DECISIONS OF THE COURTS.

United States Circuit Court---Southern District of New York.

WHEEL STAMP PATENT.—THOMAS J. W. ROBERTSON VS. THE SECOMBE MANUFACTURING COMPANY.

BLATCHFORD, Judge.

This suit is brought on reissued letters patent granted to the plaintiff, December 12, 1871, for an "improvement in hand stamps," the original letters patent having been granted to the plaintiff September 22d, 1857, and extended for seven years from September 22d, 1871. The reissued letters patent are granted for twenty-one years from the 22d of September, 1857. The specification says: "My invention relates to the construction of stamps for producing an impression such as a postmark or other analogous device, a part of which requires to be frequently changed, such as the date, and part requires to remain the same, as the name of the post office. In order to give such stamps any considerable utility, the impression must be readily made and that part of the type which requires frequent change must be always on hand. This result I secure by combining in a hand stamp fixed type for producing that part of the inscription designed to be always the same, and a series of combined changeable types bearing the necessary characters to allow of any desired change, which shall be connected with and form part of the stamp. These types are connected and arranged to revolve in substantially the same manner as the combined types used in book-paging machines, but differing therefrom in having an arrangement by which the devised inscription may be printed repeatedly, without changing at each impression." The invention covers nearly all the wheel stamps now so commonly used in banks, counting rooms, and offices, and has come into very extensive use.

The principal defence set up in this case is that the improvements claimed by the plaintiff in his reissued patent were previously invented by one Marcus P. Norton, of Troy, N. Y. So far as regards the contents of a caveat filed in the Patent Office by said Norton on the 21st of June, 1855, it is sufficient to say that the improvements claimed by the plaintiff are not found on the caveat. So far as regards the contents of the paper called "an additional caveat" and purporting to be dated August 21, 1855, and set up in the answer as having been filed in the Patent Office on the 25th of August, 1855, in, and with, and as a part of the said caveat filed June 21, 1855, it is sufficient to say that, after due notice to said Norton and a trial had before a commissioner appointed by the Commissioner of Patents, the said paper was, in September, 1871, adjudged by the said commissioner to be fraudulent and to have been surreptitiously introduced into the caveat file of said Norton filed June 21, 1855, and that thereupon the Commissioner of Patents endorsed on said paper a memorandum signed by him, that said paper does not form a valid portion of said caveat.

There remains the evidence as to the prior existence, in fact, as completed inventions, made by Norton, of the plaintiff's improvements. As to this the burden of proof is on the defendants, and they do not establish the fact satisfactorily. Norton's own evidence is manifestly not to be relied upon. The circumstances attending the taking of his deposition in this suit, the contradictions in sworn statements he has made at different times regarding the alleged caveat, and the manner in which, as shown by the record, he caused witnesses to testify in *ex parte* depositions, to matters of which they had no recollection, make it impossible to rely on his testimony.

But the evidence of Norton and that of the other witnesses for the defendents shows nothing done by Norton, prior to the plaintiff's invention, which amounted to more than an unsuccessful experiment. The plaintiff made the first successful practical working machine.

The infringement of the patent is admitted. There must be a decree for the plaintiff, for a perpetual injunction, and an account of profits, and an ascertainment of damages and costs.

Frederick H. Betts for plaintiff.

Nelson Cross for the defendants.

[We understand that the Chamberlain Manufacturing Company, No. 10 Courtlandt street, New York, and N. L. Chamberlain, Boston, Mass., have purchased the exclusive privilege of working this patent, to whom application should be made for further information.

Inventions Patented in England by Americans.

[Compiled from the Commissioners of Patents' Journal.]

From February 21 to February 27, 1873, inclusive.

CHEMICAL TELEGRAPH.—T. A. Edison, Newark, N. J.

JOURNAL BOX.—S. W. Wilson, Philadelphia, Pa.

LOCOMOTIVE BLAST.—C. B. Knowles, J. E. Saunders, Nashville, Tenn.

PERCUSSION CAP, ETC., MACHINE.—A. Payne, Bridgeport, Conn.

PRODUCING COMMUSTION.—B. F. McCarty, F. F. Olds, F. H. Mason, Cleveland, Ohio.

TYPE WRITING MACHINE.—E. Densmore, Meadville, Pa., C. H. Farnham, Milton, N. Y.

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ALMANAC FOR 1873 is an invaluable condensation of the newest and best things in the beautiful art. It contains 160 pages, full of useful suggestions and fresh information which every photographer ought to possess. London: H. Greenwood. New York: Milner & Rogers.

HOW SHALL I INTRODUCE MY INVENTION?

This inquiry comes to us from all over the land. Our answer is: Adopt such means as every good business man uses in selling his merchandise, or in establishing any business. Make your invention known, and if it possesses any merit, somebody will want it. Advertise what you have for sale in such papers as circulate among the largest class of persons likely to be interested in the article. Send illustrated circulars describing the merits of the machine or implement to manufacturers and dealers in the special article, all over the country. The names and addresses of persons in different trades may be obtained from State directories or commercial registers. If the invention is meritorious, and if with its utility it possesses novelty and is attractive to the eye, so much the more likely it is to find a purchaser. Inventors, patentees, and constructors of new and useful machines, implements, and contrivances of novelty, can have their inventions illustrated and described in the columns of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. Civil and mechanical engineering enterprises, such as bridges, docks, founderies, rolling mills, architecture, and new industrial enterprises of all kinds possessing interest can find a place in these columns. The publishers are prepared to execute illustrations, in the best style of the engraving art, for this paper only. They may be copied from good photographs or well executed drawings, and artists will be sent to any part of the country to make the necessary sketches. The furnishing of photographs, drawings, or models is the least expensive, and we recommend that course as preferable. The examination of either enables us to determine if it is a subject we would like to publish, and to state the cost of its engraving in advance of its execution so that parties may decline the conditions without incurring much expense. The advantage to manufacturers, patentees and contractors of having their machines, inventions, or engineering works illustrated in a paper of such large circulation as the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN is obvious. Every issue now exceeds 45,000 and will soon reach 50,000, and the extent of its circulation is limited by no boundary. There is not a country or a large city on the face of the globe where the paper does not circulate. We have the best authority for stating that some of the largest orders for machinery and patented articles from abroad have come to our manufacturers through the medium of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, the parties ordering having seen the article illustrated or advertised in these columns. Address

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Recent American and Foreign Patents.

Improved Spindle Bolster.

James Barnes, Holyoke, Mass., assignor to himself and James Woodhouse, of same place.—This invention consists of a long tubular cup with a hole in the bottom, in which the spindle is fitted oil tight. A metal cap is arranged in the bolster rail, within which the upper end of the cup, which turns with the spindle, has a bearing. The cap has a tubular extension from the hole through which the spindle passes, fitting into the cup at the top.

Improved Machine for Planing Clapboards.

James Atkins, Augusta, Me.—This improvement relates to that class of machines which plane the side of the clapboard and joint the thick edge at the same time, and has for its object the feeding of the boards so that the jointing of the edge straight will be secured, and the feeding of the board and planing of the surface in the most perfect manner will be insured. It consists in an arrangement of heavy feed rolls geared together in pairs, as in ordinary surface planers, but with a series of spurs on each lower roll of the pair, and an adjustable arrangement of the lower rolls for causing them to correspond exactly to the inclined surface of the bed of the machine, whereby the said objects are secured.

Improvement in Stereotype Blocks.

Wm. Schnauffer, Baltimore, Md.—This invention consists in divided stereotype plate blocks, each division having a pair of supports so as to enable all to be capable of being used separately or in connection with each other.

Improved Burglar Alarm.

Henry L. Brower, New York city.—This invention consists of a small, light, portable, and ornamental alarm or call bell, so contrived that the devices for restraining or holding the clock mechanism (used for actuating the bell hammer) in check will be caused to release the said mechanism and allow it to act, if the alarm be lifted from the table or other support, or if a knob be lifted or pulled, or turned to the right or left. It may be used for a burglar alarm by attaching small threads or cords to the knob, and arranging said threads so that the opening of a window or door, or the passing through an open door or window by a person will, by his coming against the cords or threads, pull the knob or turn it, and thereby set the alarm in motion; also, for a fire alarm by having weights or springs, let go by the burning of the threads to pull or turn the knob and liberate the sounding mechanism.

Improved Tool for Laying Tile.

George W. Nevill, Richmond, Va.—This invention consists in a tool formed of two adjustably connected tubes on which the tiles are held firmly while being carried into the ditch, and from which they may be then readily detached. The advantages of this tool are that the operator is enabled to lay the sectional tiles by means of a level, or otherwise, at a regular and more uniform pitch; to lay a line of tiles with much greater accuracy, with far greater rapidity and with an economy of at least 50 per cent in the cost.

Improved Sewing Machine Table.

James W. Cheney, Detroit, Mich.—This invention has for its object to furnish a simple and effective method of connecting the cover of a sewing machine table to the edge of the same for forming an extension thereof when not used as a cover for the operative mechanism. The invention consists primarily in the employment of a hooked or curved plate applied to the under side of the cover and interlocking with a slotted plate secured to the edge of the table for forming a detachable fastening device which will cause the cover and table to be flush or even with each other when arranged in position. The invention also consists in the provision of a hinged supporting arm applied to a pendent bracket secured to the table, for maintaining the cover in its proper position when used as an extension leaf. The invention also consists in combining with the hinged supporting arm and bracket a pair of spring jaws for securing the hinged arm when it is turned into a vertical or inoperative position.

Improved Railroad Train Indicator.

Samuel W. Hemenway, Lansing, Iowa.—This invention consists of one or more miniature ways constructed on a scale proportioned to the real railway as to the stations and distances between them, with the time of starting from the end and the time the trains are due at the stations marked opposite them; also blocks representing cars and a screw, with each way, for actuating them. The screw is worked by a clock, so that a block being put on the track at the time for the starting of a real train will show to the eye the position of the train on the railway at any time during the trip.

Improved Plow.

James R. Nichols, Bastrop, Texas.—The invention consists in a plow cutter having a bend at one end, sharpened at the other and perforated at different points, to adapt it to be used with a sweep or plow.

Improved Candlestick.

Charles H. Doughty, Newburgh, N. Y.—This invention consists of an open socket for the candle formed by the vertical edges of four thin plates radiating from a common center, but sufficiently distant from the center that in pressing the candle down between them, they will cut or press into the sides and hold it fast. Three or more of the plates may be used. At the bottom of the socket the said plates extend to the center. The object is to provide a candlestick which cannot fill up in the socket by melted tallow or wax, and by which the lifting of a pusher to expose the light is avoided when the candle is nearly burned to the bottom.

Improved Paint Brush.

Philip Wagner, New York city.—This invention relates to a new extension brush case. The top or bridge of the brush holder, which is usually soldered flat upon the upper edge of the face plates, is, in this invention, provided with side flanges. The bridge thus made is sprung over the top of the case and fastened by solder, and will then and by the aid of its flanges be held firm and secure. The lower part of the case is made movable up and down, and can be fastened by a screw at suitable hight. This slide or sleeve is made of metal or other hard material, and will, when set down, shorten the working part of the hairs, or lengthen them when moved up. The paint or varnish will be arrested by the lower edge of the extension, and cannot enter within such extension. For thicker varnish or paint the sleeve is moved down; for thinner material it is set up, and also when the hairs are worn short.

Improved Grain Binding Harvester.

Charles F. Goddard, St. Ansgar, Iowa.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved harvester, which shall be so constructed as to cut the grain, rake it into gavels, and bind it. In using the machine one end of the straw band is attached to an arm. The other end of the band is passed around a hook and secured in the spring jaw in the end of the short arm of a crosshead, placing the band being all the attendant has to do. As the rake moves forward it pushes the gavel over the arm and raises said arm into a vertical position. As the rake head rises and moves back a lever is operated, which turns the crosshead around one and a half times, twisting the band. As the crosshead completes its movement its long arm strikes and pushes back the hook, which catches the end of the band and draws it through said band. At the same time the spring jaws of the crossheads strike against stops, which open said jaws and release the bands, and the bound bundle drops to the ground. As this operation is completed the lever slips from a pin and the spring draws it back, which turns the binding device back into its former position ready to receive another band.

Improved Sulky Plow.

William Ough, Orion, Ill.—This invention consists in means for raising, lowering, and holding the frame which sustains the plows, and thereby graduating the depth of furrow which is to be cut by the latter. The device can thus be used in almost every kind of soil. By connecting both ends of the plow beam with the lever, it is raised and lowered in a level position, or nearly so, moving the plow up and down, which is much easier than drawing it diagonally through the soil, as is usually done.

Improved Butter Bucket.

John F. Dumont, Kansas City, Mo.—This invention consists in forming an air tight butter bucket in three easily detachable parts so that it can be speedily subdivided and all portions thereof nicely and thoroughly cleaned, also in the particular mode of clamping these three parts together and of locking and unlocking them.

Improved Ditching Machine.

George W. Nevill, Richmond, Va.—This invention consists in means for enabling the vehicle to turn in a small circle at the end of ditch, or when it becomes necessary, and after cutting one layer of earth to return and cut another; also in means for enabling the flanged soil-carrying wheel to adjust itself both laterally and vertically in an easy and non-frictional manner to the inside of ditch; and finally, in means for supporting the ditching wheel frame in its true position while the front axle may move independently of it, and *vice versa*.

Improved Substitute for India Rubber.

Dr. Elbert H. Rogers, Tuscaloosa, Ala.—This invention consists in the process of obtaining rubber pulp from bamboo and other berries by first expressing the juice, secondly, drying the hull, pulp, and seed in a mass, thirdly, disintegrating said pulp, hull, and seed by trituration, and finally separating the pulp therefrom by a fan.

Improved Furnace for Melting Brass and other Metals.

Ira D. Bush, Detroit, Mich.—This invention consists of a rotating grate frame, constructed and arranged in a furnace. The furnace is supported in the frame on trunnions. The improved grate frame or plate is confined to the under side of the furnace bottom on a central pivot and pin. There are three, more or less, air ports in the bottom of the furnace one for each space or compartment in the furnace between the partitions. Each of these apertures is provided with a removable grate, either attached to or cast with the rotating grate plate or frame. By turning the plate the grates are readily removed from the air ports, which allows cinders and refuse to be discharged during the process of melting.

Improved Railway Dust Preventer.

John Wellby, Frederickton, Canada.—This invention consists in a dust shield for cars, carriages, and other vehicles. It is a frame made with close triangular ends, which is designed to be secured to the lower part of the car body, and which should project downward so as to be as close to the ground as practicable. To the upper parts of the ends of the frame are pivoted the journals of a roller, to which is attached one edge of a canvas screen, the lower edge of which, when unrolled, is designed to be secured to the lower bar of the frame, so that by detaching the lower edge of the screen or blind it may be rolled upon the roller to give convenient access to the wheels when desired. The end screens consist of a frame covered permanently with a cover of wood or thin sheet iron, and should project so that the end screens of adjacent cars may come as near each other as practicable without danger of being broken.

Improved Bread Worker.

Joseph H. Balderston, Colora, Md.—This invention has for its object to furnish a machine for working or kneading bread. In using the machine the bread, mixed to the proper consistency for working or kneading, is placed in the closed end of a box. The lever is then moved up and down and actuates arms to the ends of which balls are fastened. The effect of this is to cause the dough to revolve toward said balls, so that by continuing the operation a short time the dough will be thoroughly worked.

Improved Apparatus for Loading and Unloading Hay.

George W. Long, Delaware Center, Iowa.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved device for unloading hay, corn in the ear, etc.; it is simple in construction and is said to be effective in use. The invention consists in the combination of the sling, the ropes attached to it, the block, crank shaft, lock and trip latch and trip rope with each other. Two timbers of a length about equal to the length of the hay rack are connected by a number of small ropes of such a length that when extended across the hay rack the timbers may hang down at its sides. To one of the timbers is suitably attached the end of a rope, the other end of which is left free. To the other timber, at equal distances from its center, are attached the ends of another rope, upon the center of which is formed a loop or eye to receive a hook attached to the pulley upon the hoisting rope. The same rope passes through holes in the sides of a block in the middle part of which is formed a large hole or opening, across which extends a shaft to one end of which is attached a crank. A catch and lever is arranged to hold the crank in any desired position. In using the device, a sling is extended upon the wagon rack, the load is built upon it, and the loaded wagon is drawn upon the barn floor, to the side of the stack, or to any other place where the load is to be unloaded. The end of the rope first mentioned is then attached to the shaft on the block to wind the rope upon the shaft. When the sling has been drawn sufficiently tight about the load the latch is adjusted to catch upon the crank to lock it, and the hoisting rope is drawn upon to raise the load and carry it to the desired place. When the load is brought over the place where it is to be deposited, the trip rope is drawn upon to withdraw the latch and release the crank and shaft, allowing the rope to unwind and the load to drop.

Improved Awning.

John Boyle, New York city.—The invention consists in the mode applying tension rods to awnings. To the ends of the main rod are attached the sockets or couplings to which the brackets are fastened. To the sockets are attached, or upon them are formed, two eyes. Two strengthening or straining rods, which are passed through the eyes, are drawn taut by nuts screwed upon one or both their ends. Bridges are used, according to the length of the rod, and are made with two arms, through the outer ends of which are formed holes for the passage of the straining rods. The eyes and bridges are so arranged that one of the rods may be below the main rod to resist the downward pressure, and the other upon the inner side of said rod to resist the inward pressure.

Improved Bed Bottom.

Benjamin Holmes, 95 Grand Street, New York city.—This invention relates to the construction of spring bed bottoms. Double conical springs are attached by straps to the slats of the frame. Each spring has two fastenings, one on each side of the slat. By making the slats of the proper width and arranging the springs upon either side, the requisite number of springs is distributed uniformly and so that each may bear its proper proportion of the weight. The springs are held at top and bottom by twine or cord, arranged in the usual manner, with a border band of rattan or wire surrounding them and forming the boundary of the bottom. The bottom is incased in strong cloth with cotton batting in the sides.

Improved Oscillating Chair.

William T. Doremus, 266 Canal Street, New York city.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved chair, which shall be so constructed as to yield to the weight of the sitter as he sits down and leans back, thus relieving him from encountering the rigid resistance found in sitting upon an ordinary chair. Bars are placed at either side of the chair, the upper ends of which are pivoted to the chair seat by a pin passing through the said bar and into the said seat. The lower part of each bar passes down through the pedestal and has a nut screwed upon its lower end. Rubber springs are placed between the back parts of the pedestal and seat. By this construction, when a person sits down upon the chair his weight compresses the springs, and at the same time slightly inclines the chair seat to the rear ward which inclination may be increased by leaning back heavily against the chair back. The front part of the pedestal is provided with a stop to receive the forward part of the seat when said seat is allowed to come into its ordinary position.

Improved Oil Still.

Emil Schalk, New York city.—The retort or still, in which the oil is to be heated, has a large passage through it from side to side between the bottom and top, so that a chamber is preserved below and another above, also spaces at the sides for the oil to be distilled; through this passage are arranged vertical tubes as close together as will best promote the direct application of the heat which passes through the still to the oil, which circulates through the tubes, and not obstruct the draft. The oil enters the lower chamber at the pipe where the heat is lowest and the residue escapes from the upper chamber where the heat is greatest. The tubes, being vertical and having a large chamber below, will not be obstructed by the accumulation of impurities.

Improved Torpedo.

Charles Nelson, East New York, N. Y.—This invention consists of a torpedo in which the fulminate is separated from the powder, gravel, and other filling, and inclosed in a paper sack and fixed on the center of the paper wrapper. It is thus placed at the bottom part of the completed torpedo. It is either inclosed in one wrapper, or in a package of two or more plies of strong paper. The fulminate is placed at the bottom, and the whole, including an exterior thin fancy colored paper, is folded over the powder and secured by twisting together and gumming the twisted parts. The object is to guard against explosion by concussion of the sides of the torpedo, and to provide a wrapper or case that will not break open easily when subject to concussion, as the torpedoes now made do to such extent that if one in a mass or package explodes the whole will be fired.

Improved Sofa Bedstead.

James K. Stockton, New York city.—This invention relates to a new sofa bed, and has for its object to permit the use of short frames and cushions for such purpose. The seat of the sofa, having projecting pins or trunnions, is pivoted thereby to the frame so that it can be entirely revolved. To the front of the seat is hinged a cushioned frame of similar extent, which in the sofa is folded under the seat. To the back of the cushioned frame is hinged the sofa back, which is cushioned on both sides. A plate of wood is placed into the back of the sofa, projecting outwardly and forming a recess for the admission of the cushion. When the sofa is to be transformed into a bed, the back is carried forward, the seat completely revolved on its pivots and the cushion thereby brought forward of the seat. Legs sliding in recesses of and pivoted to projecting arms fastened to T-shaped pieces, are drawn out and turned down for the support of the cushion. A foot board is folded up till it rests on the projecting extension of legs. Clutches, applied to the sides of the cushion, are turned up and hold the foot board firmly pressed against the legs, stiffening them and producing a stable support to the cushions. In this manner a bed is completed whose length is obtained by the successions of the several cushions.