J. TATHAM.
Indicators.

No. 207,319. Patented Aug. 20, 1878.

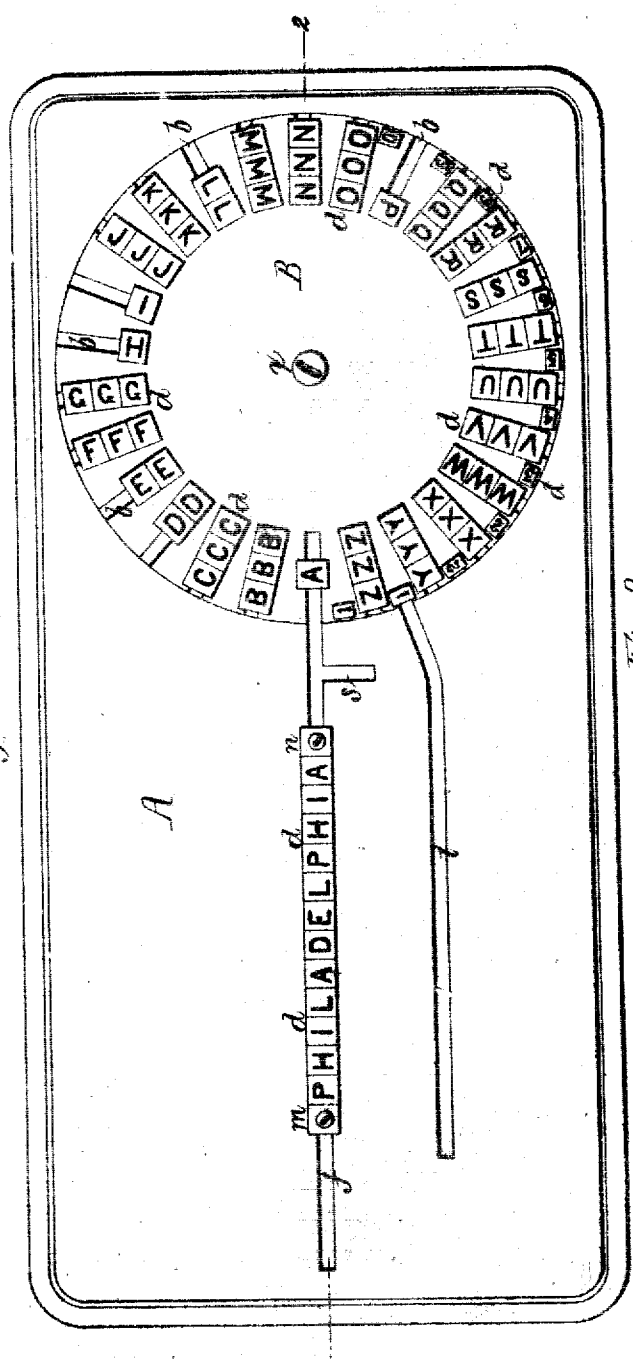


Fig 1

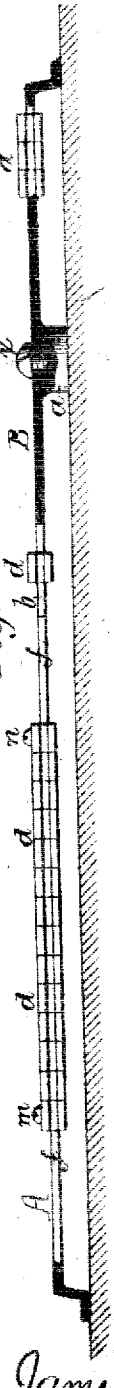


Fig 2

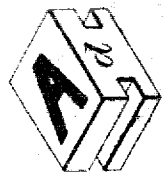


Fig 3

Witnesses
J. McDermott
Harry Smith

Inventor
James Tatham
by his Attorneys
Burton and Son

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES TATHAM, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN INDICATORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **207,319**, dated August 20, 1878; application filed July 24, 1878.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES TATHAM, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Indicators for Freight-Cars, &c., of which the following is a specification:

My invention relates to a certain improvement in that class of indicators of which the one described in my Patent No. 205,151, dated June 18, 1878, is an example, the object of this invention being to so construct the indicator that the blocks for forming a name or date may be readily set up or distributed. This object I attain in the manner which I will now proceed to describe, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of my improved indicator; Fig. 2, a sectional plan view of the same, and Fig. 3 a perspective view of one of the lettered blocks.

A is a raised plate or frame, preferably of metal, and suitably constructed for attachment to a railway-car or other object which has to be lettered or numbered. To a circular opening in this plate A is adapted a disk, B, provided with a central boss or hub, *a*, through which passes a pivot-screw, *x*, either into the side of the car or into a cross-bar at the back of the plate A, which is in the same plane as the disk.

A number of radial slots, *b*, are made in the disk, and to these slots are adapted lettered or numbered blocks *d*, two edges of each block being grooved, as shown in Fig. 3, so as to both overlap and underlap the edges of the slot to which it is fitted, so that the block cannot be moved in any other than a radial direction.

In the plate A is formed a horizontal slot, *f*, which is in line with the center of the disk B, and below the slot *f* is another slot, *i*, horizontal throughout the greater part of its length, but inclined upward at the inner end, so as to be in line radially with the center of the disk.

The mode of using the indicator is as follows: The disk B, which may be provided with a suitable handle, is turned by one hand so as to bring in succession opposite to the slot *f* the lettered blocks necessary to form the desired word or words, said blocks being moved in proper order into the slot *f* by the other hand. When the name has been completed, the blocks are locked in position in the slot *f* by means of blocks *m* and *n*, which are provided with means whereby they may be secured in place.

While the lettered blocks were being moved into the slot *f* the block *n* occupied a position in a short vertical slot, *s*, communicating with the slot *f* near the inner end of the latter.

If it is desired to set up a date, in addition to the name, the proper lettered and numbered blocks are moved into the slot *i* and secured in position therein.

With the above-described indicator, the lettered and numbered blocks, forming names or dates, can be readily set up or distributed, as the device affords facilities for keeping both hands at work, one hand turning the disk B while the other manipulates the blocks.

It is advisable in most cases to combine with the indicator a slotted cover-plate, such as described in my former patent.

Blocks having dovetailed projections adapted to dovetailed slots in the plate and disk may, if desired, be substituted for the grooved blocks shown and described; but the latter are to be preferred.

A spring-catch on the plate A may be combined with a series of notches on the disk B, so as to insure the proper registry of the slot *f* with the slots in the disk, and thereby overcome any necessity for making minute adjustments of the disk by hand.

I claim as my invention—

An indicator consisting of a slotted plate or frame, A, and a rotating slotted disk, B, carrying type-blocks, which can be moved from the slots of the disk into the slot or slots of the plate, all substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JAMES TATHAM.

Witnesses:
HARRY A. CRAWFORD,
HARRY SMITH.