

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NELSON STOW, OF BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.

SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 225,889, dated March 23, 1880.

Application filed August 5, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NELSON STOW, of Binghamton, in the county of Broome and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Signs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to signs of that class having movable letters, figures, or symbols; and it consists of certain new combinations of devices with letters, marks, symbols, or figures, which are set forth at the end of the specification.

The object of my invention is to provide a sign having movable letters, figures, or symbols so organized that while in motion said letters give the sign a wave-like or sinuous appearance.

The accompanying drawings show my improvements as embodied in the best way now known to me.

Figure 1 is a face view of a sign constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section, and Fig. 3 is a horizontal section of certain parts of the apparatus.

A suitable frame, A, of the required size or dimensions, is provided at its upper end, preferably, with an auxiliary frame, A', in which is mounted a series of vertical guides or partitions, B, in each of which a plate or carrier, a, connected with a letter, sign, symbol, or device moves freely, being reciprocated up and down by means of suitable connecting-rods or pitmen C, the upper ends of which are jointed to the letter-carrying plates, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3, while the lower ends of said pitmen are connected with cranks d, spirally arranged or formed upon a suitable shaft, D, turning in bearings in the frame A, and driven or revolved by any suitable means, a belt-pulley, H, being shown in the present example as the device for turning or revolving the shaft.

The cranks d are organized and arranged spirally, it will be observed, or, in other words, are arranged so as to be in different planes one with another, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, whereby, as the shaft D is revolved, the letters or figures are caused to move rapidly up and down alternately, one letter traveling or moving upwardly while the next is moving downwardly, the result being that the sign is given, while the letters are in motion, a beau-

tiful wave-like or sinuous appearance, well calculated to attract the attention of the eye.

The sign proper is composed, in the present instance, of four letters, F L E X; but it will be obvious that any number of letters may be employed, and that the letters may be either of the same or of different styles or colors, and that numbers, marks, or symbols other than letters may be used, as may please the fancy or serve the requirement of the owner.

The letters are preferably formed by stamping them out from a sheet of metal, which constitutes, in this example, the carrier to which the pitman is connected, a glass or other suitable transparent backing, a', being applied to the back of the letters, as shown in Fig. 3.

A lamp or burner is placed at the back of the sign at night to render the letters conspicuous, the sign at such time presenting a beautiful appearance and quickly attracting the eye.

The sign in Fig. 1 is shown as open at the bottom to expose to view the crank-shaft and the connecting-pitmen; but it will be understood that these parts are to be covered up or obscured in use.

I claim as my invention—

1. The combination, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, of a series of movable letters or figures, the crank-shaft, and the jointed connections between said letters and shaft, whereby a sign is produced which, when the letters are in motion, presents a wave-like appearance.

2. The combination, substantially as hereinbefore set forth, of the main frame, the auxiliary frame provided with a series of guides, the movable letters fitted in said guides so as to be reciprocated therein, a crank-shaft connected with said letters by a series of pitmen, and the pulley or mechanism for driving said shaft, whereby, when turned, said shaft imparts motion to said letters and gives the sign a wave-like appearance.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

NELSON STOW.

Witnesses:

WM. L. GRISWOLD,
C. O. ROOT.

J. T. SUSTAIRE.
Cotton-Chopper.

No. 225,890.

Patented Mar. 23, 1880.

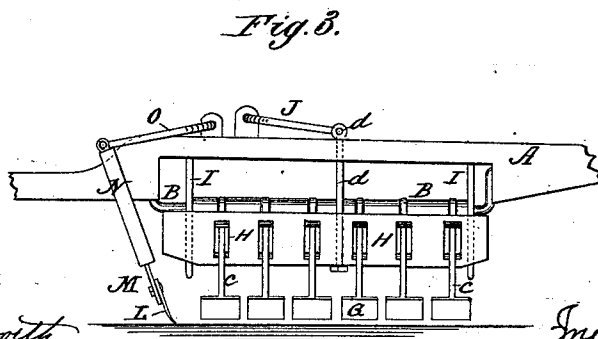
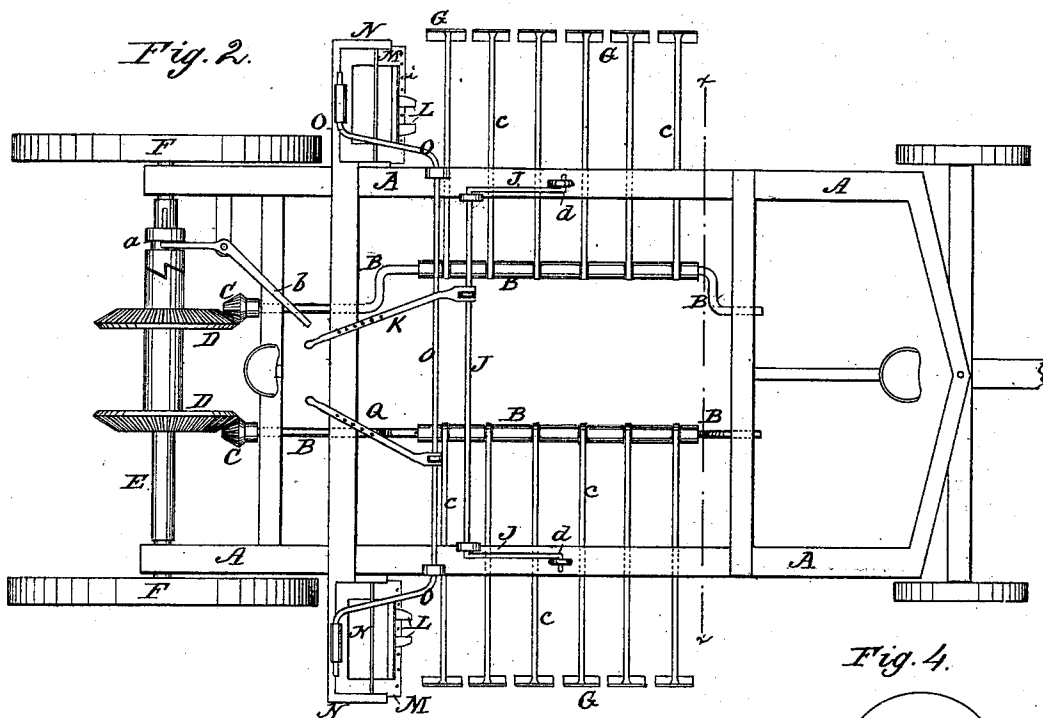
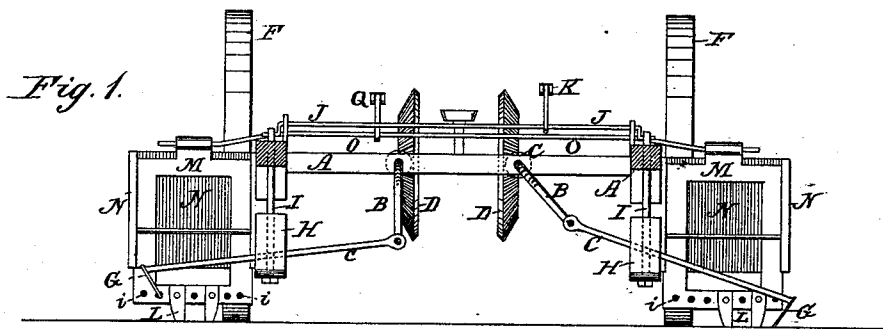
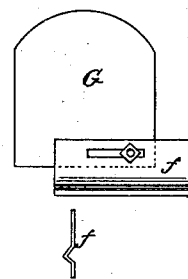


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES:

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