

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY RIEGER, OF BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-SHIELDS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 121,421, dated November 23, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY RIEGER, of Beaufort, in the county of Carteret and State of North Carolina, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Shields; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification.

It is the object of this invention to provide convenient and efficient means for preventing the spread of fires in cities and villages; and it consists in a portable adjustable shield or screen, formed of fire-proof plates or sheets mounted on wheels, so that the same can be transported from place to place and be applied with expedition, the construction and arrangement being as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is an elevation showing a side view of the apparatus. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of Fig. 1 taken on the line *x x*.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A represents a light frame or platform, supported on the axles B of the wheels C, but raised above and projecting over the wheels, as seen in the drawing. D D are two pairs of stanchions, attached at the bottom to the platform A, and connected at their top ends at E E. F is a pulley hanging from the center of each pair. G represents an upright rod at each corner, or one for each stanchion, rigidly connected to the platform, and extending up about half way, more or less, to the top of the stanchion. The upper ends of these rods are curved and forked, and each contains a pulley, H, as seen in both figures. T

is a brace for each of the rods G, on which horizontal pulley-shafts J J are supported. K is a horizontal pulley-shaft at each corner of the platform, supported by stands L. M is another horizontal pulley-shaft at each corner of the platform. All these shafts are provided with cranks N, by means of which they are revolved, and with ratchet-wheels and pawls, by which back movement is prevented. O represents sheets or plates of metal or other incombustible material, which are suspended from the stanchions and from the rods G by means of the chains P, and are raised and lowered by means of the crank pulley-shafts, arranged as already described.

The plates O are so arranged that they work independently of each other, and they may be adjusted in a mass or so as to present two or more thicknesses to the heat or flame of a burning building. The sheets or plates O may be of any required thickness and size, and any required number of them may be used. By interposing this shield between buildings one of which is on fire the fire may be confined to narrow limits and much property saved.

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

The platform A, raised above and projecting over the wheels, the stanchions D, connected at the top E, and provided with hanging pulleys F, the corner rods G, curved, forked, and provided with pulleys H and braces I, the crank pulley-shafts K M, and pendent plates O, all combined, constructed, and arranged as described to form an improved fire-shield.

HENRY RIEGER.

Witnesses:

T. W. LINDSAY,
C. S. BELL.

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