low clay, the dampness and bad odor only be- may conclude that, for good reasons, the Editor came apparent some five years after the filling declines them. The address of the writer should . Place vertical furring strips on the wall 12 inches apart, and lath and plaster it anew. 3. Could the dampness of the wall have been caused by grass growing alongside the wall on the outside? A. We think not. The dampness most probably comes upfrom the bottom of the wall by capillary attraction.

(25) A. C. asks: How can I make a steam siphon pump to raise water about 8 feet, using nothing but pipes and fittings? A. Such pumps, as ordinarily constructed, require nozzles of a peculiar form, and we scarcely think that you can accomplish the same object with common pipe

(26) H. & S. ask: 1. Do the journals of the crank shaft of an engine support the whole weight of the flywheel, or is it partly taken off by the centrifugal force? A. The whole weight of the wheel is in running balance. If it is unbalanced the centrifugal force will take off weight at one part of the stroke, and increase it at the other.
2. Our flywheel is 9 feet in diameter, with a rim 4 x 5 inches, which weighs 1,500 lbs. It is made in 12 segments, and bolted on 6 wooden arms 31/2 x 51/2 inches, made secure in a center by 12 bolts. Are we safe in running her at 100 revolutions? Size of engine is 10 x 20 inches, crank shaft 5 inches in diameter. A. Yes, if the wheel be well

(27) T. A. H. asks: What is diastase? A During the germination of seeds, the starch undergoes a species of fermentation and is converted into a mixture of dextrin and sugar, in which state it is assimilated by the young shoots. This conversion is due to the action of the pecuiiar ferment termed diastase, which exists in all germinating seeds during the act of growth, being probably merely albumen or gluten in a pe culiar stage of decomposition. An impure solution of diastase may be obtained readily from malt or freshly germinated barley by grinding it, moistening it with half its weight of warm water, allowing it to stand for a few minutes, and pressing out the liquid. Malt does not contain more than $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{0}$ th of its weight of diastase. Diastase is not a commercial article.

(28) E. W M. says: 1. Can you inform me through yourvaluable paper how an artesian well is sunk? A.Sometimes a drill like an auger is used. In rock, a drill is necessary. 2. Are drive pipes sunk in the same way as artesian wells? A. In the driven well, a tube is sunk as fast as the hole is bored. 3. How do you ascertain when you have struck water? A. The presence of water can be ascertained by sounding, or by the aid of a small pump. It is by no means certain that an artesian well can be struck in any locality simply by boring.

(29) A. W. G. asks: Can you tell me what will render horn transparent, or nearly so, and sufficiently soft to be cut with a knife? It must harden again when dry. A. Try muriatic acid.

(30) G. H. asks: 1. I wish to bring water from a spring 3,000 feet distant. There is a fall of 15 fcet, and there will be a head of 2 feet where the water enters the pipe. What quantity per day would be conveyed through a pipe 1 inch in diameter, and to what hight would the water be thrown at the lower end? A. The hight to which the water will rise at the discharge end of the pipe will depend upon the velocity. According to Weisbach's formula, if the pipe is straight and smooth, you can raise the water about 14 feet for a discharge of $\frac{7}{10}$ of a U.S. gallon per minute, or you can discharge about 2½ gallons per minute at the lower level of the pipe. 2. Will iron gas pipe

(31) J. E. D. asks: How high will water rise from a 1/4 inch or 1/4 inch jet if brought 1,200 feet in 1 inch pipe, with a fall of 18 feet? How many gallons per hour would flow through said A. With a well shaped discharge jet, 1/4 inch in diameter, you can probably throw a stream from 10 to 12 feet high, and discharge about 60 U. S. gallons per hour.

(32) S. D. P. Jr. says: Is it a settled fact that our best turbines yield a greater percentage of power from the same amount of water than overshot wheels of the best construction, especially where the stream is variable? A. In the case of a variable stream, experiments seem to show that there is an advantage gained by using a good turbine. When the head and discharge are constant, the principal advantages of turbines over overshot wheels consist in less weight and greater velocity, so that less gearing is ordinarily required.

MINERALS, ETC.—Specimens have been received from the following correspondents and examined, with the results stated:

G. A. C.—It is fool's gold (sulphide of iron).-H. M.—The scales are common potash mica. They are mixed up with sand and a little felspar.-J.K. Cal.—It is sulphate of lime.—J. K., Texas.—It is soda.-C. E.-It is diorite.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Editor of the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN acknowledges, with much pleasure, the receipt of original papers and contributions upon the following subjects:

On Steamships, Rigging, etc. By R. B. F. On Naval Appointments. By C.J. W. On Solar Phenomena. By C. T.G. On an Intra-Mercurial Planet. By W. M. R. Also inquiries and answers from the following:

T. D.-R. W.-J. B.-G. M.-G, H.-D. L -W. B.-G. J. D.-R. A.-S. O.-N. S. R.-C. S. P. F.

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

always be given

Enquiries relating to patents, or to the patentability of inventions, assignments, etc., will not be published here. All such questions, when initials only are given, are thrown into the waste basket. as it would fill half of our paper to print them all; but we generally take pleasure in answering briefly by mail, if the writer's address is given.

Hundredsofinquiries analogous to the following are sent: "Who buys rabbit, raccoon, and musk rat skins? Who sells velocipedes? Who sells street car locomotives? Who makes match machinery? Who sells distilling apparatus?" All such personal inquiries are printed, as will be observed, in the column of "Business and Personal." which is specially set apart for that purpose, subject to the charge mentioned at the head of that column. Almost any desired information can in this way be expeditiously obtained

[OFFICIAL.]

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

Letters Patent of the United States were Granted in the Week Ending October 10, 1876.

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE. [Those marked (r) are reissued patents.]

A complete copy of any patent in the annexed list. neluding both the specifications and drawings, will be urnished from this office for one dollar. In ordering,

please state the number and date of the patent d		Ĭ
and remit to Munn &Co., 37 Park Row, New Yor		I
 	400.000	I
Acoustic telegraph, T. A. Edison		I
Air brake, J. R. Reniff	183,206	Ī
Air chamber for elevators, etc., P. Hinkle	183,055	1
Air spring for cars, A. P. Smith	183,074	I
Angle irons, making, C. P. Haughian		I
Argand gas burner, S. B. H. Vance		i
Bake oven, D. Hughes	183,007	1
Bale tie, A. W. Hess	183,053	I
Bale tie, C. Kreig		1
Bale tie, J. Tweeddale		7
Bed bottom, J. E. Staples		1
Bed spring, W. S. Gray		Ŋ
Beer pump, J. B. Wallace	183,086	7
Bell toy, J. T. Rich	183,209	N
Bins for warehouses, etc., M. Randolph	183,069	1
Blind slat adjuster, W. W. Byam		1
Blow-off cock, S. Myers		1
Boats, detaching, A. B. Cruickshank Boiler furnace, P. J. Schmitt	183,143	ď
Boilers, preventing collapse of, A. Tucker		d
Book cover, C. W. Hill	183,003	9
Bottle-covering machine, Becker et al		I
Brick machine, S. B. Frank	188,179	f
Burglar alarm, W. A. Parker,	183,203	Ē
Butter worker, Clow & Hartman	183,133	F
Can and case shipping, E. C. Quinby	183,067	F
Capstan and windlass, F. S. Allen	183,103	F
Car axle, E. J. Bowen		f
Car brake, D. H. Levy	183,181	F
Car coupling, N. H. Dolsen		F
Car coupling, W. H. Sadler		F
Cars, running gear for, G. W. Remsen	183,023	F
Carding engine, J. Dyson		P
Carpetsweeper, S. F. Leach		P
Chimney boiler, S. Caddick	183,127	P
Christmas tree holder, H. Albrecht		P
	183,063	P
Clock, L. Phillips	183,019	P
Clothes dryer, F. H. McMartin		F
Coal and ore washer, A. Rowse		F
Coal screen and chute, M. R. Roberts (r)		F
Comb and hair cutter, A. Wohl		F
Corner finish for rooms, L. J. Bugbee Cornice and curtain roller, H. H. Winger		F
Cotton and corn planter, G. H. Coffee		F
Crank for grindstone, etc., M. P. Locke		F
Cultivator, F. P. Beucler		F
Cultivator, W. Manley	1	F
Cultivator, G. A. Parsons		I
Cultivator, E. Wiard		F
Curtain cord tightener, N. Campbell	183,128	8
Cuttain fixture, N. Campbell Cutter head, D. K. Overhiser	188,129	8
Dasher for ice cream freezers, J. H. Dunbar		8
Desk slate holder, J. Haggerty		8
Dice box, Boehner & Hinze		02 02
Die for plow side bars, C. O. Wilder Die for plow braces, C. O. Wilder		70.7
Die forplow frogs, C. O. Wilder	183,093	8
Digesting apparatus, T. K. Hardman		8
Ditching machine, M. J. Austin		62
Dovetail joints, forming, C. Stengel	183,030	5
Drain fence, W. A. J. Pollock	183,066	8
Drawbridge gate, B. F. & S. B. Betser Earth auger, Halliday & Brady		8
Eaves trough hanger, M. H. Cochran	183,135	٤
Electric circuit closer, J. O. Fowler, Jr Electric telegraph, Thomson & Houston		8
Extracting juices, G. Hinaman		1
Fastening for garments, W. G. Cook (r)	7,349	8
Faucet, J. A. Ayres		8
Fence, portable, E. S. Hotham	183,056	١
Fence, portable, S. C. Hurley	183,170	١
Fence, portable, G. F. Stevens		8
Fertilizers from night soil, R. R. Zell	182,242	1
Filter for tea pots, etc., L. C. Hoyle	183,005	١
Fire escape, J. Davie		8
Fluting machine, W. G. Scott		١
Foot rest for chairs, J. H. Travis		١

Furnaces, feeding steam to, Merryweather et al.	
Furrow gage, B. B. Hawse	183,168
Girder, metallic, C. P. Haughian	183,160
Grain meter, J. Fry	183,049
Grain vessels, unloading, G. MilsomGraining roller, E. A. F. Hart	183,015
Grate for limekilns, W. Gwynn	189 009
Gravity battery, M. W. Parish	183,201
Grinding mill, B. G. Martin	183,184
Harness mounting, S.S. Sargeant	183,026
Harvester guard finger, J. Smith	189 994
Hay elevator, J. Anderson	189,104
Heater for hot houses, J. F. Higgins	183,166
Hog trap E. K. Jenkins	00 191
Horse hay rake, H. Myers Horse hopple, J. F. Riesgraf	122 192
Horse muzzle, J. W. Gedney Horses, detaching, J. H. Rogers	183,154
Horseshoe, E. Murraine	188,195
Hydrant, D. T. Perkins,	189,018
Hydrocarbon, treating with, W. Adamson, 183,097,	183,098
Ice casket, Stewart & Gwaltney Ice tool, F. Stafford	183, 228
Ironing apparatus, J. T. Walker (r)	7,346
Joint for paper packages, W. H. Murphy Journal box, P. Sweeney	183,195
Key fastener, S. A. Hoadley Key fastener, Whittemore & Slattery	183,168
Knob roses to locks, S. W. Drowne	183,010
Lampwick, A. Angell Lifting jack, Scott & Goebel	183,036
Liquids, apparatus for delivering, H. C. Berry Lock for doors, etc., H. Essex	188 047
Lock for drawers, ctc., F. H. Young Lockwork for clocks, J. W. Williams	199 034
Lubricating compound, J. W. Bartlett Lubricator, T. Haynes	189 000
Lumber, compound, D. M. Cummings	188 025
Milk cooler, H. More	188,017
Motor for cars. etc., A. P. Thaver	188,107
Nail plate feeder, R. Van Amburgh	7,344 183,085
Netted under garment, C. H. Moeller, Nut lock, D. R. Baird	183,016
Nut lock, T. Weaver Oil feeder, Carroll & Mott	183,089 183, 130
Ofler for cans, J. H. Beal	100 010
Ornamental lumber, etc., G. C. Setchell	189.232
Paper-feeding machine, Schofield & Baker Paper-rolling machine, C. T. Bischof	183,218
Parlor fountain, J. Hegerty	183,169
Passenger register, Brown & Goodfellow Permutation padlock, D. A. Root	
Permutation padlock, D. A. Root	183,119 183,214
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray Pinch bar, M. G. Collins	183,119 183,214 183.022 183,128
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,190 183,122
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,129 183,129 183,199 183,213
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins. Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell.	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,190 183,122 183,199 183,213 183,117 183,140
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins. Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell.	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,190 183,122 183,199 183,213 183,117 183,140
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiin, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectiie, C. G. Kellogg.	188,119 188,214 188,022 188,128 188,190 188,122 188,199 188,218 188,117 188,140 188,109 188,149 7,342 188,009
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Nowton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing telegraph, H. Ennis. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r).	188,119 188,214 188,022 188,128 188,190 188,122 188,218 188,117 188,140 188,109 7,342 188,009 188,126 188,126
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing telegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail, dair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan	188,119 188,214 188,022 188,159 188,129 188,121 188,117 188,109 188,109 188,109 188,109 188,149 7,342 188,009 188,114 188,115 188,115
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Nowton Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp Printing telegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectife, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins	188,119 188,221 188,022 188,190 188,122 188,199 188,213 188,140 188,140 7,342 188,149 188,141 188,141 188,141 188,141 188,141 188,145 188,045
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing types, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail, dair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railroad switch, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Rectrigerator, I. Allegretti	188,119 188,224 188,122 188,190 188,122 188,191 188,191 188,140 188,109 188,149 188,145 188,145 188,145 188,145 188,145 188,041 188,065 188,099 188,199 188,199
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake. Railroad rall, J. T. Clark. Railroad rall chair, W. S. Davis. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Refin holder, J. E. Bryan.	183,119 183,214 183,212 183,122 183,128 183,129 183,129 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,145 183,141 183,041 183,041 183,041 183,041 183,041 183,041 183,041
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins. Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Nowton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing telegraph, H. Ennis. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectife, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake. Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Recfrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Reln holder, J. E. Bryan. Relns, supporting, C. R. Hicks.	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,129 183,129 183,129 183,121 183,109 183,121 183,109 183,121 183,109 183,126 183,134 183,135 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectife, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake. Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, J. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Byan. Reins. supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub.	183,194 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,190 183,122 183,190 183,129 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,145 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Recling chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Reins, supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Welmar (r).	188,191 188,222 188,128 188,129 188,129 188,129 188,129 188,139 188,140 188,140 188,140 188,140 188,145 188,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing telegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail, dair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, C. C. Pierce Railroad switch, C. S. Pian Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Rechns, supporting, C. R. Hicks Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r) Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey	183,194 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,190 183,112 183,191 183,117 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,141 183,145 183,041 183,145 183,041 183,145 183,04
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectife, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rall, J. T. Clark Railroad all, dair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, U. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Refn holder, J. E. Bryan Reinh slepporting, G. R. Hicks Roda scraper, B. Slusser Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Sasfe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers	188,119 188,124 188,128 188,190 188,128 188,190 188,128 188,191 188,111 188,140 188,119 188,111 188,141 188,111 188,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch thair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, I. Allegretti Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r) Reins supporting, C. R. Hicks Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman Seed planter, J. H. Lee	183,194 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,129 183,139 183,131 183,117 183,140 183,140 183,145
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing types, Stephenson et al (r). Projectife, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rall, J. T. Clark Railroad atll. sl. T. Clark Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, I. Allegrett! Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r) Rein holder, J. E. Bryan Reins supporting, C. R. Hicks Rodan scraper, B. Slusser Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers Scewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, Stuktle, W. Reid	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,130 183,129 183,131 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,141 183,141 183,145 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Refins. supporting, C. R. Hicks. Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Scendol, School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers. Scroll-sawing machine, C. D. Rogers. Seving machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid. Shoe, C. Hue.	183,194 183,214 183,022 183,138 183,129 183,139 183,131 183,147 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,149 183,145 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan. Reins. supporting, C R. Hicks. Roda scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers. Scroll-sawing machine, C. D. Rogers. Seving machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Showter Weite.	183,191 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,129 183,139 183,131 183,117 183,145 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing treelegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, I. Allegrett! Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan Reins supporting, C. R. Hicks Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid Show box, Kelly & Walker Shouter Worker, S. W. Merry Sleeping car, W. Fette Smoke consumer, D. G. Power Snow plow, W. Cooke	183,119 183,214 183,128 183,129 183,128 183,129 183,128 183,129 183,121 183,145 183,140 183,149 183,141 183,145 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher. Plow, J. R. Newton. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing telegraph, H. Ennis. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Refns. supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Sceed planter, J. H. Lee. Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid Shoe, C. Hue. Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Resley. Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzles.	183,191 183,244 183,192 183,193 183,193 183,193 183,193 183,193 183,194 183,194 183,195 183,194 183,195 183,196 183,196 183,197 183,196 183,197 183,196 183,197
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiin, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, W. S. Davis. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegrettl Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan. Reins. supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. School desk, W. B. Cogger Scrow-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers. Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman. Seed planter, J. H. Lee. Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid. Shat coupling, G. E. Rider. Show box, Kelly & Walker. Show plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Fette. Snow plow, W. Fette. Snow plow, W. Fette. Snow plow, W. Fette. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Resley. Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzies. Sphygmograph, E. A. Pond. Spice box, J. H. Adams.	183,119 183,214 183,020 183,128 183,190 183,113 183,117 183,100 183,10
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Bucher Plow, J. R. Newton Plow, M. E. Ronat Poison bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing telegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectife, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad all, J. T. Clark Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r) Refn holder, J. E. Bryan Reinh suporting, C. R. Hicks Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson Road scraper, B. Slusser Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r) Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman Seed planter, J. H. Lee Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Sewing machine, G. Funk Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show plow, W. Cooke Snow plow, W. Cooke Snow plow, W. Resley Sopring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring bed bottom, J. Barron	183,119 183,214 183,022 183,128 183,130 183,141 183,141
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan. Reins, supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Roods craper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. School desk, W. B. Cogger Scrow-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers. Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman. Seed planter, J. H. Lee. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Punk Sewing machine, G. Powcr. Show box, Kelly & Walker Showter worker, S. W. Merry Sleeping car, W. Fette Showe consumer, D. G. Powcr. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Resley. Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzies. Sphygmograph, E. A. Pond Spring bed bottom, J. Barron. Spring bed bottom, J. Barron. Spring bed bottom, J. Barron. Spring mortar, volute, R. Rehett. Stalr builder's tool, T. Simonson.	183,191 183,214 183,122 183,139 183,131 183,145 183,140 183,146 183,126 183,146
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing press, W. W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad rail, J. T. Clark. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce Rafilway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan. Reins, supporting, C. R. Hicks. Ridding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary kinting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers. Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman. Seed planter, J. H. Lee. Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid. Shart coupling, G. E. Rider. Shoe, C. Hue Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show bow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Resley. Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzies. Sphygmograph, E. A. Pond Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring cleat for vessels, A. B. Cruickshank Spring mortar, volute, R. Rhett. Stair builder's tool, T. Simonson Steam engine, A. A. E. Lessignol.	183,119 183,214 183,128 183,129 183,128 183,129 183,131 183,147 183,146 183,149 183,149 183,141 183,145 183,049 183,146 183,149 183,145 183,045 183,146 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Nucher Plow, J. R. Nucher Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp Printing telegraph, H. Ennis Printing type, Stephenson et al (r) Projectile, C. G. Kellogg Puddling furnace, S. Caddick Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad all, J. T. Clark Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, W. Buchanan Railroad switch, C. J. C. Pierce Railway gate, J. E. Akins Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r) Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r) Refn holder, J. E. Byan Reins supporting, C R. Hicks Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson Road scraper, B. Slusser Rocking chair, W. Shaub Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r) Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy Scaffold, M. M. Harvey School desk, W. B. Cogger Screw-nicking machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, C. D. Rogers Scroll-sawing machine, A. H. Shipman Seed planter, J. H. Lee Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid Shaft coupling, G. E. Rider Show box, Kelly & Walker Show box, Kelly & Walker Show plow, W. Cooke Snow plow, W. Cooke Snow plow, W. Resley Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzies Sphygmograph, E. A. Pond Spice box, J. H. Adams Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring bed bottom, J. Barron Spring mortar, volute, R. Rhett Stair builder's tool, T. Simonson Steam generator, J. B. Herreshoff Steam agnerator, J. B. Herreshoff Steam and skirt holder, A. Warren (r) Steam and skirt holder, A. Warren (r)	183,119 183,214 183,128 183,129 183,128 183,129 183,128 183,129 183,121 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,140 183,141 183,145 183,141 183,14
Photographic printing frame, T. L. Ray. Pinch bar, M. G. Collins Pipes, bending metal, J. McWilliams Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, J. R. Nucher. Plow, M. E. Ronat Polson bottle, J. W. Bowles. Pottery kiln, W. S. Colwell Printing press, W. W. Belknapp. Printing type, Stephenson et al (r). Projectile, C. G. Kellogg. Puddling furnace, S. Caddick. Pulverizing machinc, E. S. Blake Railroad rail, J. T. Clark Railroad rail chair, W. S. Davis. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch, W. Buchanan. Railroad switch chair, D. C. Pierce. Railway gate, J. E. Akins. Reclining chair, L. V. Cobb. Refrigerator, I. Allegretti. Refrigerator, J. C. Jewett (r). Rein holder, J. E. Bryan. Reins. supporting, C. R. Hicks. Riding saddle, Gathright & Watson. Road scraper, B. Slusser. Rocking chair, W. Shaub. Rotary cultivator, S. Tadlock. Rotary knitting machine, W. H. H. Hollen. Safe, Farrel & Weimar (r). Sash pulley, H. S. Pomeroy. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Scaffold, M. M. Harvey. Scend planter, J. H. Lee. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine, G. Funk. Sewing machine shuttle, W. Reid. Shaft coupling, G. E. Rider. Show box, Kelly & Walker. Show plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Cooke. Snow plow, W. Resley. Soap-making compound, Lewis & Menzies. Sphygmograph, E. A. Pond Spice box, J. H. Adams. Spring bed bottom, J. Barron. Spring cleat for vessels, A. B. Cruickshank. Spring mortar, volute, R. Rhett. Stafr builder's tool, T. Simonson. Steam generator, J. B. Herreshoff. Steed and Iron, plate, C. P. Haughlan.	183,191 183,244 183,192 183,193 183,194 183,195 183,197 183,19

14	Tag fastener, S. Baldwin 182,987
63	Teaching music, T. J. Allison 183, 103
85	Tinfoil ingots, making, H. Selling 183,220
60	Toy gun, R. D. Townsend 183,082
24	TOF money box, J. Hall
49	Toy pistol, O. C. Butterweck 183, 124
59	Track clearer, W. Dunbar 183,044
15	Transplanter, Bernard & Millvion 182,989
51	Trunk, C. M. Jenkins
99	Tube expander, A. Work 188,241
82	Tug for harness, safety, P. McFadden 183,187
01	Underground tube for propulsion, A.S. Hallidie(r) 7,339
39	Valve for traps, G. Butler 183,125
84	Vehicle axle, J. M. Stone 183,079
11	Vehicle seat, W. F. Clark 182,993
26	Vehicle spring connection, H. W. Livingston 183,013
04	Vehicle, two wheeled, T. Snow 183,225
24	Ventilating bins, M. Randolph 183,068
72	Vise, C. Barnes (r)
04	Washing machine, J. F. Blair 183,115
75	Washing machine, B. F. Fowler 183,152
66	Water column, A. R. Roberts 182,072
33	Water gage, T. J. Nottingham 183, 200
71	Wheel cultivator, L. H. Hodges 183,004
37	Wick adjuster for lamps, J. L. Howard 183,057
98	Windmill, Burnham & Ruggles 193,123
10	Window screen, T. J. Cope 188,142
54	Wire bale tie, C. F. Washburn, 183,087
12	Wood grinder for paper pulp, J. O. Gregg 183,155
95	Wood pavement, H. F. Williams 183,239
80	Wrench, M. Vassar, 2d
18	·
48	DISCLAIMER.
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