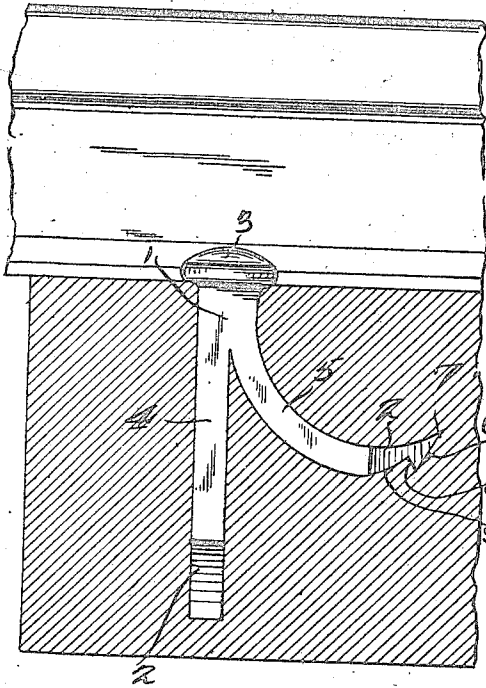


W. G. HERMAN,  
RAILWAY SPIKE,  
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 2, 1915.

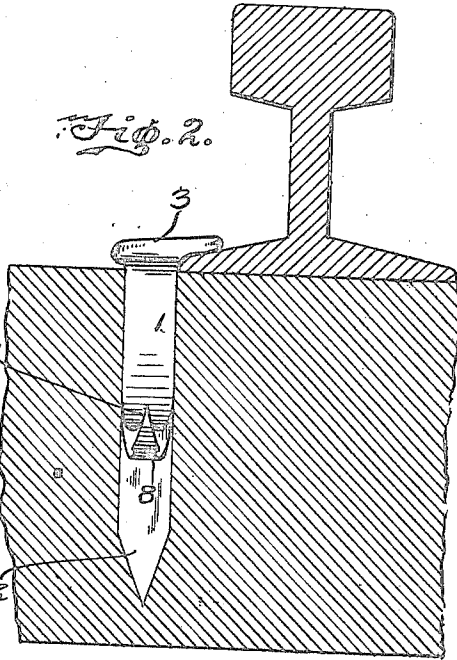
1,231,887.

Patented July 3, 1917.

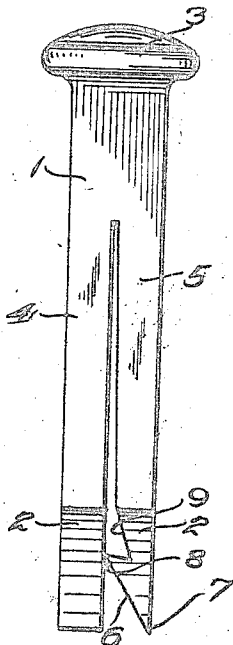
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Inventor

Walter S. Herman.

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Witnesses

Edw. S. Hall.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER G. HERMAN, OF NEWBERG, OREGON.

RAILWAY-SPIKE.

1,231,887.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 3, 1917.

Application filed June 2, 1915. Serial No. 31,738.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER G. HERMAN, a citizen of Austria, residing at Newberg, in the county of Yamhill and State of Oregon, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Railway-Spikes, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to railway spikes and has for its primary object to provide means whereby a spike of ordinary construction may be readily converted into the expanding or self-retaining type.

A further object of this invention is to provide a spike having a split shank and means formed at the end of one of the shank portions for diverting and anchoring it at a point laterally adjacent the body portion of the spike which remains vertical in the tie.

Other objects as well as the nature, characteristic features and scope of my invention will be more readily understood from the following description in connection with the accompanying drawings and pointed out in the claim forming a part of this specification, wherein:—

Figure 1, is a view from the rear of my improved spike, the tie being shown in section to illustrate the locking or spreading member,

Fig. 2, is a view in side elevation, and

Fig. 3, is an enlarged rear elevation.

In applying my invention to a spike of the ordinary type, the shank 1 thereof is divided centrally by a longitudinal slot, which extends transversely of the wedge shaped pointed end and terminates at an appreciable distance from the head 3. The shank is thus divided into two separate members or legs 4 and 5, each of which is provided with the wedge shape points 2 as shown. The leg 5 has its inner face beveled as at 6 outwardly to a point 7 so that when the spike is driven into the tie, the leg 5 will be caused to spread apart from the leg 4 and plow its way through the fibers of the tie, until the head 2 of the spike rests firmly

against the base flange of the rail as illustrated to advantage in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

To prevent the loosening or removal of the spike from the tie, a barb or shoulder 8 is formed at the innermost part of the beveled edge 6 by cutting a portion of its inner face away as at 9 thereby providing a recess into which the fibers of the tie extend after they have been separated by the point 7.

The barb 8 will effectually bite into the fibers of the tie so as to prevent any upward or loosening movement of the spike therefrom. The leg 4 which extends vertically into the tie will retain the head of the spike flush upon the base flange of the rail and the expanding leg 5 will not only securely lock the spike to the tie but will act as a brace in retaining it in vertical position within the tie.

It will be understood that the above description and accompanying drawings comprehend only the general and preferred embodiment of my invention and that various minor changes in details of construction, proportion and arrangement of parts may be made within the scope of the appended claim and without sacrificing any of the advantages of my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

A spike having a centrally divided shank and wedge shaped point, one of the divisions of said shank having its wedge shaped end beveled outwardly upon its inner face to a point, and a shoulder formed transversely of the beveled inner face, to provide a barb therefor.

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

WALTER G. HERMAN.

Witnesses:

RICHARD HADDEN,  
FRITZ TOELLE.