No. 629,573.

B. D. LÉ GRAS.

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INDEX.

(Application filed July 28, 1898.)

(No Model.)

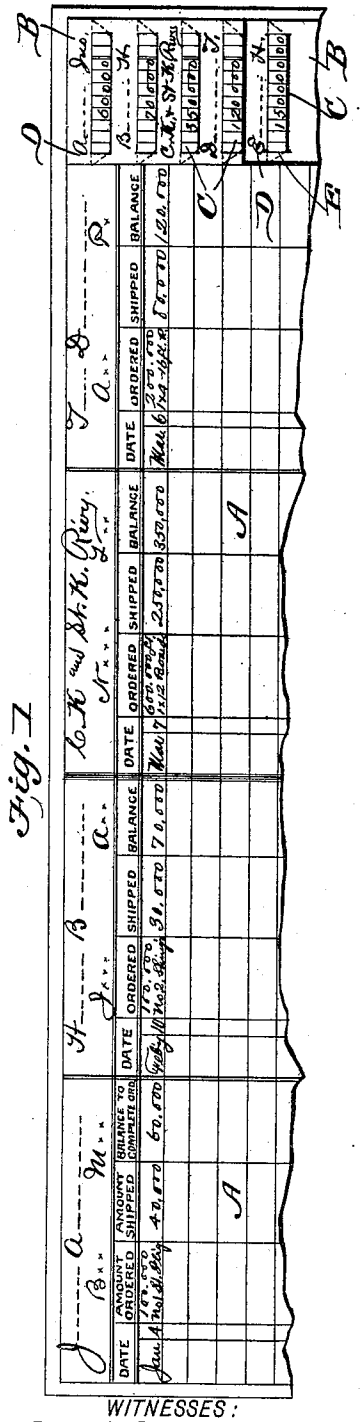


Fig. 1.

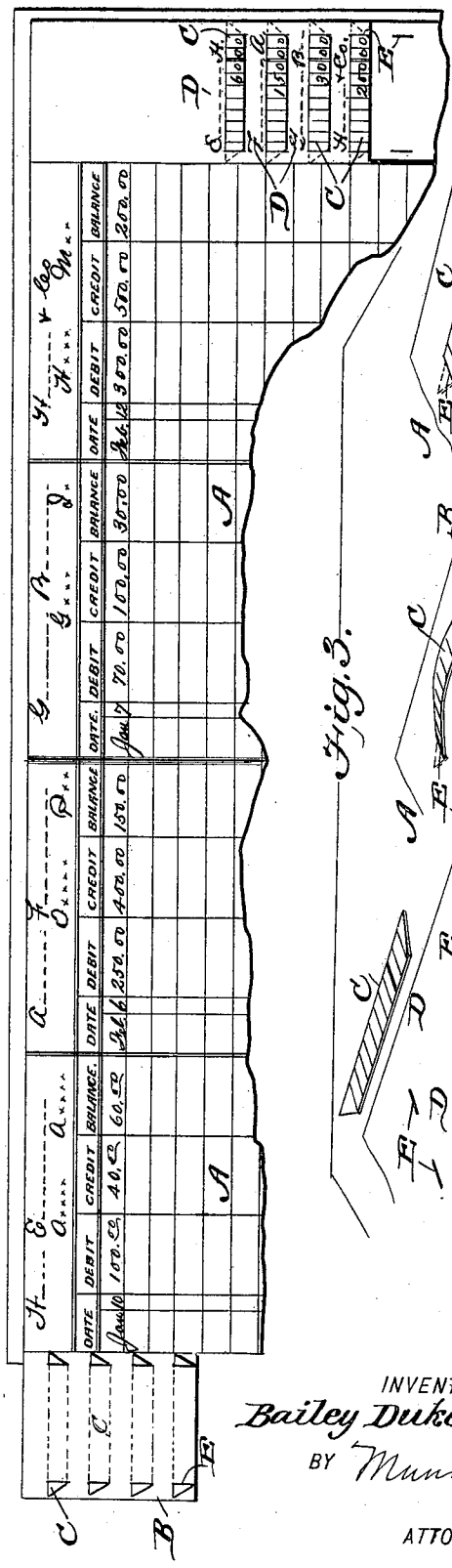


Fig. 2.

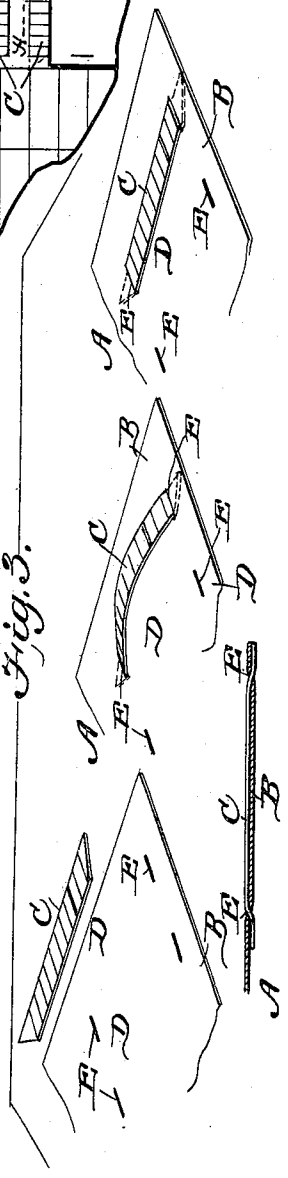


Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

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INDEX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 629,573, dated July 25, 1899.

Application filed July 28, 1898. Serial No. 687,087. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BAILEY DUKE LÉ GRAS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of New Orleans, in the parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Indexes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention is in the nature of a self-indexing construction whereby accounts may be carried forward from day to day by the insertion of cardboard, paper, or other slips in the margin of the leaf on the index tab or portion; and the invention consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view illustrating the adaptation of the invention for use by lumber-manufacturers. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the adaptation of the invention for use by a merchant or banker; and Fig. 3 is a detail view illustrating the index-tab and the removable-slip construction, as shown in Fig. 2.

In the construction shown the book has its leaves A suitably lined for the business for which they are designed, and they are provided with the index portions or tabs B, which receive the index-slips C, as shown. By preference I provide a series of the index-slips C on each portion or tab B and to such end arrange such tabs to receive the slips C and with spaces D between the adjacent slips to receive the names of the parties to whose accounts the entries on the succeeding slips relate. I prefer to secure the slips removably to the tabs and to this end provide the tabs B with slits E, in which the opposite ends of the said slips are introduced. The slits E are arranged in pairs, and the spaces D for the entries are arranged between the adjacent pairs of slits, as shown. It will be noticed that the slips may be readily removed and introduced, so they can be conveniently changed at will.

The index portions or tabs project over each leaf, and they may be multiplied to any number required to suit the different purposes to which the book may be put.

The uses of this book are general in their character, covering bankers, merchants, manufacturers, and all other business in which a general self-indexing account-book is desired. For example, (see Fig. 1,) a manufacturer of lumber receives an order for one hundred thousand feet of lumber. The first column after the date-column will show one hundred thousand feet, which is the amount of the order. The next column will show the amount of the order which has been shipped—to wit, forty thousand feet—the next column the balance necessary to complete the order—to wit, sixty thousand feet. Now this sixty thousand feet will not only appear on the page of the book, but will be carried out by the use of a slip on the index-tab, so that at all times the manufacturer may see at a glance the quantity of lumber he will have to manufacture to fill the order he has on hand. Again, say a merchant has an account against a patron of one hundred dollars. The first column after the date-column (see Fig. 2) will show this amount, while the next column will show the amount the patron has paid on his account—to wit, forty dollars—and the third column will show the balance—sixty dollars—due on the account. This balance will also be carried on to the index-margin of the book by means of the removable slip, so that at a glance the merchant may at all times know the total amount due him by his customers and just how any account on his books stands.

The invention may also be used by bankers, the first column after the date-column to be used for debits, the second for credits, and the third for balances, the balances at all times being in the body of the book and also carried forward on the small slips on the index and changed from time to time as the balance in the account changes. These slips may be numbered to correspond with the day of the month on which they are used, and thus form a complete check as well as prevent errors. As the balance changes a new slip may be inserted. At the end of each day the total checks may be taken and deducted from the former day's balance. To this footing will be added the deposits of the current day, which will give an absolute balance of the day's work. Should an error occur, it can

be readily traced, as each account that has been changed during the day will be indicated by the date on the slip. Where an account is dormant, a colored slip may be used to indicate same. New accounts bearing the same alphabetical beginning of names can take the place of dead accounts. Where the balance is a credit balance it will appear in black ink and where a debit balance it will appear in red ink. The slips in the margin will show the condition of an account on the index without having to open the book to ascertain the same, as the name of the account is indicated on said index. The necessity of paging this book is obviated, as its self-indexing feature does away with this necessity. This index is applicable to all manner of business, merchants, and manufacturers, county, State, and United States accounts, bankers, and banks—in fact, for all purposes where accounts are kept by the debit-and-credit system, and the knowledge of the debit-and-credit balancing is of importance.

It will be noticed that the slips fit at their ends in the slits, may be readily removed when desired, and yet are self-retaining in engagement with the tabs or index portions of the account-sheet. Each pair of slits secures a strip, and the several pairs are spaced apart sufficiently far to receive between them the entry of the names of the parties to the transaction. Such spacing of the pairs of slits also prevents the weakening of the pages, which would result from producing the slits too close together.

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

The improved index herein described consisting of the sheet having the index-tab provided with the series of slits arranged in pairs, the slits of each pair being parallel and such pairs being spaced apart for the entry of the names of the parties to the transactions and the slips fitted and held at their ends in the opposite slits of their respective pairs, the end edges of the slips being inclined forming points to enter the parallel slits, the names of the parties being permanent on the tab adjacent to the pair of slits in which the slips corresponding to said parties are respectively held, substantially as set forth.

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Witnesses:

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