

## ENGINEERING INVENTIONS.

A bridge plate for railway joints, etc., has been patented by Mr. Thomas J. Bush, of Lexington, Ky. It is made with curved strengthening flanges and flat surfaces, in combination with clamp plates and interlocking bolts, making an elastic truss calculated to adapt itself to the wave of deflection as the wave passes through the joint of the track.

A car axle box has been patented by Mr. Charles E. Candee, of New York City. It is a reversible internally chilled axle box cast in one piece, and so made that its interior walls present upper and lower chilled bearing surfaces integral with the shell of the box, the invention relating more particularly to roller-bearing axle boxes for railroad car wheel axles.

A car axle has been patented by Mr. John Pettinger, of Santa Barbara, Cal. Combined with a tubular spindle are sleeves carrying the wheels and journals, a dust cap, and other novel features, the invention relating to that class of axles which permit the independent turning of the wheels, and combining lightness with durability and simplicity of parts.

A car brake has been patented by Mr. Robert H. Dement, of Hudson, Ill. The invention consists of a crank disk secured to the lower end of a brake staff and connected with the brake lever rod, a spring pressing against the lower end of the brake staff, and a stop pin being secured to the crank disk to limit its motion, whereby the brake staff is given only one half of a revolution and is then automatically held in place.

A propelling and steering apparatus for vessels has been patented by Mr. Carl C. L. Lucht, of Colberg, Prussia, Germany. The invention relates to that class of devices in which pairs of hinged wings are used, which automatically separate when moved in one direction and swing together when moved in the opposite direction, whereby the course of the vessel can be regulated from the upper deck, and its direction reversed without reversing the engine.

## AGRICULTURAL INVENTIONS.

A combined planter and fertilizer distributor has been patented by Mr. Charles T. Waters, of Butler, Ga. The invention covers a novel construction and combination of parts in a machine that is intended to plant cotton seed, seed corn, peas, etc., and to drop or distribute fertilizers.

A planter and roller has been patented by Messrs. William H. Littell and John R. Scofield, of Charles City, Iowa. It is so made that the weight of the driver, when the dropper is off, will elevate the flukes clear from the ground, the machine being easily turned at the end of a row, while the roller can be readily detached and used separately.

A grass killer has been patented by Mr. Jordan P. Mathis, of Bently, Miss. It consists of a blade to be used with a plow stock or in a similar way, the blade being formed of a plate curved from edge to edge and cut out in the center to form side plates, and also having rear diverging blades, the side blades straddling the row of plants and cutting the grass close to and upon both sides, and the device being very cheap, simple, and effective.

## MISCELLANEOUS INVENTIONS.

A sign has been patented by Mr. William B. Atkinson, of Franklin, Ky. It is more especially designed for jewelry or watchmakers' establishments, and consists of a case with dials whose hands are moved by an inclosed wind wheel.

A drag saw has been patented by Mr. Phillip Thurman, of New Florence, Mo. It is made with a vertically slotted standard in which the saw works, being held down within the cut by the action of springs, the device being held in position for its work by a dog.

A wind vane motor for clocks has been patented by Mr. Adrian Hitt, of Rushville, Ind. It consists of an upright shaft carrying a wind vane, and in gear wheels and shafts by which the power is transmitted to wind the mechanism of a time piece and also to indicate on a dial the direction of the wind.

An ox bow has been patented by Mr. Luman Rundell, of New Baltimore, N. Y. It is formed of wooden arms and a tubular metallic middle section, having an outwardly bowed lower central portion, so that it will not bear upon the windpipe or the veins or arteries of the neck.

A Venetian blind has been patented by Mr. Frank A. Howson, of Brooklyn, N. Y. The plates are so formed as to provide for the rolling or sliding of the blinds into properly arranged housings located at either the top or the bottom of the window in connection with which the blinds are arranged.

A vinaigrette, or perfume holder, has been patented by Mr. Charles E. F. Lewis, of Brooklyn, N. Y. This invention covers a novel design of such article, in which means are provided whereby the stopper will be held in connection with the article when removed, and in convenient position for replacement.

A combined tenoning and mortising machine has been patented by Mr. Joseph Du Frances, of North Topeka, Kansas. The invention covers a novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts in a foot power machine, which also has a special feed mechanism and means for holding and placing the cutters.

A tool handle has been patented by Mr. William Mills, of Middletown, N. Y. Combined with such handles as those of shovels, having a central grip supported by side arms, this invention provides for splitting them longitudinally and inserting a strengthening plate, clamped therein by rivets or otherwise.

A tool grinder has been patented by Mr. Norman C. Stiles, of Middletown, Conn. Com-

bined with a grinding wheel stand having a hood is an apron mounted to slide on the hood, a perforated U-shaped tube on the lower edge of the apron, with screws for closing the ends of the U-shaped tube, with other novel features.

A chimney holder for lamp burners has been patented by Mr. George E. Oliver, of Magog, Quebec, Canada. The burner has two or more fixed fingers, combined with a movable finger having an inwardly projecting portion, and a lever for engaging the inwardly projecting portion of the finger to lock the latter in position, with other novel features.

A feed rack has been patented by Mr. James R. Logan, of Fargo, Dakota Ter. It is so made that the animal may insert his head and reach far back within the rack, and withdraw his head with some fodder in the mouth, the withdrawal of any other excess of fodder is prevented, thus allowing free feeding, but preventing waste.

An animal trap has been patented by Mr. John Nuding, of Kloeppel, Dakota Ter. The invention relates to spring jaw traps in which the trigger is tripped by the animal attacking the bait on the trigger plate, and it is so made that the trap may be set without the operator touching the trigger or passing his fingers between the jaws.

A finder for photographic cameras has been patented by Mr. John J. Higgins, of New York City. It has a duplex finder, with finder box having horizontal and vertical view apertures and movable mirror, with other novel features, for facilitating the taking of instantaneous pictures of objects in motion, or for finding objects in advance of or at the time of operating the shutter.

A combined envelope and tag has been patented by Messrs. Marcus L. Whitney, of Minneapolis, Minn., and Galen B. Whitney, of Port Jervis, N. Y. It is formed of a blank of paper, with its main body pieces adapted to be folded together and jointed at their edges to form an envelope, another part of the blank being adapted to form a tag, affording a convenient means of sending bills, etc., with the object to which the tag is attached.

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## AUGUST NUMBER.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS.

1. Elegant Plate in Colors of a Four Thousand Dollar Residence at Flushing, N. Y., with floor plans, specifications, sheet of details, bills of estimate, etc.
2. Plate in Colors of a Twelve Hundred Dollar Double House, with plans, specifications, sheet of details, bills of estimate, etc.
3. Page engraving of an Elegant Residence corner Eighth Avenue and Berkeley Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
4. The new United States Court House and Post Office, Montpelier, Vermont. Half page engraving.
5. Half page engraving showing Competitive Design for Carnegie Free Library, Allegheny City, Pa., Jas. W. McLaughlin, Architect.
6. The National Agricultural Exposition Building at Kansas City. Quarter page engraving.
7. Drawing in perspective, with floor plans, of a Forty-five Hundred Dollar Dwelling.
8. Engraving of the Cogswell Polytechnic College, San Francisco, with description.
9. Illustrations of an English Double Cottage of moderate cost.
10. Design for a Marble Fireplace. Half page illustration.
11. Perspective view, with floor plans, of a Handsome Cottage of moderate cost.
12. Design for a Church of moderate cost. Half page illustration.
13. Two elevations and a floor plan of an Austrian Country House.
14. Engraving of Tomb of Colonel Herbig, Mont Parnasse Cemetery, Paris.
15. Selections of Carved Work from the New Hotel De Ville, Paris. Page of illustrations.
16. Two large views of Engine Room at Ferguslie Mills, Paisley: Decoration in Burmanof's Faience.
17. A French Villa at Enghien-les-Bains, France. Two perspective views and four figures showing floor plans.
18. The College of the City of New York: The Technical Courses. Eleven views of different Departments.
19. Perspective view of City Residence of Herr Windesheim, at Halle, Germany.
20. The Home of Milton. Full page of views.
21. Quarter page engraving of a Continental Cottage.
22. Miscellaneous Contents: Useful Items for Builders.—A Woodpecker's Sugar Bush.—Pr-servation of Woodwork.—Sand in Plaster.—One Safe Theater.—A Portable Scaffolding, illustrated.—How to Increase your Wages.—Good Water Promotes Good Health.—Etruscan Tombs.—Floors and Ceilings, Ancient and Modern. By C. Powell Karr, C.E., Consulting Architect. Three illustrations.—Apparatus for Testing Lime and Cements, two figures.—Whitewash as a Fire Extinguisher.—Why Pipes Burst.—How Lamp Chimneys are Made.—The Largest Vase in the World.—Description of an English Laundry.—Mud Architecture in Persia.—How Window Glass is Made.—Use of Basswood.—Painted Plate Glass Mirrors.—Flour Adulterations.—Cubic Contents of the Chinese Wall.—A Waterproofing Process for Stone.—Paper Car Wheels, how Made.—Blistering of Paint and Varnish.—Artificial Asphalt.—Staining and Finishing Common Woods.—Plumber's Trap, illustrated.—Improved B vel, illustrated.—Naval Architecture during the Last Half Century.—Best Effects in Paper Bedroom Decoration.—Planting of Trees and Shrubs.—"Hydrofuge" Floors, illustrated.—Laddering a Tall Chimney.—Adamant Wall Plaster.—Temporary Bridges, with illustrations.

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## NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS.

CIVIL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING POPULARLY AND SOCIALLY CONSIDERED. J. W. C. Haldane, C.E. & M.E. London, 1887. E. & F. N. Spon. Pp. xv., 442.

The graphic description of the life of a mechanical engineer and of its achievements, with special reference to the building of ocean steamships or "liners," forms the substance of this book. The salient features of the work of a constructing and consulting marine engineer, professional anecdotes, stories of the errors of engineering, are included, and make a most interesting volume. Beginning with the early history of steam navigation, its different phases of development are traced, from the original types of engine—side lever, steeple, etc.—to the introduction of the present compound engine. The slowness with which the last named obtained a hold upon the shipping industry is told, and forms a striking illustration of conservatism in the face of improvement. Though a popular work, and not dealing with the scientific aspect of the case, the author has produced a work that all young engineers will find of value from the knowledge of human nature, as exemplified in the engineering world, that the author displays. Nine very beautiful plates in auto-type illustrate various typical factories, workshops, or ships, etc.

## INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

July 19, 1887,

## AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

[See note at end of list about copies of these patents.]

Acid dispenser, F. G. Cutter.....	366,934
Adding machine, D. E. Felt.....	366,945
Adjustable gate, W. H. Dill.....	366,987
Alarm. See Door alarm.	
Alkali, process of and apparatus for recovering, P. Hogan.....	366,966
Animal trap, J. Nuding.....	366,966
Animal trap, W. P. White.....	366,802
Artist's stretcher or frame, G. H. Newell.....	366,885
Automatic switch, M. Millhauser.....	366,786
Axle box, car, C. E. Candee.....	366,760
Axle, car, M. J. Hatcher.....	366,953
Axle, car, J. Pettinger.....	366,872
Bag, L. W. Franks.....	366,659
Bags, catch for hand, A. Goerts.....	366,770
Bandage, suspensory, S. Cooper.....	366,931
Bar. See Harvester cutter bar.	
Barrel cover, I. F. Danheiser.....	366,650
Barrel hoop, J. Cosgrove.....	366,932
Bed bottom, folding, O. S. Foster.....	366,718
Bed, invalid, J. D. Smith.....	366,982
Bed sofa, H. E. Wolter.....	366,707
Belt fastener, J. Butterworth.....	366,924
Belt, voltaic, C. B. Judd.....	366,777
Bevel and protractor, S. Darling.....	366,651
Bicycle, C. J. Schoening.....	366,690
Binder, temporary, T. H. Brown, Jr.....	367,017
Bit brace, Gavin & Cromer.....	366,696
Blackening apparatus, electric boot, H. R. Gardner.....	366,660
Blind, Venetian, F. A. Howson.....	366,637
Blotter, J. P. Gage.....	366,949
Board. See Ironing board.	
Boiler. See Steam boiler.	
Boiler cleaner, L. Schroter.....	366,796
Boiler feeding and water forcing device, J. Bain-bridge.....	366,912
Book cover, J. M. Bronson.....	366,918
Book holder, L. W. Noyes.....	366,680
Boot or shoe, G. Boivin.....	366,757
Boot or shoe heel, J. L. Joyce.....	366,845
Boots and shoes, manufacture of, G. B. Siegenthaler.....	366,743
Boots or shoes, heel fastener for, J. L. Joyce.....	366,844
Bottle stopper, H. E. G. Luyties.....	366,732
Box. See Axle box. Folding box. Journal box. Miter box.	
Brace. See Bit brace.	
Bracket. See Lamp bracket.	
Brake. See Car brake. Carriage brake.	
Bread raising and baking apparatus, J. M. McClave.....	366,968
Broiler, Johnson & Brandon.....	366,960
Broiler, W. C. North.....	366,679
Broom, J. F. Parrish.....	366,682
Brush, C. Orther.....	366,790
Bucket, J. T. Denny.....	366,653
Building or bridge construction, P. H. Jackson.....	366,689
Burner. See Gas burner.	
Button, T. W. Fox.....	366,769
Button cleaning shield, metal, G. W. Mills.....	366,676
Button, cuff, M. Bonquet.....	366,644
Button fasteners, blank for and method of making, F. H. Richards.....	367,010
Button mould, T. G. Roebuck.....	366,688
Button setting instrument, A. G. Wilkins.....	367,016
Camera shutter, J. J. Fox.....	366,947
Car brake, R. H. Dement.....	366,818
Car coupling, J. S. Andrews.....	366,642
Car coupling, M. D. Avery.....	366,710
Car coupling, P. Brown.....	366,712
Car coupling, J. Cameron.....	366,713
Car coupling, J. Kramer.....	366,779
Car coupling, H. E. Marchand.....	366,651
Car coupling, K. L. Power.....	366,873
Car coupling, W. D. Woodward.....	366,990
Car, dumping, G. E. Blaine.....	366,917
Car, hand, R. G. Rombauer.....	366,682
Car head rest and table, combined, B. C. Donahue.....	366,766
Car, safety, T. G. Gillilan.....	366,528
Car, safety railway, W. F. Grassier.....	367,000
Car, stock, O. Newell.....	366,975
Car, stock, R. H. Ripley.....	366,738
Car windows, dust guard for, J. C. Tutt.....	366,900
Carburetor, gas, W. O. Hickel.....	366,664
Carpet cleaner, J. F. Kiesewetter.....	366,961
Carriage, baby, A. Sands.....	366,741
Carriage brake, self-acting, G. Reinke.....	366,797
Carriages, storm apron for, A. D. Bastian.....	366,943
Cart, guano distributing, A. Barnes.....	366,915
Cartridge loading machine, G. H. Stahl.....	366,744
Case. See Paper package case.	
Cattle tie, E. R. Michaelis.....	366,971
Chain wheel, J. M. Dodge.....	366,819
Chair. See Reclining chair.	
Chenille machine, T. Johnson.....	366,729
Chuck, lathe, L. E. Whiton.....	366,749
Churn and ice cream freezer, combined, A. Tschorn.....	366,985
Clamp. See Toilet case clamp.	
Cleaner. See Boiler cleaner. Carpet cleaner.	
Clip. See Halter clip.	
Clipper eveners, Myers & Smith.....	366,862
Clock, window, H. Pennington.....	366,683
Clocks, wind vane motor for, A. Hitt.....	366,684
Clutch for intestine machines, A. L. Teetor.....	366,799
Coat sleeves, fastening for securing fur cuffs to, F. Vorck.....	366,705
Combination lock, T. B. Zeller.....	366,806
Connecting rod, Humble & McLeod.....	366,725
Copying press, M. T. Scarff.....	367,012
Core oven, E. Millett.....	366,733
Corset, D. H. Fanning.....	366,658
Cotton press, roller, H. A. Evans.....	366,943
Coupling. See Car coupling. Thill coupling.	
Cuff holder, G. K. Webster.....	366,966
Cultivator, J. W. Clark.....	366,927
Cultivator, rotary, Coleman & Howard.....	366,928
Curtain pole angle joint, R. S. Gould.....	366,771
Cutter. See Paper cutter. Vegetable cutter.	
Damper for stovepipes, W. H. Berger.....	366,809
Defecator for cane juice, L. F. Hauptman.....	366,830
Dial figuring machine, A. T. Westlake.....	366,987
Doll, R. E. Johnson.....	366,730
Door alarm, Dufen & Fuchs.....	366,655
Door mat, J. Chataway.....	366,645
Door securer, L. H. Jones.....	366,843
Door spring, J. D. Seagrave.....	366,889
Door spring and check, J. Bardsley.....	366,711
Doubletrees, hook attachment for, W. A. Petrie.....	366,871

Draught equalizer, G. H. Scofield.....	366,691	Mechanical movement, R. H. Isbell.....	366,774	Spool, C. H. Watson.....	366,808
Drawing knife gauge, J. H. Hoague.....	366,724	Medical compound and confection, combined, S. G. Armstrong.....	366,922	Square, try, S. Darling.....	366,652
Drill. See Ratchet drill.		Metals and utilizing the same for metallurgical purposes, producing silicious, C. Heuser (r)....	10,852	Squares, circle scribing attachment for, W. F. Seargeant.....	366,890
Ear and mouth protector, L. Nehemias.....	366,788	Meter. See Gas piston meter.		Stamp, hand, W. Orcutt.....	366,789
Ear drum, artificial, B. N. Huestis.....	366,838	Milking machine, cow, Beyer & Rohde.....	366,810	Stand. See Switch and signal stand. Tripod stand.	
Electric arc light, S. Doubrava.....	366,983	Miner's outfit, Williams, Jr., & Keller.....	366,708	Steam boiler, sectional, W. Lurkins.....	366,850
Electric batteries, inclosing cell for, C. A. Faure.....	366,717	Miter box, A. G. Johnson.....	366,842	Steam engine, E. S. Smith.....	366,894
Electric machine, dynamo, J. W. Easton.....	366,941	Mould. See Button mould.		Steam trap, J. Motley.....	366,581
Electricity, apparatus for measuring, G. Forbes.....	366,824	Moulding, J. Parmelee.....	366,989	Stereoscope, J. B. Ferry.....	366,823
Elevator. See Water elevator.		Mole trap, J. T. Lewman.....	366,968	Stone sawmill, F. Jenkinson.....	366,727, 366,728
Elevators, safety catch for, J. W. & B. A. Taylor.....	366,745	Motor. See Hydraulic marine motor.		Stool, folding, G. J. Saubrey.....	366,884
Embossing leather, paper, etc., machine for, J. M. Baker.....	366,755	Motor, J. H. Holmgren.....	366,958	Stopper. See Bottle stopper.	
End gate, wagon, J. W. Olson.....	366,734	Newspaper holder, J. Willy.....	366,903	Stove, T. Caswell.....	366,926
Engine. See Rotary engine.		Nut lock, Cunningham & Peppin.....	366,756	Stove, gas, W. Swindell.....	366,701
Engine reversing gear, E. H. Whitney.....	366,905	Oils, apparatus for refining illuminating and lubricating, H. Goldwater.....	366,720	Stove, gas, P. G. Van Wie.....	366,704
Eraser, blackboard, J. S. Lowe.....	366,874	Operating table and lounge, convertible, B. Marshall.....	366,738	Stoves, lid for oil, gas, and vapor, W. H. Wiester.....	366,988
Ethers from petroleum, making, E. Schaal.....	366,885	Organs, reed board for, J. Courville.....	366,897	Supporter. See Garment supporter.	
Extractor. See Feed water grease extractor.		Ox bow, L. Rundell.....	366,888	Suspenders, attaching device for, T. B. Moses, Jr.....	366,787
Feed water grease extractor, W. D. Nelson.....	366,864	Oxidizing oils and tar, apparatus for, A. F. Andrews.....	366,991	Switch. See Automatic switch.	
Feeding salt to live stock, trough for, A. Cowan.....	366,933	Paint mixer, J. T. McEnaney.....	366,784	Switch and signal stand, W. J. Morden.....	366,973
Fence, B. J. Leslie.....	367,005	Pan. See Frying pan.		Table. See Operating table.	
Fence post, C. W. Holm.....	366,957	Paper cutter, F. W. Drosten.....	366,989	Tanning apparatus, R. J. Meiser.....	366,785
Ferrule for cant hooks and the like, A. Sanford.....	366,889	Paper drying machine, A. A. Simonds.....	366,988	Teaching spelling, etc., kindergarten apparatus for, T. Dougherty.....	366,921
File for letters and papers, etc., W. A. & C. S. Cooke.....	366,817	Paper folding machine, R. T. Brown.....	366,758	Telegraph instrument, W. A. Melbourne.....	366,970
Filter diaphragms with abrading material for cleaning their surfaces, agitating, J. W. Hyatt.....	366,726	Paper holder, M. Vernon.....	366,902	Telegraphy, quadruplex, G. Smith.....	366,636
Finger ring, F. Kaffeman.....	366,688	Paper machine for drying, A. A. Simonds.....	366,892	Telephones, attachment for, T. C. Bradford.....	366,994
Firearm, revolving, D. M. Rice.....	366,794	Paper, manufacture of, S. S. Stevens.....	366,700	Telephones, ear piece for, G. A. Huewe.....	367,003, 367,004
Fire escape, B. Franklin.....	366,948	Paper package case, T. F. W. Schmidt.....	366,886	Tenoning and mortising machine, combined, J. Du Prances.....	366,822
Fire escape, G. Oden.....	366,681	Pencil holder, sharpener, and eraser, slate, W. H. Ostrander.....	366,791	Thill coupling, I. P. Owens.....	366,976
Fire escape, friction block, G. Pritchett.....	366,736	Pencil sharpener, J. A. Hard.....	366,661	Thill coupling, Poulson & Schneider.....	366,684
Fire escape ladder, Bennett & Johnson.....	366,916	Photographic cameras, attachment for, P. L. Senat.....	367,013	Tie. See Cattle tie.	
Fire extinguisher, chemical, Corey & Mitchell.....	366,649	Pianoforte action, H. C. Lutz.....	366,781	Toilet case clamp, G. Otto.....	366,868
Fire grenade, S. H. Van Houten.....	366,901	Piano tuning pin, H. C. Lutz.....	366,782	Tool handle, W. Millsbaugh.....	366,859
Fish or game trap, G. Thomas.....	366,864	Pick, millstone, A. Hornig.....	366,959	Track clearer, A. G. Eberhart.....	366,767
Flooring, machine for making tongue and groove, G. Johnson, Jr.....	366,841	Picture and mirror frames, hanging device for, W. Withtooth, Jr.....	366,989	Trap. See Animal trap. Fish or game trap.	
Flouring mills, gravity separator for, E. T. Butler.....	366,923	Picture frame, F. Damlos.....	366,715	Mole trap. Steam trap.	
Folding box, O. M. Hamilton.....	366,773	Picture frame, M. Hogan.....	366,835	Tripod stand, T. Hipwell.....	366,883
Frame. See Picture frame.		Picture hook or hanger, W. M. Brinkerhoff.....	366,812	Truck and weighing scale, combined hand, A. A. Armitage.....	366,753
Fruit conveyer, T. C. Graves.....	366,721	Pin. See Piano tuning pin.		Type writing machine, T. D. Worrall.....	366,750
Frying pan, F. J. Moran.....	366,880	Plant tray, J. B. Johnson.....	366,776	Umbrella or parasol runners, retainer for, W. H. Wharton.....	366,801
Fuel, artificial, Wandrey & Schimper.....	367,014, 367,015	Planter, T. J. Lindsay.....	366,964	Valve, gas pressure regulating, J. Thomas.....	366,702
Furnace, H. A. Alter.....	366,807	Planter and roller, Littell & Scofield.....	367,006	Valve, steam engine, A. J. Peirce.....	366,870
Furnace, J. Evans.....	366,857	Planter and fertilizer distributor, combined, C. T. Waters.....	366,904	Vaporizer, G. M. Sherman.....	366,633
Gauge. See Drawing knife gauge.		Planter, seed or corn, R. A. Young.....	366,752	Vegetable cutter, D. Bullock.....	366,920
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Garments, fastening stiffening strips to, L. H. Day.....	366,936	Plow, H. & G. Jellinsky.....	366,667	Vehicle seat bars, machine for forming, B. F. Rix.....	366,890
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Gas burner, fuel, M. & E. M. Love.....	366,780	Post. See Fence post.		Vehicle, two-wheeled, J. Sovereign.....	366,798
Gas piston meter, A. C. Christensen.....	366,762	Poultry houses, appliance for, J. G. Staunton.....	366,639	Velocipede, H. Thresher.....	366,703
Gas pressure regulators, automatic cut-off for, G. Young.....	366,708	Poultry houses, forage creel for, J. G. Staunton.....	366,638	Velocipede handle, T. B. Jeffery.....	366,775
Gate. See Adjustable gate. End gate. Railway crossing gate.		Poultry house front, J. G. Staunton.....	366,637	Ventilating heater, A. McArthur.....	366,855
Gate, J. S. Heaton.....	366,832	Poultry houses, portable runway for, J. G. Staunton.....	366,636	Viniagrette, C. E. F. Lewis.....	366,847
Gates, device for closing, J. W. Riggs.....	366,878	Powder, bellows package for distributing, M. Ernst.....	366,942	Violins, chin rest for, A. Hanson.....	367,001
Grain conveyer, pneumatic, W. E. Budd.....	366,919	Press. See Copying press. Cotton press.		Wagon for hauling dirt, D. Marrs.....	367,009
Grass killer, J. P. Mathis.....	366,854	Pressure regulator, fluid, A. Convert.....	366,936	Wagon seat fastening, T. Scudder.....	366,692
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Halter clip, E. R. Michaelis.....	366,972	Pulverizer, sod, A. H. Ristvedt.....	366,879	Welding and cutting machine, J. M. Long.....	366,848
Handle. See Tool handle.		Pump motor support, A. C. T. Prange.....	366,686	Wheel. See Chain wheel.	
Hanger. See Shaft hanger.		Rack. See Hog and hay rack.		Wheel, R. Brown (r).....	10,851
Harrow, G. A. Paddock.....	366,785	Rack, T. W. Ryan.....	366,739	Whiffetree hook, A. J. Stewart.....	366,896
Harrow, E. Rankin, Jr.....	366,876	Radiators, cooking or heating attachment for steam or hot water, A. W. Newell.....	366,678	Whiffetree iron, A. J. Martin.....	366,896
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Hog and hay rack, Ping & Hanna.....	366,979	Rock drills, core breaker for annular, A. Ball.....	366,913, 366,914		
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Holder. See Book holder. Cuff holder. Newspaper holder. Paper holder. Pencil holder. Sash holder.		Rotary engine, J. Arner.....	366,643		
Hook. See Picture hook. Whiffetree hook.		Sad iron, R. F. Klopp.....	366,670		
Hoop. See Barrel hoop.		Sash fastener, G. L. Barnes.....	366,756		
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Joint. See Curtain pole angle joint.		Sewing machines, signature holding arm of book, J. R. Reynolds.....	366,733		
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Lifting jack, F. Quint.....	366,792				
Light. See Electric arc light.					
Lock. See Combination lock. Nut lock. Seal lock.					
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