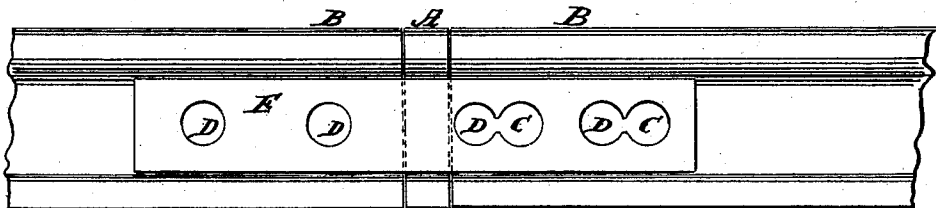


R. O'KEEFFE.
RAILROAD RAIL-JOINT.

No. 176,866.

Patented May 2, 1876.



WITNESSES:

E. Wolff
John Goethals

INVENTOR:

R. O'Keeffe
BY *Munn & Co.*
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD O KEEFFE, OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA.

IMPROVEMENT IN RAILROAD-RAIL JOINTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **176,866**, dated May 2, 1876; application filed February 5, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD O KEEFFE, of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Railroad-Rail Joints, of which the following is a specification:

The invention consists in making the fish-plates, which hold the ends of rails up to an intermediate short rail, with duplicate holes, arranged as hereinafter more fully described.

The contrivance is mainly intended to be used in connection with the joints of switch-rails, for the better regulation of the switches.

The figure is a side elevation of a rail-joint showing my invention.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents a short section of a rail such as I use between the rail-ends B, when they separate by contraction to tighten the joint, and C represents duplicate bolt-holes, which I propose to make in the fish-plate E, for

shifting the fastening-bolts, as may be required by the shifting of the holes in the rails.

The tighteners will be made in different lengths, so that they can be changed at will. In practice these tighteners will be used in the joints for several lengths of rails at the switches, whereby the switches can be kept in position much better. The tighteners may be cast or be cut off from rail-ends, or made in any other approved way.

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

The fish-plates E, made with duplicate holes C D to enable the short rail A to be used or not, according to the contraction or expansion of rails, all as shown and described.

RICHARD O KEEFFE.

Witnesses:

T. HENRY DONNELLY,
JAMES DONNELLY.