly at an annual subscription of 10/-,

Dunedin. The Office is in the Justice Department. Sir James Prendergast, when he was Attorney-General, was appointed the first "Patent Officer," and when he became Chief Justice, in 1875, Mr. W. S. Reid succeeded him as Patent Officer, resigning shortly afterwards. From the first the clerical duties of the office had been performed by Mr. C. J. Haselden, who, on the resignation of Mr. Reid, was duly appointed to the vacancy. He held the position until his retirement from the service in 1896. Mr. Waldegrave who succeeded Mr. Haselden in the post of Under-secretary for Justice, also succeeded to the Registrarship of Patents. The present



MAGISTRATES COURT WELLINGTON. PATENT OFFICE ON FIRST FLOOR FRONT.



PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE, WELLINGTON IN COURSE OF ERECTION, TO COST £40,000.

floor of the Magistrates' Court in Lambton Quay, the institution will well repay a visit as one of the most remarkable and useful established by the State. It was first housed in the Government buildings; it passed on to the Government Printing Office; its presence in the present quarters is probably but temporary. The Patent Office was constituted by the Patents Act, 1860, and commenced operations on the first of January of the year following. The progress of the office under that Act, and also under the Act of 1870, was slow, but applications for patents increased in number under the Act of 1883, which reduced the fees and simplified the procedure. The growth was further accelerated by the "Patents Designs and Trade Marks Act, 1889," which brought the law on these subjects in New Zealand into line with the legislation of the United Kingdom. The greater facilities under this Act quickly found favour with the inventors of the colony, and the rapid increase of the applications has since been very marked. In 1865 one application was received; in 1875 the number crawled up to 16; in 1885 it swelled to 240; in 1895 it leaped to 816; in 1895 it rushed up to 1601; and it is estimated that the applications for the current year will exceed 1800.

The act of 1889 also provided for the registration of useful and ornamental designs; a form of protection which has, however, so far not found favour, only 321 being registered to date. In England, 23,000 designs were registered in the year 1905. It is a big contrast.

Trade Marks, formerly under the control of the Colonial Secretary's Department, were placed under the Patent Office by the Act of 1889. Up to that time 1222 marks had been registered, but as the result of lower fees and increase of trade, the number registered annually has since greatly increased. In 1895 the number registered was 254, in 1905 it was 607, and the estimate for the present year is 682.

contains particulars of applications for patents, illustrated abridgments of inventions, and full copies of specifications and drawings are supplied at a nominal cost. To enable inventors to ascertain whether their inventions have been already patented, specifications and drawings of the patents in the Colony, as well as in the United Kingdom and in the United States of America, can be seen at the Patent Office Library; while illustrated abridgments of inventions of the United Kingdom may also be inspected at Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington and

Registrar is Mr. Lewis, who was appointed a few weeks ago, on the resignation of Mr. Waldegrave.

Of all these various Patent Officers, Mr. Haselden is the one of whom it may be said that he was of the office "Magna Pars." It was he who by a system of judicious, but strictly official advertising, such as making full annual reports to parliament, sticking up posters in all Court Houses, and Post Offices, and other ways, first got the public to learn the advantages of obtaining patents in the colony for inventions. He also induced the



LIBRARY OF THE PATENT OFFICE.