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The *Engineering Record*, the recognized authority on municipal and building engineering, has recently been enlarged by the addition of a department in which notable industrial plants are regularly described and illustrated, the steam and power plants being a conspicuous feature. Recent publications include the great Ivorydale plant of Messrs. Proctor & Gamble, described in 23 columns and illustrated by 57 drawings. The steam plant at Ivorydale is separately treated in 13 columns and 31 drawings. The new foundry of Henry R. Worthington, at Elizabethport, N. J., 16 columns, 26 illustrations. National Meter Company's foundry and brass finishing shop, Brooklyn, 13 columns, 29 illustrations. Niagara Power Plant (now in process of publication), 6 columns, 6 illustrations. Steam power plant of the Dwight Manufacturing Co., Chicopee, Mass., 9 columns, 7 illustrations. Published Saturdays. 12 cents a copy. The *Engineering Record*, 277 Pearl St., New York.

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Notes & Queries

HINTS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Names and Address must accompany all letters, or no attention will be paid thereto. This is for our information and not for publication.

References to former articles or answers should give date of paper and page or number of question.

Inquiries not answered in reasonable time should be repeated; correspondents will bear in mind that some answers require not a little research, and, though we endeavor to reply to all either by letter or in this department, each must take his turn.

Special Written Information on matters of personal rather than general interest cannot be expected without remuneration.

Scientific American Supplements referred to may be had at the office. Price 10 cents each.

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Minerals sent for examination should be distinctly marked or labeled.

(4603) W. I. S. asks: 1. What is the strongest electric battery known to science? How made? A. Practically the storage battery. For high voltage a battery using sodium as the positive element may be cited. A couple has been described which is supposed to give nearly 4 volts E. M. F. 2. What is the platinotype photographic paper coated with, and what is the developer used composed of? A. Platinotype paper is coated with an iron and platinum salt and developed on cold solution of oxalate of potassium. It is a patented process. The prepared paper can be obtained from Willis & Clements, Philadelphia, Pa. 3. How may blue prints be copied with the camera? A. Blue prints may be copied by inserting an orange red glass screen in the camera behind the lens and giving three times the usual exposure. 4. How may I make good black ink suitable for a fountain pen? A. Try following: Concentrated borax solution, 4 parts; shellac, 1 part; aniline black, q. s. Or try an aqueous solution of aniline black. 5. How may I plate small articles without a battery, in silver or gold? A. For gold and silver plating try the following: *Solution for Gilding Brass and Copper.*—The following formula has been adopted for water gilding, as it is termed. Fine gold, 6¼ dwts. Convert the gold into chloride and dissolve in 1 quart of distilled water, then add 1 pound bicarbonate of potassium and boil the mixture for two hours. Immerse the articles to be gilded in the warm solution for a few seconds up to one minute, according to the activity of the bath. *Silver Wash.*—Mix 1 part chloride of silver with 3 parts pearlash, 1½ parts common salt, and 1 part whiting, and rub the mixture on the surface of brass or copper, previously well cleaned, by means of soft leather or a cork moistened with water and dipped into the powder. When properly silvered, the metal should be well washed in hot water, slightly alkalized, and then wiped dry. 6. I inclose a substance which I found on breaking open a piece of anthracite coal. Please tell me what it is. A. The substance is a piece of shale or slaty coal. It seems intermediate between a true slate and coal.

INDEX OF INVENTIONS

For which Letters Patent of the United States were Granted

November 22, 1892,

AND EACH BEARING THAT DATE.

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

Air brakes, automatic regulator for, M. L. E. Duval ... 486,703
Alarm. See Fire alarm.
Annunciator, electrical, F. S. Carter ... 486,820
Anvil attachment, G. W. Rice ... 486,504
Attrition mill, W. H. Hoffman ... 486,580
Attrition mill bushing, W. H. Hoffman ... 486,581
Autograph register, H. Cook ... 486,768
Axle washer rack, T. Gingras ... 486,640
Bag holder, M. Fortin ... 486,708
Baking pan, E. B. Osgood ... 486,774
Balance wheel, Bouck & Lovendale ... 486,754
Bale tie, J. B. Rollins ... 486,795
Bale tie machine, W. S. Livengood ... 486,615
Basket protector, clothes, L. Beard ... 486,527
Baskets, machine for forming berry, R. E. Morey ... 486,617
Bath room drying companion, D. W. Leet ... 486,674
Bed or pillow, air, S. Curlin ... 486,696
Belt fastener, F. E. Shant ... 486,570
Bench stop, S. W. Jenks ... 486,472
Bicycle, A. H. Clark ... 486,432
Bicycle, A. S. Swarthout ... 486,687
Bicycle brake, W. H. Crook ... 486,630
Bicycle brake, P. Haag ... 486,464
Bicycle brake attachment, W. S. Porter ... 486,683
Bicycles, cone bearing and ball lock for, O. Euchler ... 486,452
Bicycles, vise stand for sustaining, B. M. Steele ... 486,511
Binder, self, O. S. Ellithorp ... 486,440
Boat. See Pneumatic boat.
Boiler. See Steam boiler.
Boiler, R. Davies ... 486,709
Boiler furnace, C. Schroll ... 486,505
Boiler furnace, steam, A. Wilkinson ... 486,747
Bolster, spring, E. Gooley ... 486,462
Boltwork, safe, F. H. Bullard ... 486,817
Box. See Knockdown box. Letter box. Signal box.
Box lid support, S. H. Raymond ... 486,503
Brake. See Bicycle brake. Car brake. Wagon brake.
Brake beam, H. B. Robischung ... 486,568
Brake beam, C. D. Wiley ... 486,835
Brick kiln, C. B. Coxe ... 486,557
Bridge, draw, C. A. Zimmerman ... 486,552
Bridge gate, draw, F. A. Philbrick ... 486,793
Bridge gate, safety, H. J. Rohlf ... 486,738
Buckle and snap hook, combined, T. E. Page ... 486,536
Built-up work for pew backs, etc., making, M. Lancaster ... 486,479
Burner attachment, T. W. Bartholomew ... 486,525
Button, C. S. Gooding ... 486,461
Calipers, automatic indicating, J. W. Porter ... 486,810
Can. See Key opening can. Key opening sheet metal can. Oil can.
Can filling machine, E. Wildi ... 486,746
Car brake, H. H. Kelley ... 486,718
Car brake, Lawrence & Garrettson ... 486,785
Car brake, J. H. Pflieger ... 486,792
Car brake, J. Trendley ... 486,801
Car brake, automatic, E. Farnsworth ... 486,455
Car coupling, T. Courser ... 486,693
Car coupling, C. Demaurez ... 486,326
Car coupling, F. Enos ... 486,578
Car coupling, J. Globig ... 486,460
Car coupling, Morrow & Glenn ... 486,481
Car coupling, S. C. Noble ... 486,501
Car coupling, J. G. Wagoner ... 486,516
Car curtain, street, A. D. Cochran ... 486,433
Car door, T. Eubank ... 486,562
Car draw bar attachment, P. Brown ... 486,427
Car, motor, O. Blessing ... 486,660
Car seat, convertible, W. H. Steacy ... 486,742
Car starter and brake, P. Wuelfing ... 486,520
Carbon brush holder for dynamo-electric machines and motors, J. J. Wood ... 486,656
Carburetor, J. A. Enos ... 486,442
Card attacher, J. Ryan ... 486,840
Carriage, child's, C. Muehleisen ... 486,678
Carriages, parasol for baby, A. Featherstone ... 486,454
Case. See Hat case.
Cash and parcel carrier, S. J. Besthoff ... 486,750
Cash register and indicator, E. Del Valle ... 486,825
Cash register and indicator, W. F. Wurzburg *et al.* ... 486,815
Cash register, indicator, and check printer, G. Boemermann ... 486,577
Casting pig iron, apparatus for, H. D. Hibbard ... 486,714
Cement, artificial Portland, C. Von Forell ... 486,706
Cement, artificial Roman, C. Von Forell ... 486,707
Cement, manufacture of, L. Enricht ... 486,444, 486,450
Chain link coupling device, C. F. Noble ... 486,587
Chair. See Insulating chair.
Chimney cowl, W. J. Kayser ... 486,830
Chopper. See Cotton chopper.
Cigarette holder, S. P. Byrant ... 486,429
Clamp. See Ironing machine clamp.
Clay to make ballast, burning, H. G. & W. Butler ... 486,761
Clock, electric, M. V. B. Ethridge ... 486,838
Cloth cutting machine, L. E. Jones ... 486,532
Cloth shrinking machine, C. W. Schaefer ... 486,739
Coat and hat hook, wire, A. W. Parmelee ... 486,791
Cock, W. S. Loveland ... 486,533
Coin holder, W. H. Gilman ... 486,639
Coin wrapper, F. A. Jaekel ... 486,716
Compass, beam, J. E. Betts ... 486,553
Concentrator, J. Tulloch ... 486,622
Condenser, H. S. Blackmore ... 486,554
Conveyer, G. W. McCaslin ... 486,789, 486,809
Cop, S. W. Wardwell, Jr. ... 486,745
Corn conveyer, J. & G. G. Healea ... 486,466
Cotton chopper, E. N. Brickell ... 486,661
Counter, barrel and keg, J. Ostertag, Jr ... 486,735
Coupling. See Car coupling. Thill coupling.
Cover, stove kettle, M. L. & A. L. Reese ... 486,539
Cow bag protector, H. H. Chase ... 486,766
Crupper, H. H. Palmer ... 486,537
Cultivator and planter, combined, R. Hasson ... 486,712
Cultivator, beet, A. Lindgren ... 486,614
Current director, J. F. McElroy ... 486,643
Current regulator, J. F. McElroy ... 486,644
Currycomb, A. Fager ... 486,827
Cylinder and cylinder cap, R. A. Owen ... 486,680
Damper, furnace, D. McCowatt ... 486,733
Decapping and recapping tool, J. H. Barlow ... 486,659
Desk, roll top, J. R. Jones ... 486,474
Desks and seats, adjustable supporting standard for school, F. A. Chandler ... 486,822
Disk furrower, Haines & Mathis ... 486,776
Drawer fastener, E. Feige ... 486,455
Drawing geometrical curves, instrument for, C. L. Davis ... 486,699
Drier, B. C. Batcheller ... 486,806
Drill. See Rock drill.
Ear appliance or instrument for teachers of music, etc., G. Mellor ... 486,725
Easel, A. C. Terslose ... 486,549
Electric machine, dynamo, G. Baehr ... 486,524
Electric switchboard, C. E. Scribner ... 486,506
Electrically reducing refractory compounds, T. L. Willson ... 486,575
Elevator, C. W. Fowler ... 486,709
Elevator, C. E. Reid ... 486,794
Elevator safety attachment, W. J. White ... 486,518
Envelope fastener, A. J. Newbury ... 486,586
Exercising device, finger, Guillard & Catherinet ... 486,546
Exhibitor for the display of goods, revolving, Green & Herron ... 486,545
Extractor. See Honey extractor.
Fabric. See Woven fabric.
Feed regulator, automatic, C. C. Ferguson ... 486,668
Feeder lifter, S. R. Lewis ... 486,486
Fence, A. L. Bonnaffon ... 486,752
Fence, F. A. De Land ... 486,632
Fence machine, hand, Martin & Cahill ... 486,487
Fence, metallic, S. Green ... 486,463
Fence post, V. Findling ... 486,544
Fence wire, I. Oaks ... 486,588
Fence wire, braided, J. B. Cleaveland ... 486,824
File, check, A. L. Colton ... 486,434
Finger ring, I. Lehman ... 486,720
Fire alarm, pneumatic, A. A. Lehmann ... 486,675
Fire escape, W. J. McCollom ... 486,483
Fish or game carrier, F. T. Verhaven ... 486,649
Fishing rod, H. Whitaker ... 486,802
Flash light apparatus, J. B. Lawson ... 486,831
Folding table, W. H. Washer ... 486,517
Forge, electric, Burton & Angell ... 486,627
Forging apparatus, electric, Burton & Angell ... 486,626
Forging machine gripping device, H. W. Loss ... 486,723
Forging vehicle clips, machine for, A. L. Kern ... 486,784
Fruit clipping and holding shears, J. S. Dinkel ... 486,560
Fruit transporting package, J. Y. Mott ... 486,618
Furnace. See Boiler furnace. Gas furnace. Incinerating furnace.
Furnace, J. S. Ecker ... 486,704
Furniture, convertible, H. O. Atwood ... 486,749
Gauge. See Perspective gauge. Pressure gauge.
Game apparatus, A. C. Hunsberger ... 486,471
Garbage receptable, Rossell & Hayden ... 486,619
Gas furnace, F. Siemens ... 486,540
Gas producer, A. K. Murray ... 486,491
Gate. See Bridge gate. Lazy tongue gate. Sliding gate. Swinging gate.
Generator. See Steam generator.
Glasses, machine for grinding drinking, H. C. Schrader ... 486,591
Gold and silver matte, refining, W. Langguth ... 486,613
Gold ores, process of and apparatus for treating, L. C. Daumas ... 486,698
Governor, group, M. G. Wilder ... 486,574
Grain carrier, J. K. Karr ... 486,717
Graphite or like substances from crushed rock, method of and apparatus for separating, A. W. Nibelius ... 486,495
Guard. See Stock guard.
Guard rail, F. W. Barrett ... 486,541
Hair, manufacturing curled, P. Woll, Jr ... 486,593
Hammer, power, J. Evans ... 486,772
Handkerchief holder, lady's, H. C. Kennedy ... 486,673
Harness pad, E. L. McClain ... 486,679
Harrow, spring tooth, W. E. Smith ... 486,796
Hat case, A. Grouleff ... 486,928
Hat or bonnet stand, S. E. L. Wilson ... 486,654
Hay boom, Dillion & Carr ... 486,438
Hay carrier track, C. A. Gutenkunst ... 486,711
Hay carrier track, B. Taylor ... 486,812
Hay ricker, C. A. Blume ... 486,751
Heating and cooling milk, apparatus for, J. L. Jonsson ... 486,642
Hoisting and conveying apparatus, H. R. Palmer ... 486,645
Honey extractor, centrifugal, C. W. Metcalf ... 486,728
Hook. See Coat and hat hook. Whiffletree hook
Hook, J. W. Grantland ... 486,641
Horse power, A. Wickey ... 486,652
Hose reel, A. D. Coplin ... 486,692
Hosiery, machine for making lace, Clarke & Mawby ... 486,767
Hub band, C. L. Wiedrich ... 486,853
Huller. See Pea huller.
Ice cream freezer, W. H. Hopkins ... 486,779
Incinerating furnace, O. Stevens ... 486,512
Index, F. Bowman ... 486,755
Indicator. See Speed indicator. Station indicator. Street or station indicator. Valve indicator.
Inhaler, W. C. Wilson ... 486,519
Inkstand, A. W. Skog ... 486,686
Insulating chair for rails, F. E. Kinsman ... 486,477
Ironing machine clamp, F. A. Walker ... 486,650
Ironing table, G. W. Lawbaugh ... 486,482
Jack. See Lifting jack.
Jewelry, etc., apparatus for cleaning, C. T. Bradshaw ... 486,756
Joint. See Rail joint. Railway joint.
Keg or barrel tilter, W. I. Leggett ... 486,484
Key opening can, J. Zimmerman ... 486,521, 486,522
Key opening sheet metal can, J. Zimmerman ... 486,523
Kiln. See Brick kiln.
Knife, C. C. Brooks ... 486,426
Knitting machine, warp, B. L. Stowe ... 486,648
Knitting machines, transferring mechanism for producing tape narrowings on, R. H. Carter ... 486,431
Knockdown box, G. S. Carter ... 486,819
Lamp, H. E. Shaffer ... 486,510
Lamp, electric arc, J. Brockie ... 486,757
Lamp, electric arc, W. O. Meissner ... 486,488
Lamp, incandescent electric, G. A. Frei ... 486,457
Lamp shade, electric, C. J. Miller ... 486,729
Lamps, automatic safety extinguisher for, J. B. Dowdall ... 486,439
Lamps, suspension device for incandescent, S. Porter ... 486,604
Lasting machine, F. Molloy ... 486,730
Lasts, method of and means for making patterns for individual, G. W. Willey ... 486,607
Lathe, uprighting, D. H. Church ... 486,608
Lawn sprinkler, C. G. Ette ... 486,771
Lazy tong gate, James & Ferguson ... 486,531
Lead or crayon holder, E. Faber (r) ... 11,285
Leather skiving machine, A. K. Washburn ... 486,813
Letter box, house, Bennett & Parkinson ... 486,423
Lifter. See Feeder lifter.
Lifting jack, Bryant & Beauregard ... 486,528
Lighting device, B. H. Pendleton ... 486,499
Lightning arrester, H. G. Osburn ... 486,498
Liquids, apparatus for storing, handling, and transporting, A. Cirkel ... 486,690, 486,691
Lock. See Time lock.
Lock, G. F. Abbott ... 486,420
Lock for bag, purse, and pocket book frames, F. R. Deck ... 486,701
Locomotive, P. Brown ... 486,555
Lubricator, F. S. Livingston ... 486,676
Lumber sorter, C. R. Little ... 486,584
Mail catcher, A. T. Bacon ... 486,658
Measure, tailor's, C. Gunkel ... 486,670
Measuring canister, F. Espel ... 486,451
Measuring instrument, electrical, E. Weston ... 486,689
Measuring vessel, J. S. Camden ... 486,762
Metal heating apparatus, electric, G. D. Burton ... 486,625
Metal working apparatus, electrical, G. D. Burton ... 486,818
Mill. See Attrition mill.
Minerals, mattes, speiss, or other substances containing nickel, treating, J. De Coppet ... 486,594, 486,595
Mitering machine, C. F. Marquard ... 486,724
Moistening pad, H. L. Keeler ... 486,783
Mortising machine, D. Jenkins ... 486,473
Mower cutter bar, M. C. Ayer ... 486,816
Multiple switch boards, test system for, C. E. Scribner ... 486,507
Music leaf turner, A. F. Vorce ... 486,573
Net, fly, M. W. Bach ... 486,421
Nut lock, Lantz & Neely ... 486,565
Oil can and siphon pump, T. Bumann ... 486,760
Pad. See Harness pad. Moistening pad.
Paddlewheel, feathering, J. Polkowski ... 486,502
Padlock, F. W. Schultze ... 486,685
Padlock, combination, J. J. Deal ... 486,666
Padlock, permutation, J. J. Deal ... 486,665
Pail, W. B. Thomson ... 486,900
Palette, artist's adjustable, M. R. Fowlkes ... 486,710
Pan. See Baking pan.
Paper, machine for surface coating, C. M. Gage ... 486,638
Paper, means, for coloring, W. N. Cornell ... 486,629
Parer and corer, apple, C. A. Benton ... 486,424
Pea huller or sheller, J. H. Empson ... 486,441
Pens, ink holder for, C. W. Vose ... 486,623
Pencil sharpener, slate, G. S. N. Humphries ... 486,470
Pencils, marking attachment for carpenters', A. F. Street ... 486,513
Percussion tool, pneumatic, W. E. Gibbs ... 486,774
Perspective gauge, D. C. Hunter ... 486,782
Photograph display rack, J. H. Abram ... 486,748
Piano action, upright, G. M. Guild ... 486,808
Pianoforte action, J. H. Phelps ... 486,500
Piano tuning pin, H. B. Enos ... 486,561
Pick, Morrison & McLellan ... 486,732
Plant setting tool, A. A. Hawes ... 486,713
Planter, combined corn and cotton, T. W. Knight ... 486,478
Plater, seed, Fiene & Kroencke ... 486,669
Pliers, J. Monto ... 486,616
Plow, M. J. McBurnett ... 486,492
Plow, C. Wagner ... 486,515
Plow, reversible, M. R. Hubbell ... 486,530
Pneumatic boat, collapsible, Gamble & Allen ... 486,597
Pneumatic tired wheel, C. A. Burwell ... 486,556
Poke, animal, C. J. Le Count ... 486,483
Post. See Fence post.
Post office lock drawer, J. W. Harriott ... 486,777
Potato coverer, J. Lundy ... 486,534
Power. See Horse power.
Press, D. W. Bromley ... 486,662
Pressure gauge, steam, M. McNeil ... 486,839
Pressure regulator, Lebr & Bodani ... 486,485
Printing plate and making the same, W. H. Steele ... 486,572
Printing press and folding mechanism, combined, L. C. Crowell ... 486,558, 486,559
Projectile, F. M. Ashley ... 486,657
Projectile, Grenfell & Accles ... 486,598
Propelling apparatus, boat, W. S. Salisbury ... 486,684
Protector. See Basket protector.
Pulley, E. Crossley, Jr ... 486,631
Pulley for transmitting power, J. Meier ... 486,585
Pump, measuring, W. Crighton ... 486,596
Rack. See Photograph display rack. Sheep rack. Tronsers supporting rack.
Radiator, W. E. Landon ... 486,490
Rail joint, J. E. Sarvis ... 486,805
Railway joint, R. E. Greenwell ... 486,775
Railway rail, P. H. Dudley ... 486,633
Railway safety plate, T. B. Smith ... 486,741
Railway signaling system, Edison & Gilliland ... 486,634
Railway switch and operating device, street, H. Blanchard ... 486,836
Railway switch, portable, J. E. Norwood ... 486,497
Railway system, J. P. F. Kuhlmann ... 486,719
Railway tie and fastening, J. L. Chapman ... 486,628
Reel. See Hose reel.
Refrigerating apparatus, L. C. Williamson ... 486,655
Refrigerator, W. C. Trussell ... 486,841
Register. See Autographic register. Cash register. Current register.
Regulator. See Feed regulator. Pressure regulator. Thermostatic regulator. Windmill regulator.
Releasing device, electric, W. R. Hewitt ... 486,612
Ring. See Finger ring.
Road roller, steam, H. W. Laster ... 486,481
Rock drill, N. Monday ... 486,567
Roller. See Road roller.
Rolling screen, T. A. Seip ... 486,592
Safety attachment, S. T. Mosby ... 486,490
Salicylate of phenyl, making, P. Ernert ... 486,770
Salts from molasses, process of obtaining ammonia or other, L. Sternberg ... 486,647
Sash fastener, M. Bourke ... 486,425
Sash fastener, L. C. Walker (r) ... 11,287
Sash holder, C. D. Kelsey ... 486,476
Sash holder, H. S. Moore ... 486,788
Sash operating mechanism, H. J. Casey ... 486,765
Sashes, swinging jack for window, V. Schirmer ... 486,740
Saturating articles or substances, J. A. Titzel ... 486,744
Saw handle attachment, M. Pyper ... 486,736
Scale, computing, J. W. Culmer ... 486,663, 486,695
Scale, weighing and price, G. Lundberg ... 486,787
Scenic effects, apparatus for producing, F. Seymour ... 486,606
Scraper, road, W. F. Mentley ... 486,566
Screen. See Rolling screen.
Seeder and harrow, combined, Nelson & Heuett ... 486,494
Seeding machine, Fender & Riter ... 486,637
Sewing machine guide, T. C. Robinson ... 486,811
Sewing machine guiding device, L. S. Chaffee ... 486,821
Sewing or embroidery table, A. R. P. Morton ... 486,602
Shears. See Fruit clipping and holding shears.
Sheep rack, J. N. Scudder ... 486,608
Sifters, wire agitator for flour, J. H. Bigelow ... 486,576
Signal box, successive non-interference, W. E. Decrow ... 486,702
Signaling apparatus, electrical hose, W. Fowler ... 486,807
Signaling device, electric, J. J. Ross ... 486,569
Sliding gate, A. Wilkinson ... 486,803
Smoke consumer, J. L. Hornig ... 486,781
Smoke consuming device, E. Kunzer ... 486,582
Snow plow, P. H. Craddock ... 486,694
Soap holder, C. S. Higgins ... 486,559
Sodawater apparatus, Ramsey & Carleton ... 486,548
Speaking tube, C. L. Peirce ... 486,681, 486,682
Speech or other sounds, apparatus for recording, W. Bruening ... 486,608
Speed indicator, L. T. Weiss ... 486,651
Spigot for refrigerators, etc., N. Engquist ... 486,705
Spinning machine separator, C. A. Taft ... 486,798
Spring and support, combined spiral, W. S. Foster ... 486,773
Spring crushing machine, J. H. Muller ... 486,834
Spring setting machine, J. H. Miller ... 486,832
Sprinkler. See Lawn sprinkler.
Sprinkler, Doelger & Kirsten ... 486,667
Stamp moistener, postage, F. Goerte ... 486,611
Stamp, time, J. Ganss ... 486,458
Stamps and labels, device for affixing, H. Campbell ... 486,430
Stand. See Hat or bonnet stand.
Station indicator, automatic, W. S. Dillon ... 486,543
Steam boiler, E. J. Moore ... 486,731
Steam generator, W. C. Higgins ... 486,467
Stock guard, horned, L. L. Tackitt ... 486,743
Stone, manufacture of artificial, L. Enricht, 486,443, 486,445 to 486,449
Stones, producing inlaid work on, R. Rausch ... 486,590
Stove grate, W. D. Southard ... 486,797
Stove, oil, M. G. Benedict ... 486,422
Stoves, odor-removing device for cooking, Toliver & Ruffin ... 486,550
Street or station indicator, W. A. Turner ... 486,514
Swinging gate, A. W. Taylor ... 486,799
Switch. See Railway switch. Tramway switch.
Table. See Folding table. Ironing table. Sewing or embroidery table. Turntable.
Tables, electric device for vibrating, W. L. Imlay ... 486,715
Tanks, reservoirs, silos, etc., construction of, P. A. J. Monier ... 486,535
Thermostatic regulator, E. C. Merrill ... 486,727
Thill coupling, W. Danz ... 486,436
Thill coupling, H. A. Groux ... 486,579
Tie. See Bale tie. Railway tie.
Time lock, E. S. Phelps ... 486,603
Time piece, illuminated, Haas, Jr., & Trouve ... 486,563
Tin plate, apparatus for manufacturing, D. Edwards ... 486,635
Tinning iron and steel plates, E. Norton ... 486,496
Tire, elastic, P. Davies ... 486,542
Tire, inflatable, E. H. Seddon ... 486,509
Tobacco lath holder, J. M. Wood ... 486,844
Toe weight, M. Heagerty ... 486,671
Tool holder, S. J. Davidson ... 486,664
Top kitchen and stove, J. Jaeger ... 486,672
Trace fastener, T. J. Smith ... 486,571
Track cleaning machine, Beall & Bail ... 486,526
Track sanding device, C. W. Sherburne ... 486,646
Tramway switch, Davis & Ripley ... 486,769
Tray, G. Horne-Payne ... 486,790
Trolley wire hanger, D. E. Lain ... 486,583
Trousers supporting rack, W. Gerhard ... 486,459
Truck, safety car, G. W. Moore ... 486,833
Trunk tray, A. C. Jordan ... 486,475
Truss, E. E. Boomhower ... 486,753
Tube. See Speaking tube.
Tubes, electrical method of and apparatus for forming, Burton & Angell ... 486,624
Turbine, steam, F. Hart ... 486,829
Turntable, G. W. Patnoe ... 486,589
Twine bolder, W. T. Hanson ... 486,465
Typewriter cabinet, S. L. Conde ... 486,435
Umbrella runner retainer, H. J. Herbert ... 486,778
Valve, check, F. A. Phillippi ... 486,501
Valve for high pressures, stop, H. W. Loss ... 486,722
Valve gear, F. H. A. Devlin ... 486,437
Valve indicator, J. Giles ... 486,610
Valve seat, J. H. McGowan ... 486,600
Vehicle, one-wheel, Frazee & Wintersteen ... 486,456
Vehicle running gear, T. G. Mandt ... 486,677
Vehicle seat clamping device, T. Faulder ... 486,636
Vehicle supporting device, W. S. Overfelt, *et al.* ... 486,790
Vehicles, means for connecting draught animals to, T. H. Brigg ... 486,837
Wagon brake, hay, J. Lucksinger ... 486,786
Wagon scoop board, F. M. Gibson ... 486,529
Washer. See Window washer.
Washing machine, J. M. Campbell ... 486,763
Washing machine, J. P. Hale ... 486,564
Washing machine, J. Hofmann ... 486,468
Washing machine, N. H. Long ... 486,721
Washing machine, C. T. Woods ... 486,805
Water closet, catch basin, H. C. Buddenberg ... 486,428
Wheel. See Balance wheel. Paddle wheel. Pneumatic tired wheel.
Wheel mechanism, worm, T. A. Weston ... 486,814
Wheelbarrow, P. Hoogerzeil ... 486,469
Whiffletree hook, W. C. Wentworth ... 486,551
Whip socket and rein holder, combined, W. H. Haney ... 486,547
Windmill regulator, automatic, C. E. Tobie ... 486,688
Window washer, D. Mendelson ... 486,726
Wire braiding machine, J. B. Cleaveland ... 486,823
Wire reel carrier, J. Phleegar ... 486,538