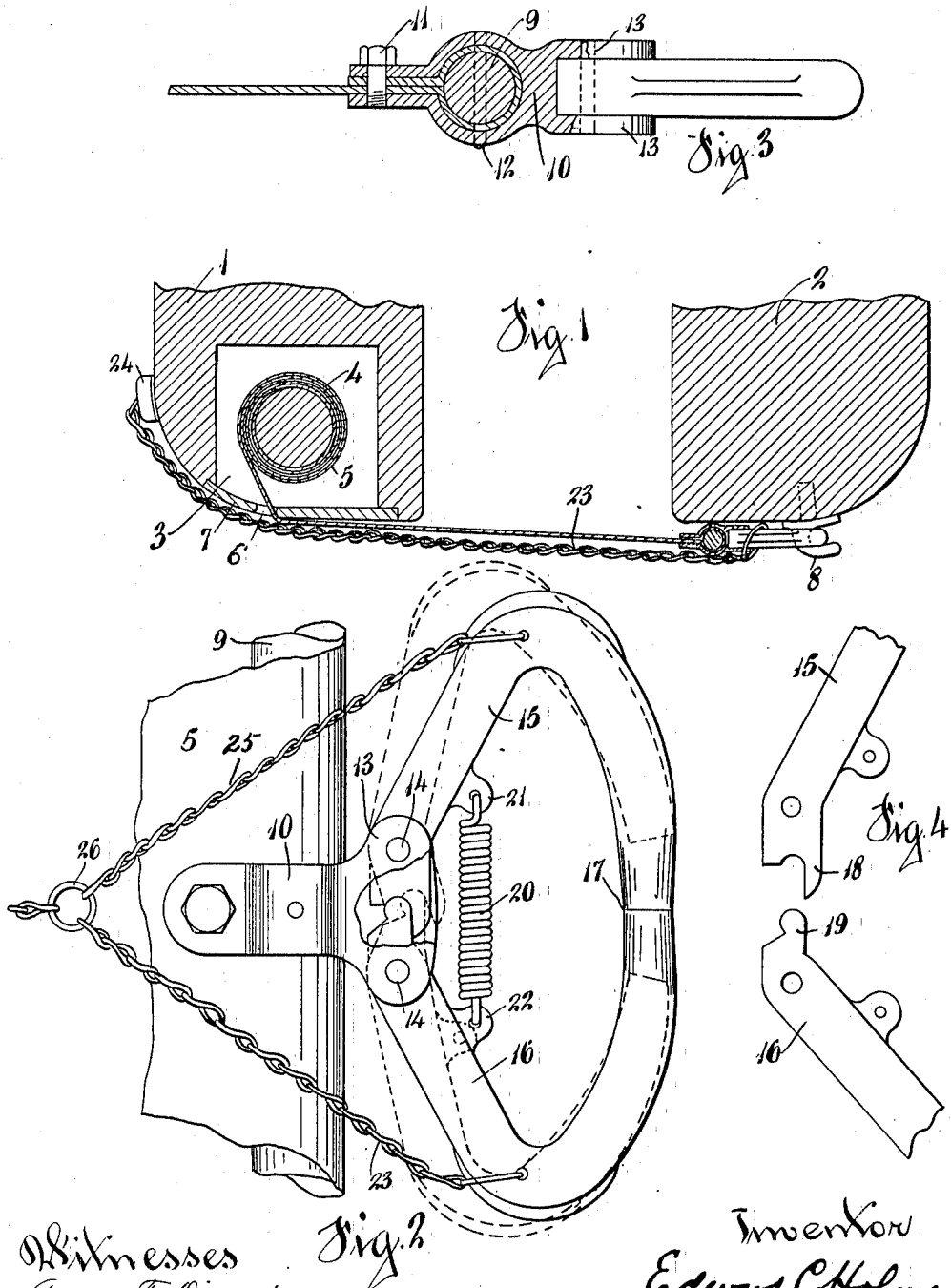


E. C. HOLMES.
CURTAIN FOR VESTIBULE CARS.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 3, 1912.

1,059,465.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.



Witnesses
Anna F. Dienst
D. Smith

Inventor
Edward C. Holmes
Gleason M. Allen
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD C. HOLMES, OF NORWOOD, OHIO.

CURTAIN FOR VESTIBULE-CARS.

1,059,465.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 22, 1913.

Application filed September 3, 1912. Serial No. 718,240.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD C. HOLMES, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Norwood, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Curtains for Vestibule-Cars, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification.

My invention relates to the construction of fastening devices for the curtains in use on Pullman sleeping cars to cover the flexible folds on each side of the vestibule passageway between the cars.

It has for its object to provide a construction which can be readily and easily applied to the curtains now in use, whereby the curtains may be automatically released from the retaining hooks on the adjoining car when the cars are separated, to prevent the curtain being torn and destroyed through the carelessness of employees in failing to unhook the curtains prior to uncoupling the cars.

Heretofore for such devices there have been provided a working length and a releasing length for the curtain on one car in connection with a particularly designed hook on the adjoining car, which hook, as soon as the curtain shall be thrown out beyond its working length by cutting apart of the cars and before the curtain is completely unwound from its roller, shall be released. These devices have heretofore necessitated the equipment of both cars with cooperating parts, and as a result the expense has been largely increased, and what is a still greater disadvantage, the devices could not be utilized unless both cars were properly equipped.

It is the especial object of my invention to arrange for the release of the curtain solely through the medium of the curtain handle, which in adjusting the curtain for use is caught over a hook on the adjoining car, and it consists of the novel construction of handle arranged to open up when the working length of the curtain has been exceeded to release the handle from the retaining hook, whereby any construction of fixed hook may be used for securing the curtain, and it shall not be necessary that both cars should be equipped with releasing devices in order to utilize my invention.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a horizontal section of portions of the diaphragm posts of two adjoining cars with my improved curtain releasing devices in use. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the curtain handle, showing the open position of the handle in dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a central horizontal section of the handle. Fig. 4 is a detail of the inner ends of the two members of the handle, showing the knuckle joint.

The diaphragm posts of two adjoining cars are represented by 1, 2. Vertically mounted in a recess 3 in the post 1 is the curtain roller 4, on which is wound the usual spring controlled curtain 5, which passes out through a slot 6 in the cover plate 7 of the recess.

On the opposite post 2 is mounted an ordinary hook 8, to receive and hold the curtain handle when the curtain is extended to cover the diaphragm plates and to form an inclosed side passageway between the cars.

The vertical outer edge of the curtain is provided with a tube or rod 9 around which the curtain is bound to protect the outer edge. Clamped around this tube 9, about midway of the curtain, is a clamp plate 10, which is split to be adapted to be slipped over the curtain rod and to be rigidly clamped in place by the bolt 11. To prevent any lateral play, a screw 12 can also be employed to be screwed into the rod 9. The outer portion of the clamp is bifurcated to form the side plates 13, 13, and between these plates on the pins 14, 14, are pivotally mounted the two curved members 15, 16, which normally meet at their front ends 17 to form the handle for the curtain, by which it may be pulled out and hooked over on the hooks 8. The inner ends of the two handle members 15, 16, are extended to form an interlocking joint, or the hinge members 18, 19, so that any pivotal movement of either of the handle members on the pivot pin 14 will cause a similar movement in the opposite direction of the other member.

In order to hold the two members of the handle tightly together to form a continuous handle, a coiled spring 20 is provided, which is connected with lugs 21, 22, on the two members.

Coupled to the lower end of the handle member 16 is a chain 23, and the other end of this chain is secured by an escutcheon plate 24, or in any other suitable way, to the

post 1. I also preferably connect a short section of chain 25 to the upper end of the other member 15 of the handle, connecting this section of chain 25 to the main section 23 by the ring 26. The length of this chain 23 is less than the entire length of the curtain when drawn out, although the chain is sufficiently long to permit the curtain to be drawn out its full working length. It will be evident from this construction that when the handle comprising the members 15, 16, locked together by the coiled spring 20, is engaged over the hook 8 on the adjoining car, if the car should be separated without unhooking the curtain, inasmuch as the chain is shorter than the length of the curtain, as the curtain is drawn upon by the separation of the cars, the chain will pull on one or both ends of the handle:—on one end if the chain only runs to one end of the handle; and on both ends, the top and bottom of the handle, when the chain is connected as illustrated in the drawing. This pull on the handle will cause the two members of the handle to separate, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, and the handle will thus open up and be released from the hook, allowing the ordinary spring roller to wind up the curtain.

In order that the handles may be readily opened, I prefer to form the two outer arms segmental in shape, as shown in the drawing.

The advantages of the foregoing construction over prior curtain releasing devices will be very evident. No change is to be made in the curtains as ordinarily constructed. The ordinary handle is removed, and my improved handle secured in place. An escutcheon plate is fastened at any desired point on the diaphragm post and an ordinary chain provided, so that when the curtain is extended beyond its working length the draft will come on the chain. The device is then ready for use. No particular kind of hook member is required, and the curtain can be secured to any adjacent car, with the assurance that should the curtain not be unhooked when the cars are uncoupled, the handle will automatically be opened to release it from the hook before the curtain is fully drawn off on the roller.

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

1. In a device of the character specified, a frame with curtain roller and curtain mounted therein, and a handle for holding the curtain pivotally mounted at the edge thereof, with a flexible connection of shorter

length than the curtain intermediate the pivoted handle and the curtain mounting, whereby upon drawing out the curtain beyond its normal extension the handle will be shifted from its normal position.

2. In a device of the character specified, a frame with curtain roller and curtain mounted therein, and a handle for holding the curtain comprising an attaching portion and a holding member pivotally mounted to the attaching portion, with a flexible connection of shorter length than the curtain intermediate the pivoted member and the curtain mounting, whereby upon drawing out the curtain beyond its normal extension the pivoted member will be shifted from its normal position.

3. In a device of the character specified, a frame with curtain roller and curtain mounted therein, and a handle for holding the curtain comprising an attaching portion, with a pair of hook members pivotally mounted to the attaching portion opposite each other, with a spring to hold the hook members in contact to form a closed handle, with a flexible connection of shorter length than the curtain intermediate the hook members and the curtain mounting, whereby upon drawing out the curtain beyond its normal extension the curved members will be opened to open the handle.

4. In a device of the character specified, a frame with curtain roller and curtain mounted therein, of a releasable handle for the curtain, comprising a clamp plate, with a pair of pivoted members mounted in said plate, with their outer ends engaging to form a closed handle, with a spring to enforce the closure, and a chain connecting the pivoted members of the handle to the curtain support, of shorter length than the curtain.

5. In a device of the character specified, a frame with curtain roller and curtain mounted therein, of a releasable handle for the curtain, comprising a clamp plate, with a pair of pivoted members mounted in said plate, with their outer ends engaging to form a closed handle, and a spring to enforce the closure, with the inner ends of the pivoted members interlocked, and a flexible connection for one of the pivoted members, with the curtain support of shorter length than the curtain, whereby the draft on one pivoted member will operate both to open the handle.

EDWARD C. HOLMES.

Attest:

R. P. HARGITT,
EARL W. GRIFFIN.