F. A. COMBES.

Rulers.

No. 145,555. Patented Dec. 16, 1873.

Fig. 1.

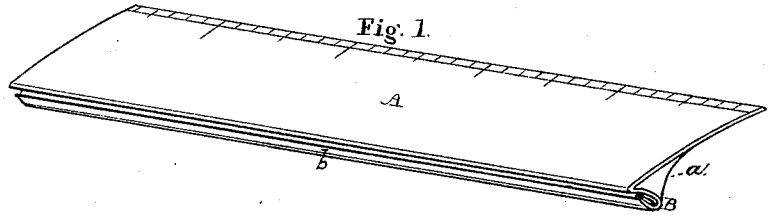

Fig. 2.

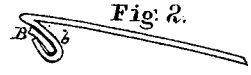

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES.

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IMPROVEMENT IN RULERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **145,555**, dated December 16, 1873; application filed February 3, 1873.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK A. COMBES, of Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a new and Improved Ruler, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to that class of rulers used by book-keepers and accountants for ruling lines in books or on paper with a steel or a ruling-pen; and consists of a straight strip of metal, the ruling-edge of which is thicker than the other, and has a groove formed longitudinally along its ruling-edge, in which is placed a strip of blotting-paper or other suitable absorbing material, the object of which is to catch and absorb any ink from the pen which usually lodges on the edge of the ruler and is liable to blot the page or paper being ruled.

The under side of the ruler is concave, so that only the edges shall lie on the paper, and the rear edge is sharpened for the purpose of preventing the ruler from slipping while being used.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved ruler. Fig. 2 is an end view of the same. Fig. 3 is also an end view, showing a rib for strengthening it.

A is a strip of metal, having one edge, *b*, bent under and folded so as to form a groove, into which is slipped a strip of blotting-paper or any other suitable absorbing material, B. This forms the ruling-edge, and stands up from the paper, resting on the part bent under.

When ruling with a writing-pen the ink invariably comes in contact with the edge of a ruler, and is very liable to run down and blot the paper; but by the interposition of the absorbent B the ink will be prevented from running down, and will be taken up by the absorbent. When the strip B becomes useless or filled with ink it may be slipped out of the groove and replaced by a new piece. The opposite edge of the ruler has its edge beveled off, so that it will take hold of the paper, and is thus prevented from slipping when used. The under side of the ruler being curved inward makes the edges the only bearing-parts on the paper.

One or more ribs, *a*, are placed on the under side of the ruler, so as to abut against the inner side of the front edge, as shown in Fig. 3, for the purpose of increasing the strength of the ruler and rendering it more rigid.

These rulers may be made of metal or rubber, and may have a scale for measuring marked on one side, as seen in Fig. 1.

Having described my invention, I claim—

As a new article of manufacture, the concave ruler A, having its edge *b* bent under and folded to form a groove for the reception of an ink-absorbent, B, and provided with one or more strengthening-ribs, *a*, as shown and described.

FRANK A. COMBES.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. TIBBITS,

E. SOWERS.