Feb. 27, 1923. 1,447,159

T. G. THOMAS

BILLBOARD CONSTRUCTION

Filed July 6, 1922

Fig. 1.

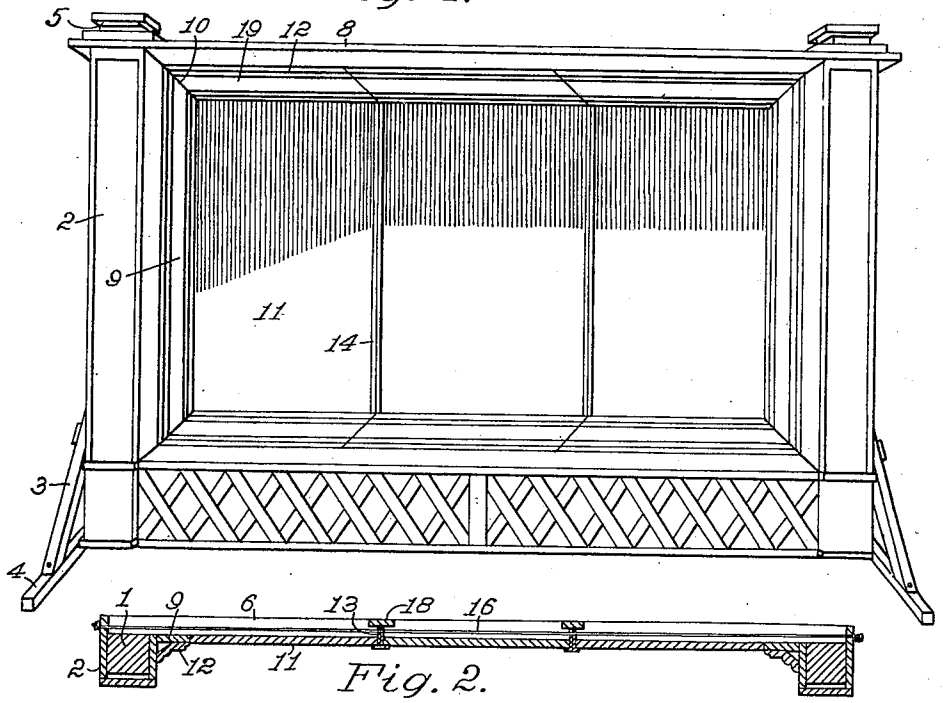


Fig. 2.

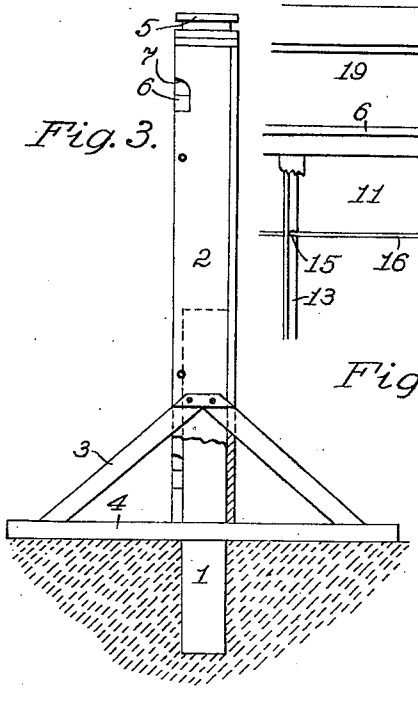


Fig. 3.

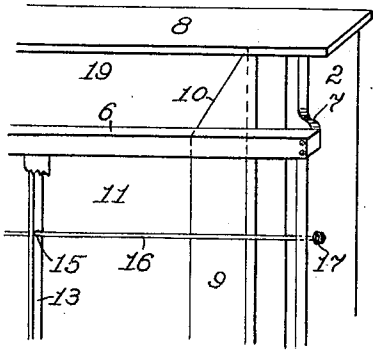
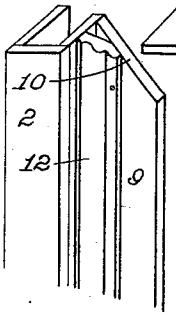


Fig. 4.



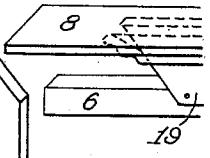


Fig. 5.

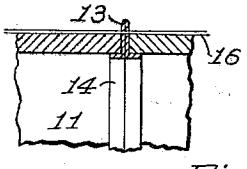


Fig. 6.

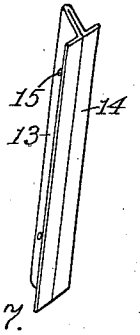


Fig. 7.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

TALLIE GEORGE THOMAS, OF WATERLOO, IOWA.

BILLBOARD CONSTRUCTION.

Application filed July 6, 1922. Serial No. 573,126.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, TALLIE GEORGE THOMAS, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Waterloo, Blackhawk County, Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Billboard Constructions, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in bill-board construction, and an object of my improvements is to furnish means for uniting sections of a bill-board to keep their approximated edges and margins in alinement and from warping or other irregularities; and another object is to effect an improved combination between disassemblable parts, whereby a strong and sightly structure is produced.

These objects have been accomplished by the means which are hereinafter described and claimed, and which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which Fig. 1 is a perspective front elevation of a framed sectional bill-board of my improved construction, and Fig. 2 is a horizontal section thereof. Fig. 3 is an end elevation thereof. Fig. 4 is a perspective detail, taken from the rear, of the upper corner construction, and Fig. 5 is a perspective detail, taken from the front, of said corner construction as disassembled. Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional detail, showing the T-bar uniting means for alined bill-board sections. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of one of said T-bars.

I have shown in said Fig. 1 a bill-board such as is constructed for outdoor use, but the constructive details of my invention may be adopted and employed for similar structures of any kind, and with considerable variation or modifications, without departing from the principles of the invention.

A very essential feature of this invention is the sectional construction thereof, especially of the bill-board proper, which consists of a plurality of planar bodies positioned in a single plane to present to the front a smooth plane surface to receive bills or display lettering or illustrations of any kind, and in which these sections or planar bodies are united at their abutting edges or clampingly held at their adjacent margins by means of T-bars or the like, which will maintain these margins in the same plane, keep them from warping or developing irregularities.

The panels 11 may be constructed of matched boarding either with or without a sheathing of thin metal plate, or the panels may be made of fiber board or entirely of metal or other substance if desired. It is often difficult to prevent the approximated edges and marginal parts of these panels from warping or developing irregularities when united or brought together, and my improved uniting means is designed to prevent this inconvenience and unsightliness. The numeral 13 denotes the medial web of a T-bar having the usual oppositely disposed flanges 14, and a number of transverse holes 15 are provided in said web.

For the purposes of this invention, the T-bar is preferably constructed of a strip of thin metal which is bent and shaped into a T-bar as illustrated in said Fig. 7. This assures sufficient strength and rigidity while the flanges 14 which overlap the adjacent margins of approximated panels 11 will be of slight thickness so as not to conspicuously interrupt the planarity of the bill-board surface. The web 13 is wide enough to project beyond the rear surface of the panels 11 to clear the holes 15. In the construction of a bill-board, as many panels 11 may be used as necessary to produce a sign of the required length, and as assembled and united by the T-bars, they are mounted at their peripheral edges on the mitred joint framing boards 9 and 19, and the latter may be wholly or partially covered in front by molding strips 12 likewise having coincident mitre joints 10 at the corners or other mitred joints intermediate their lengths when these members are sectional. Said framing is detachably secured at its opposite ends to standards 2 of channeled shape and beneath a top board 8, while an ornamental finial 5 may be mounted upon the upper surface of each end of the board 8 above each standard 2.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, each outer end board of said standards may have near its top and bottom in its rear edge a rectangular notch 7 and horizontal connecting bars 6 may have their ends mounted and secured in said notches to brace and strengthen the structure. Metal rods 16 are passed through the holes 15 in the webs 13 of said T-bars horizontally to be back of the rear surfaces of the panels 11 and to traverse alined holes in the end boards of the standards 2, the ends of the rods being terminally twisted or otherwise secured to the end boards under

tension to clamp said T-bars with their flanges 14 in close contact with the front faces of said panels.

Vertical struts 18 may connect the cross-bars 6 in the rear of and contacting with said web 13 as supporting backing therefor.

Fig. 5 displays the method of connecting the corner parts of the framing, as disassembled either before or after uniting them to said standards.

In Fig. 3 is shown an improved constructional means for supporting said bill-board structure upon and securing it to the ground underneath when placed out-of-doors. A post 1 has its lower part embedded in the ground with its upper part extending into the hollow of the standard 2. A base-bar 4 is positioned flatly upon the ground medially crossing the outer end of the standard 2 and connected to the latter and to the post by braces 3 and screws or bolts or any desired fastening means. This creates a supporting means calculated to resist any ordinary wind pressure or other shocks, while holding the bill-board as a whole in a permanent and rigid state.

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

1. In a bill-board, planar elements arranged in a single plane with certain abutting edges spaced apart, a T-bar having its flanges overlapping contactingly the adjacent margins of said elements with its web passed through their interspace to project therebeyond, the projecting portion of the web having transverse orifices and rods passed through said orifices, carried across said elements and terminally secured to fixed supports under endwise tension to clamp the T-bar upon said elements.

2. In a bill-board, planar elements arranged in a single plane, a rigid facing-strip secured thereon to contactingly cover their adjacent marginal parts, a sectional frame mounted about said elements having fitting mitred joints, standards, and means for releasably fastening said frame and planar elements upon said standards.

3. In a bill-board, planar elements arranged in a single plane, means for connecting their abutting edges together, a frame for said assembled elements, standards upon which said frame and planar elements are mounted removably, and basal supports for said standards, each comprising a post for insertion into the ground, a base-bar supported upon the ground surface, and braced connections between said base-bar and the adjacent standard and post.

4. In a bill-board, planar elements arranged in a single plane, means for retaining their adjacent margins in said plane, a framing for said elements composed of parts fitted together with mitred joints, supporting members connected to the end parts of said framing, and cross-ties in the rear of said elements end-connected to said supporting members.

Signed at Waterloo, Iowa, this 28th day of June, 1922.

TALLIE GEORGE THOMAS.