

Contents



PREFACE	ix
1. INTRODUCTION	3
Patents and the Pace of Industrial Development	5
What Type of Approach Is Promising?	7
How the Historical Record Has Sometimes Been Summarized	9
The Approach To Be Tried in This Study	14
 PART I. THE NETHERLANDS, 1869-1912	
2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	19
The Old Patent Law	19
Peculiarities of the Situation between 1869 and 1912	21
3. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS, 1870-1914	25
Controversial Evaluation	25
A Few Statistical Indicators	29
What of the Patent Situation?	34
Geography, Commercialism, Traditionalism	35
The Patent Situation Again	39
4. INVENTIVE ACTIVITY BEFORE AND AFTER 1912	42
Outlining the Approach	42
Some Preliminary Observations	43
Applications or Grants?	45
The Evidence	46
A Tentative Conclusion	51
5. TWO DUTCH INDUSTRIES DURING THE PATENTLESS PERIOD	52
Margarine	52
Historical Background	53

CONTENTS

The Infant Industry and the Patent Situation	53
Rapid Expansion, Some Secrecy, But Steady Technological Progress	56
Incandescent Lamps	58
Two Patent Situations Compared	59
The Other Side	63
Concluding Remarks on the Two Industries	67
6. DISCUSSIONS PRECEDING THE REINTRODUCTION OF A PATENT SYSTEM	69
The Debate	69
General Characteristics	69
Groups Participating	71
Is Imitation As Such Unethical?	73
Imitation and National Pride	75
"Group Invention"—An Issue Two Generations Old	76
The Argument That Finally Proved Decisive	77
PART II. SWITZERLAND, 1850-1907	
7. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	85
Constitutional Difficulties	85
The Controversy of the 1880s	87
"Moral" and Political Pressures	88
The Patent Issue and Industrial Progress	91
From 1888 to 1907	93
8. INDUSTRIALIZATION IN SWITZERLAND DURING THE PATENTLESS ERA	96
Natural Conditions	96
A Glance at Some Industries	98
What of the Patent Situation?	101
Development of Industry <i>Retarded</i> by Absence of Patent Law?	102
Development of Industry <i>Helped</i> by Absence of Patent Law?	104
9. INVENTIONS AND THE PATENT PROBLEM	107
Inventive Activity in Switzerland During the Patentless Period	107
Great Swiss Inventions: Producers' Goods	108

CONTENTS

Great Swiss Inventions: Consumers' Goods	110
The Impact of the Legislative Change of 1907	112
Limitations of Data	113
Swiss Patent Activity Before and After 1907	114
The Evidence with Respect to Inventions	117
10. CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS	121
Industrial Progress in the Absence of a National Patent System	122
Patents and Inventive Activity	123
Unilateral No-Patents Policy and "Rules of the Game"	124
APPENDIX	127
INDEX	131