P. C. LONGMESSER.

SAFETY CHECK.

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Fig. 1.

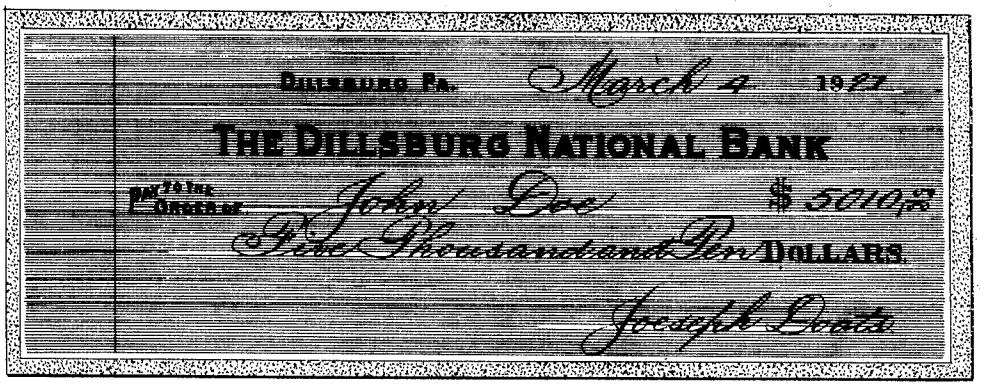
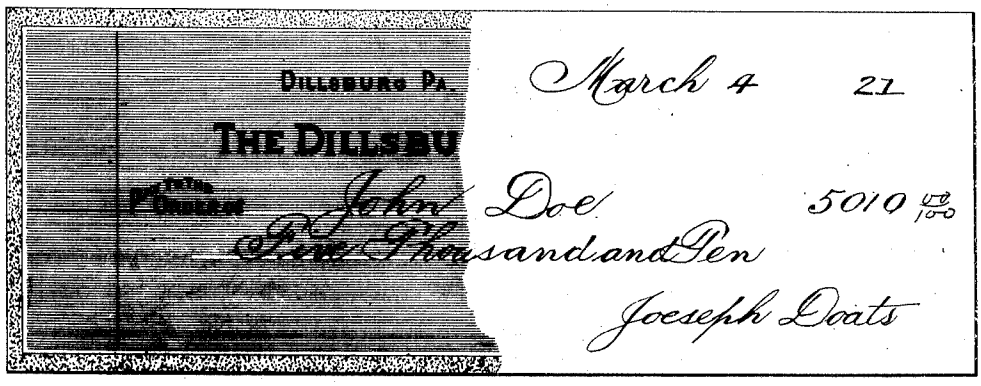


Fig. 2.



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SAFETY-CHECK.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PAUL C. LONGMESSER, a citizen of the United States, residing in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Safety-Checks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to checks, drafts and like instruments such as are usually made by filling in blank forms; and my object is to afford safety against fradulent raising or other alteration of such instruments. For this purpose, I make essential portions of the instrument susceptible of readily detected deterioration or destruction by the measures employed in the attempt at alteration.

Checks are very commonly printed on paper with a "safety" surface of "background," consisting of a multiplicity of lines or other markings whose presence makes it easier to detect attempted alteration of the significant matter or body of the check. This background is made in suitable tinted ink or color termed "safety ink" on account of its function in making the check safe against alteration; while the formal or identifying body matter is made in ordinary printing ink, which is of a different character from the safety ink. In filling in the specific particulars of the check (such as the amount, name of payee, etc.) ink is used which necessarily differs either from that of the background or from that of the formal body matter,—often from both.

In the attempt to raise or otherwise fraudulently alter such a check, the safety background may be wholly removed by means of suitably selected chemical agents which will leave the body of the check both the formal matter and the specific particulars practically unaffected. In the absence of the safety background, alteration of the body of the check may be so cleverly executed as to escape detection; and the altered check will present the appearance of having been originally made on plain paper, without any safety background.

In accordance with my invention, such fraudulent attempts may be baffled by making essential portions of the body of the check in ink of substantially the same character as the safety background, so as to be wholly obliterated or visibly affected by the agents employed to remove the background. When the background and the formal matter of the blank check are both in ink of the same "safety" character, the attempt to remove the background will be betrayed by the concurrent effect on the formal matter. Total chemical obliteration of the formal matter along with the background will leave the check without such essential portions as the name of the bank drawn on, etc., thus virtually destroying its identity as a check.

Blank checks embodying my invention may have both the background and the formal body matter either in the same safety ink or in safety inks of different colors; and the background and the formal matter may either be printed separately or together so as, in the latter case, to insure the closest identity of behavior under chemical reagents. The printing and the preparatory work may be done by various processes and methods well understood by those skilled in the art.

In the drawings, Figure 1 shows a blank check, embodying my invention;

Fig. 2 shows such a check after filling in and being treated, over a portion of its surface, to remove its safety background.

In appearance, the check shown in Fig. 1 does not differ essentially from ordinary checks at present in use. However, its formal body portions are printed in safety ink, as well as its safety background or surface,—which latter comprises many fine lines in such ink. The body portions may be either positively or negatively printed: *i. e.*, their letters, etc. may be represented either directly by ink marks, or indirectly by shading or by mere omission of the lines or marks forming the safety background in certain places. Both methods are shown,—the letters being formed (or at least outlined) in ink, and the horizontal lines for the date, signature and other special particulars of the check being formed by mere omission of the background lines. Background lines and formal body matter may be printed together or separately, and in one and the same safety ink or in safety inks of different colors, as already stated.

Fig. 2 shows the result of an attempt to alter the check of Fig. 1 after the same has been filled in. Here the right hand portion has been treated with a chemical agent (acid) which has removed the back-

ground and also the date, part of the name of the bank, etc. It will be apparent that complete removal of the safety background would remove the rest of the formal portions, leaving only the special particulars in the words "John Doe $5010\frac{00}{100}$, Five thousand and ten" and the signature of the maker of the check.

I claim:

1. A check having both background and printed matter in safety ink of the same character.

2. A method of protecting checks which consists in printing the background of the check and the printed matter on the same in safety ink of the same general character, so that chemical obliteration of the background will destroy the identifying matter and render the check valueless.

PAUL C. LONGMESSER.