HANSFORD L. GREGORY, OF SOUTH RICHMOND, VIRGINIA:

INDICATOR FOR TOBACCO-DRYING MACHINES.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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1,268,094.


Application filed August 1, 1916; Serial No. 112,576.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HANSFORD L. GREGORY, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Richmond, in the county of Henrico and State of Virginia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Indicators for Tobacco-Drying Machines; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to an indicator which is adapted for attachment to a tobacco-drying machine, and the primary object of the invention is to provide and indicate which will notify the packer at the delivery end of the drier, of a change in the grade of tobacco passing through the drier, so that he may change the hogheads into which he is packing the tobacco, accordingly.

In tobacco-drying machines, it is well known that a plurality of dry rooms; a 25-cooling room; and ordering rooms are provided, for properly treating the leaf and strip tobacco, and that for the efficient operation of the drier, it is necessary to maintain a continuous line of tobacco hands or leaves therethrough. Often, during the treating of the tobacco, the man feeding the drier changes the grade of tobacco, passing therethrough, and the packer has no notice of this fact until the different types of tobacco leave the drier at the packing end, which makes it exceedingly inconvenient to change the hoghead, so as to pack the different grades of tobacco in different hogheads.

It is the object of this invention to provide an indicator, which includes a sprocket chain, gears for travel synchronously with the travel of the tobacco carrying chains which travel through the drier. The indicator chain has a plurality of detachable plates which carry characters indicating the various grades of tobacco, so that when the machine feeder starts a different grade of tobacco through the machine to the drier from the one which he has previously been feeding thereto, he places on the indicator chain, one of the plates carrying a character representing the grade of tobacco entering the drier and this plate moves along with the indicator chain past an indicating board, synchronously with the movement of the tobacco through the drier so that the packer can tell at any desired time the exact rotation of the different grades of tobacco passing through the drier.

With the foregoing and other objects in view this invention consists in such novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing and claimed.

In describing the invention in detail reference will be had to the accompanying drawing wherein like characters designate like and corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in which:

Figure 1 is a view of an ordinary tobacco drier showing the invention applied thereto.

Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of the indicator, and

Fig. 3 is a cross sectional view through the indicator chains showing one of the indicating plates attached thereto.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 1 designates the tobacco drier as an entirety, which is provided with a plurality of separate rooms, as indicated on the drawing, and as is ordinary in the construction of tobacco-drying machines. The tobacco is carried through the machine by a sprocket chain 2, which travels over suitable sprockets 3 and 4. The chain 2 has a plurality of upstanding fingers 5 carried thereby which engage the tobacco carrying bars (not shown). The sprocket 4, which is the drive sprocket of the chain 2 is operatively connected to the propelling sprocket 6 by a chain 8, which is ordinary in the construction of driers. The supporting frame of the drier which is positioned outwardly of the last ordering room and at the delivery end of the drier has the indicator structure which is generically indicated by the numeral 10 supported thereby. The indicator structure 10 includes a sprocket 11 which is connected to a sprocket 12 mounted upon the shaft 7, upon which the sprocket 4 is mounted.

The sprocket 11 is mounted upon a shaft 14, upon which is mounted a second sprocket 15. A sprocket chain 16 travels about the sprocket 15 and about a sprocket 17 carried by a shaft 18. The chain 16, which forms the indicating chain of the indicator corresponds to the chain 2, and the relation between the sprockets 11 and 19 is such that the chain 16 will be moved synchronously.
with and relatively to the speed of travel of the chain 2 so that the various tablets or plates 19 which are carried by the chain 16 will pass the various sections 20 of the indicating board 21 at the same time at which the corresponding part of the chain 2 is traveling through the various rooms corresponding to the spaces 20 upon the indicating board 21.

When the operator or feeder of the drier starts a new grade of tobacco into the drying machine, he walks down to the indicator structure and places one of the plates 19 in the chain 16 at the first space 20 of the indicating board 21 and this plate travels along with the chain 16 at a corresponding rate of speed with the travel of the first lot of the new grade of tobacco through the drier so that the man at the delivering end of the drier may by comparison between the plates 19 and the space 20 tell at any time the exact position of the new grade of tobacco in the drier, which greatly facilitates the efficiency of the operator of the drier in that it is often necessary to regulate the heat in the various compartments of the drier to properly treat different grades of tobacco. The provision of the plates 19 further gives the man at the delivery end of the drier sufficient time to pack the grade of tobacco in his hogshead so as to leave a relatively small per cent. of what is commercially known as remnants of hogsheads.

From the foregoing description taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, the advantages of construction and of the method of operation of the improved indicator for tobacco drying machines will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains, and while in the foregoing description, the principle of the operation of this invention has been described together with various features of construction, it is to be understood that certain minor features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts may be altered to suit practical conditions provided such alterations are comprehended within the scope of what is claimed.

What is claimed is:

1. In an indicator for tobacco drying machines, a stationary indicating board graduated in accordance with the rooms of a drying machine, a sprocket chain composed of a plurality of connecting links, means for moving said sprocket chain along said indicating boards, laterally extending projections formed upon certain of said links, and grade indicating plates adapted for detachable connection with said projections and coating with said indicating board during the travel of the chain along the board.

2. In an indicator for tobacco drying machines, a stationary indicating board graduated in accordance with the rooms of a drying machine, a sprocket chain composed of a plurality of links, means for moving said sprocket chain along said indicating board, laterally extending projections formed upon certain of said links and provided with openings the walls of which converge, grade indicating plates, lugs formed upon the lower edges of said grade indicating plates and adapted to be seated in the openings carried by said laterally extending projections for connecting the indicating plates to the sprocket chain.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WITNESSES:

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