



Our weekly List of Patents and Designs contains every new Patent, Re-issue and Design emanating from the Department, and is prepared officially, expressly for the Scientific American, and for no other paper in the city, consequently other journals are obliged to wait the issue of the "Sci. Am." in order to profit by the expense to which we are subject, and of course must be one week behind. Those publishers who copy from this department in our columns, will, in justice to us, give proper credit for the same.

LIST OF PATENT CLAIMS
ISSUED FROM THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE,

For the week ending July 9, 1850.

To J. & L. Adams, of Hadley, Mass., for improvement in machines for cutting fellos.

We claim the causing the shaft of the cutter head to automatically descend during its forward motion, until the felloe has been formed by the cutters in the cutter head, and then be thrown upwards to its standing position, substantially in the manner herein set forth, to wit, by resting the said shaft upon the movable bar, which bar is forced upwards by a spring or weight, and has a rack, and a pin, connected to its movable end; the said rack being connected with and caused to descend by the forward movement of the cutter head shaft, through the medium of the band, the shaft, and the pinions, on the shaft, which are thrown out of gear with the rack, at the proper time, by the pin and the spring, which act upon the levers, (two) and the shaft, substantially as here represented and described.

To E. Baldwin, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in condensers of steam engines.

I claim combining with a tubular condenser the receiving and heating reservoir, which is connected at or near its top with the exhaust passage and with one end of the series of condensing tubes, and at or near its bottom with the other end of series of tubes, and with the exhausting and feeding pump, the whole constructed substantially in the manner and serving the purpose herein specified.

To Wm. Bullock, (Assignor to C. Graff,) of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in lath-cutting machines.

I claim the arrangement of the lever, in combination with the quadrant, rack pinion, ratchet, screw, and wheel, thereby moving the periphery of the log being cut, an equal distance at each stroke of the knives (the log being moved by the chuck, instead of applying the power to the periphery of the log) by which arrangement I can cut laths from square logs, substantially in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

To C. H. Cook, of Coeymans Hollow, N. Y., for improvement in Quilting Frames.

I claim the adjustable quilting frame constructed in the manner herein described, whereby the strained surface of the quilt can be placed in an inclined position, and at any convenient height, thus enabling the quilter to preserve an erect position of the head and chest while at work.

To D. W. Goble, (Assignor to G. S. Ward & G. F. Musselman,) of Newark, N. J., for improvement in apparatus for cutting dried beef.

I claim first, the combination of the knives, forming an angle to each other, as described.

Second, I claim the combination of the bed, with the other parts, to graduate the thickness of the shavings, as described.

To C. R. & J. Hight, of Geneva, Ill., for improvement in spiral churn dashers.

We claim the application of a re-acting spiral revolving dash, (the wings of which may be constructed of wood or tin, or any other suitable material,) to a box churn, as described, and set forth in the above specification, and accompanying drawings, or to any of the usual forms of churns to which it may be attached to good advantage.

To J. K. Holland, of Beaufort Co., N. C., for improvement in carts for spreading manure.

I do not claim any of the parts taken separately; but I claim the combination of the box bottom, rollers cylinder, cog wheels lever,

arranged and operated substantially in the manner herein described.

To I. Jennings, of New York, N. Y., for improvement in lamp-tubes.

I claim the combination of the two conical tubes, as shown, for forming a regulator for the flame of a lamp, substantially as described.

To G. Leonard, of Shrewsbury, Mass., for improvement in revolving-hammer fire-arms.

I claim first, a central hammer to be shifted from some convenient position so as to bear on the central cone, and to be driven by the usual operations of the lock.

Second, a revolving carriage, to carry and turn the hammer.

Third, a trigger turning on a pivot in the cocking lever, and which is thrown forward into a position convenient to be drawn by pulling said cocking lever. The whole to be substantially as herein described.

To C. Meyer, of Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in sounding boards for pianos.

I claim supporting the bridge upon a thin base piece, secured over an opening formed in the ordinary sounding board, substantially in the manner and for the purpose as herein set forth.

To S. & M. Pennock, of Kennett Square, Pa., for improvement in seeding apparatus of seed planters.

We claim constructing the tubular drill-tooth with a hook-shaped arm, in the manner and for the purpose herein set forth, by which the drill tooth is braced laterally whilst in operation, and hooked to the axle when not in operation, and by which the angle of the drill tooth may be changed at pleasure by changing the position of the wooden pin in said arms and by which the drill tooth may be folded toward the drag-bar in backing the machine, or turning short round, whilst the drill tooth is in the ground without breaking the wooden pin, said wooden pin resting upon the top of the drag-bar instead of passing through it, as herein fully set forth.

We also claim the spiral or any other form of spring, in combination with the hopper, grate and seeding cylinder, or the distributing apparatus, as will make the said cylinder, and grate, and hopper, self adjusting, each to each and to the others in case there should be a want of evenness or uniformity upon the surface of the seeding cylinder or distributing apparatus for the purpose and in the manner above set forth.

To O. B. Percival, of East Haddam, Conn., & Asa Smith, of New York, N. Y., for improvements in chargers attached to fire-arms.

We claim the revolving ball magazine as above specified in connection with the revolving cylinder.

To Henry Pohl, of Paterson, N. J., for improvement in machinery for measuring pulp in the manufacture of paper.

I claim in combination with the measuring vessel herein described, the adjustable lid, constructed with an opening in it communicating with the pulp chamber in the cylinder and with the atmosphere through the small cylindrical chamber, the pipe, the communication being closed and opened by the ball in the manner substantially as described for the purpose set forth.

[See engraving No 29 this Vol. Sci. Am.]

To G. E. Sellers, of Cincinnati, Ohio, for improvement in the boilers and gearing of locomotive engines for working heavy grades.

I claim the method substantially as herein described of operating the two horizontal auxiliary driving wheels of locomotive steam engines by connection with the auxiliary engines with a crank shaft having the cranks thereon at right angles substantially as described, whereby the engines are made to alternate in their action as specified.

I also claim the method substantially as described of establishing a connection between the dome and the forward end of the boiler when this is combined with the extending of the flue tubes to the top of boiler as described whereby the boiler, is adapted to heavy grades as described.

I also claim in combination with the water ways surrounding the fire chamber, the water channel at the bottom of the boiler, as described, whereby a circulation of the water is established between the two ends of the boiler.

To T. J. Sloan, of New York, N. Y., for improvement in machines for cutting screws.

I claim the method substantially as herein described, of determining the pitch of the threads of wood screws by means of a leader, the threads of which are alternately engaged and disengaged from the teeth of a comb on a sliding bar, when this is combined with a relief and return cam, which, at the end of each threading motion, pushes the comb forward to relieve the leader before it is disengaged from the teeth of the comb, and then eases off the return motion of the comb-bar, substantially as described.

To E. O. Thomas, Philadelphia, Pa., for improvement in store counters.

I claim the construction of a store counter made in two parts, in the manner described, for the purpose of varying the capacity within and at the same time to give better security in case of burglary, and aid transportation in case of fires, as herein set forth.

DESIGNS.

To Calvin Doane, of Braintree, Mass., for design for stoves.

To E. S. Archer & R. F. Warner, of Philadelphia, Pa., for design for lamps.

To S. S. Jewett & F. H. Root, of Buffalo, N. Y., for design for stoves.

[There are some claims so plain that the whole nature of the invention is derived from them, but this is not always the case. Whether Mr. Seller's claims for boilers and engines is suitable for other locomotives than those to ascend steep grades, we cannot tell, but from many decisions made in the Patent Office, we would have supposed that a claim for boiler improvements and engine improvements would have required two patents. This was the decision made against Mr. Ashley, of Watertown, N. Y., for improvements on a water wheel, and the tramming of the mill stone to the shaft of the said water wheel.

Reform of the Patent Laws.

We have received a pamphlet reviewing the Bill now before the Senate for the reform of the Patent Laws. We cannot tell who the author of it is, but we must say the pamphlet is distinguished by great ability. Let us quote a part of it on the re-issuing of patents:—

"The practice of re-issuing patents was adopted before there was any statute provision for it. A patent was granted many years since for a valuable machine for making hats, which soon became the subject of litigation, by reason of the temptation offered to cupidity by its great value. On legal investigation it was found that such were the technical defects of the specification, that the patent was invalid at law. Judge Thompson looking to the public policy of protecting the rights of inventors, and the difficulty of accurately defining the boundaries of an invention, and the wickedness of destroying the equitable rights of the patentee, by reason of technical errors alone; intimated in giving his opinion on the fatal defects of this patent, that on the surrender of the original and defective patent, it was competent for the Secretary of State, (the immediate Chief of the Patent Office,) to make a new grant for the same invention for the residue of the term. This suggestion was adopted and confirmed by the Secretary of State, and the patent thus re-issued, came again before the Courts, and was sustained. The practice thus approved by the highest legal talent of the country, was shortly confirmed by the wisdom of Congress, in the passage of an Act, approved 3d July, 1832—the 3d Section of which contains the same provisions relative to the re-issue of patents, as the 13th Section of the Act of 1836. The example of wisdom and sound public policy, set in this matter by the United States, was soon followed by England and some of the continental nations of Europe.

Such is the origin and progress of the system of re-issuing patents for the correction of errors. Repeal this provision, and the meritorious inventor will again become the prey of unprincipled cupidity. As in former days, the inventor will be surrounded by a host of eager sharpers, cunning enough to avail themselves of all technical errors, of which there must necessarily be not a few, in so complex and difficult a subject. No law can be called just, which does not make provision for the protection of equitable right endangered by

technical errors; and the wisest nation have always used equity to temper the severity of law. Is the present Congress willing to retrograde at this late day? to subject inventors, constituting as they do, a most useful order in society, and therefore entitled to fair equitable protection, to the stringency of technical rules, under which the commission of an error, however innocent, makes an utter sacrifice of the most valuable rights. It seems impossible that Congress can do this; and yet, if the provision for the re-issue of patents be repealed, such will be the unavoidable result. To illustrate this, it is only necessary to state the fact, that in the last three years, scarcely a single patent submitted to the examination of the Courts, for violation of the patentee's rights, but contained more or less technical errors, amply sufficient to break it down in a suit at law, brought for that purpose,—and of these technical errors, the infringers had evidently in every instance, taken advantage. But fortunately, the wise and just provisions of the Statute have in such cases, enabled the patentee to fortify himself for the future. The cunning pirates escaped unpunished for their past trespasses, but their future career of wickedness was checked.

It has recently been stated in the Senate, that by the re-issue of a patent, the patentee, is enabled to introduce subsequent improvements made not only by himself, but by others. This is all a mistake, for if it can be proved that the re-issued patent covers anything not really contained in the invention at the time of the original grant, the re-issue is null and void. There is no rule of law better settled than this, and none to which the Patent Office has paid stricter observance. It is notorious that a certain gang of pirates who have been preying upon the property of honest inventors, have endeavored through the public prints and otherwise, to produce on the public mind the impression, that great frauds have been committed in the re-issuing of patents. They have cried "stop thief" that they might escape the detection of their own theft: they have even gone so far as to petition Congress for the repeal of patents, on the ground that they had been fraudulently re-issued; all the while well aware of that rule of law above referred to, under which evidence of such fraud will make the patent null and void. These facts expose the game these individuals are playing. Some of them have used their ill-gotten wealth, the very wages of their sin, to pollute the spring from which flows the stream of public information, the press itself.

If the patentee makes a technical error in his specification, it will not be discovered till some cunning knave searches for it with the view to infringe the patent. The infringement will of course, lead to litigation, and the error will be disclosed by legal investigation—is it just—is it equitable—that an error thus made, and thus disclosed, should destroy the rights of the patentee? The present law on the subject of re-issues, is the result of judicial suggestion based in equity—it has received a definite construction from the highest judicial authority, and the rules of practice under it, are now well established and understood—every counsellor when called upon for an opinion in a question of infringement, advises his client, not in reference to the strict letter of the patent, but to the whole invention: because he knows that a re-issue will remedy all technical errors. In this way the law is made to subserve the ends of justice—but if the provisions of the 4th Section of the proposed law be enacted, chicanery will usurp the seat of justice, and the honest inventor will be driven forth to escape the best way he can from the snares of the cunning pirate.

Preston, the American Historian, is quite a lion in London just now. Such a man commands respect everywhere among those who have souls to appreciate worth and ability.

Francis Bowen, editor of the North American Review, has been chosen Professor of History in the Howard University. He will make a good teacher of submission to the will of despots.

There is a tremendous palpitation in the heart of office holders at present, as the new President may like to use a broom.