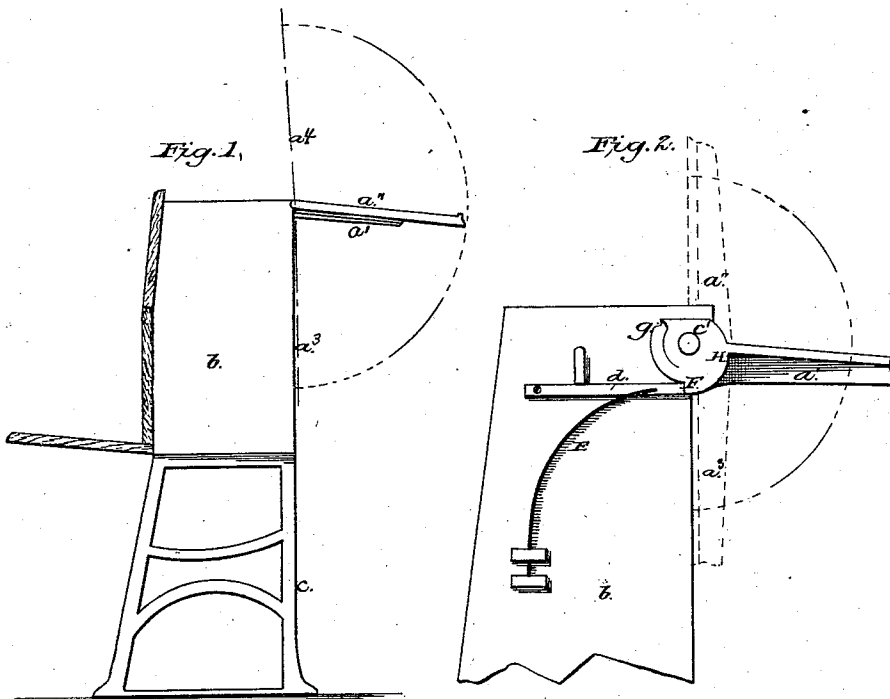


M. LANCASTER.
SCHOOL DESKS.

No. 183,402.

Patented Oct. 17, 1876.



Attest:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MORRIS LANCASTER, OF RICHMOND, INDIANA.

IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL-DESKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **183,402**, dated October 17, 1876; application filed June 19, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MORRIS LANCASTER, of Richmond, State of Indiana, have invented an Improvement in Falling-Lid School-Desks, of which the following is a specification:

This invention relates to certain improvements in school-desks; and consists in a pawl secured to the standard supporting the desk, and adapted to engage with or be disengaged from a stop (with which it registers) automatically by the movement of the lid of the desk upon its hinge or pivot, as will hereinafter more fully appear.

In the drawing, Figure 1 represents an end elevation of my improved desk; and Fig. 2, a vertical sectional view, showing the working mechanism of the same.

The letter *a'* represents the desk-lid; *b*, the desk-body, and *c* the standards by which the same is supported. The desk-lid is secured, as usual, to the arms *a'*, pivoted or hinged to the inside of the standards. The inner ends of said arms are enlarged, and either or both of them provided with a shoulder, *F*, the object of which will be hereinafter explained. The rear end of the arm is curved, and along such curved portion, on the face of the enlarged portion of the arm, is formed an inclined cam, commencing at the shoulder and terminating in a thin edge at the upper edge of the enlarged portion of the arm.

The letter *d* represents a stop, consisting of a straight bar loosely secured at its rear end to the body *b*, and extending forward to the rear of the enlarged portion of the arm *a'*. Said rod is capable of a slight lateral movement, and is kept pressed to the standard by means of a spring, *E*, securely attached to the lower part of the same. The letter *F* represents a stop setting over the bar *d*, to prevent it from being thrown upward out of position.

The operation of my invention is as follows: When the lid is down in the position shown at *a'* the end of the rod *d* sets in the recess

under the lid of the desk, below the front curved portion of the enlarged part of the arm *a'*. When elevated to its position for use, as indicated at *a'*, the front end of the bar *d* engages the shoulder *F*, supporting the lid in position. When it is desired to drop the lid, it is first elevated to the position indicated by *a'*, in which position the end *g* of the inclined cam at the rear of the enlarged portion of the arm falls under the bar, when the lid can be depressed, the end of the bar being pressed outwardly by the cam, causing the shoulder to pass clear of said bar, which rests against the face of the enlarged portion until the lid is fully dropped, when it falls under the curved front part of said enlarged portion, being forced therein by the action of the spring *E*, in which position it is ready to again engage the shoulder *F* when the lid is again elevated.

I do not claim a hinged lid in combination with a pawl or dog attached to the same, and registering automatically with a stop on the standard by the operation of the lid, as such forms the subject of a separate application by me, filed June 28, 1876.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The pawl *d*, secured to the standard which supports the desk, and adapted to engage with or be disengaged from a stop automatically by the movement of the lid of the desk on its hinge or pivot, substantially as described, for the object herein set forth.

2. The horizontal bar *d*, pivoted at its rear end to the standard of the desk, in combination with the spring *E* and lid-supporting arm *a'*, having the cam-surface and shoulders or stops *g* and *F* at its rear end, substantially as shown and described.

MORRIS LANCASTER.

Witnesses:

M. P. WRIGHT,
I. LANCASTER.