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RAILROAD SWITCH CLEANER

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODOR J. WYREMBEK, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Oconomowoc, in the county of Waukesha and State of Wisconsin, have invented and useful Improvements in Railroad-Switch Cleaners, of which the following is a description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which is a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in switch cleaners, especially designed for use in removing snow, dirt, or other foreign matter from about railroad switches.

The railroads of the country are expending thousands of dollars yearly for brooms for cleaning the snow, dirt, or other foreign matter from about the track switches. In addition to this heavy expenditure, the broom is objectionable in that it does not effectively remove the snow, dirt, or the like.

This invention has for a general object the provision of a railroad switch cleaner which will permit the easy and efficient removal of snow, dirt or other foreign matter from about the switch, and which is indestructible and inexpensive to manufacture, thus providing an economy in the maintenance of the railroad right-of-way.

This invention contemplates as another of its objects a railroad switch cleaner having a rod or handle member provided with a plate member at one end which is curved rearwardly to provide an instrument capable of being readily inserted under a switch between the ties to remove snow, dirt or any other foreign matter.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a railroad switch cleaner having an instrument for removing snow, dirt and other foreign matter from between the ties at the switch and another instrument capable of insertion in narrow places for the removal of any foreign matter.

And a still further object of this invention resides in the provision of a railroad switch cleaner of the character described which is preferably all metal construction, is light in weight, and balanced to permit its ready handling by a workman.

With the above and other objects in view which will appear as the description proceeds, my invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts substantially as hereinafter described and more particularly defined by the appended claims, it being understood that such changes in the precise embodiment of the hereindisclosed invention may be made as come within the scope of the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, I have illustrated one complete example of the physical embodiment of my invention constructed according to the best mode I have so far devised for the practical application of the principles thereof, and in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a railway switch cleaner embodying my invention, and

Figure 2 is a fragmentary perspective view illustrating that end of my device providing a relatively small instrument for removing foreign matter from the narrow or small spaces of a railroad switch.

It is well known that among the maintenance expenses of railroads will be found a large item covering brooms, the majority of which are used for sweeping or removing snow, dirt and other foreign matter from about the railroad switch. This service is unusually hard on brooms and as a result many thousands of dollars are spent each year. Furthermore, brooms do not provide means for efficiently and easily removing snow, dirt or other foreign matter from about the switches.

In the accompanying drawing, I have illustrated an improved railway switch cleaner which has been in practical use and has demonstrated its desirability and efficiency over the broom and other devices heretofore used for this purpose. This improved device comprises a rod or handle member 8 which is preferably in the form of a metal tube having its major portion straight and one end curved slightly, as at 8, to provide the proper balance.

Secured to the curved end of the handle member by rivets or other means 7 is a plate member 8 which has its outer end portion 9 curved rearwardly to bring its outer edge 10 in spaced relation to the medial portion of the plate member. The other end of the handle member has a scraper member 11 secured thereto by rivets or other suitable fastening means 12.

The scraper member 11 is preferably...
formed of steel and has its outer edge 13 shaped to provide a cutting surface. The plate 11 may be secured to the bar 5 by splitting the bar end, as at 14, and securing the plate between the split ends.

As will be readily obvious, the plate member 8 provides an instrument which may be readily inserted beneath a switch to remove snow, dirt or any other foreign matter, the curved end 6 providing the proper balance for the manipulation of the cleaner. The plate 8 may be also used wherever the same fits and when it is desired to remove foreign matter from spaces too small to permit the insertion of the plate member 8, the scraper 11 is employed.

It will be readily obvious to those skilled in the art to which an invention of this character appertains that I provide an improved cleaner which is indestructible, may be constructed at a very low cost, is well balanced to facilitate its use by an operator and is of light, but durable construction weighing approximately five pounds.

What I claim as my invention is:

1. A railroad switch cleaner, comprising a handle member having its major portion substantially straight and one end portion curved, a plate member secured to the curved end portion of the handle member, and said plate member having its outer end portion curved rearwardly to space its free edge from the medial portion thereof to form a scoop member.

2. A railroad switch cleaner, comprising a handle member, a plate member secured to one end of the handle member and having its outer end portion curved rearwardly to space its free edge from the medial portion thereof, the plate member forming a scoop member, and that end portion of said handle member adjacent the plate member being curved to throw the edge of the plate member in its proper functioning position when the opposite end portion of the handle member is gripped by the operator.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

THEODOR J. WYRFMBEF