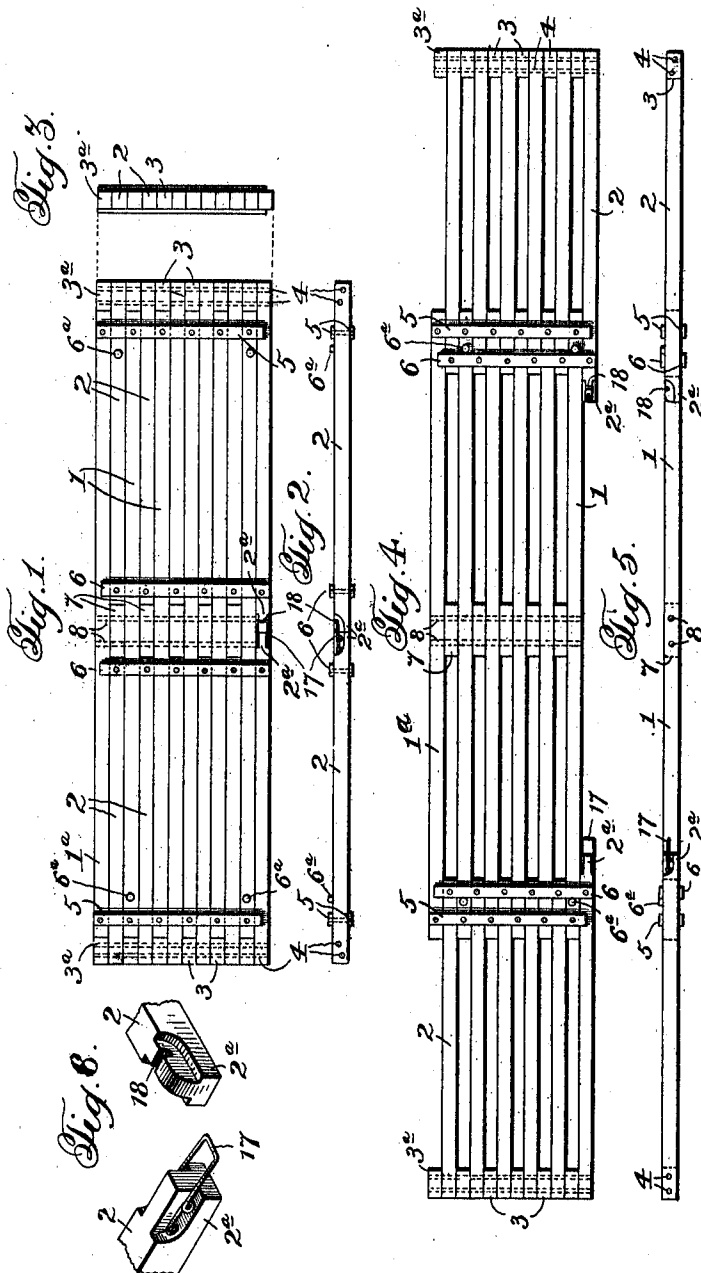


J. S. TILLEY.
 PLATFORM OR PLANK.
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982,905.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.



Witnesses:
Jas. Hutchinson
Chas. T. Milans

Inventor:
John S. Tilley
 By *Wm. Milans* Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOHN S. TILLEY, OF WATERVLIET, NEW YORK.

PLATFORM OR PLANK.

982,905.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. TILLEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Watervliet, in the county of Albany and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Platforms or Planks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to "platforms" or "planks" of the type comprising a plurality of sections operatively connected together for relative sliding movement to form a platform longitudinally extensible and collapsible.

One of the primary objects of the invention is to provide a novel form of platform of the character just stated, whereby the sliding sections telescope one with the other, presenting similar smooth and continuous upper and lower surfaces which may be reversed in use, and at the same time preserving the requisite qualities of rigidity and stability.

Most of the prior constructions along the line of the present invention with which I am familiar, have proved impracticable to a large extent and often times dangerous because of the fact that when in operation and when the sections of the platform have been extended and weight applied thereto, the parts are more or less shaky and will spring, warp or twist, which is due largely to the fact that the main sections are wholly unsupported and devoid of stiffening means intermediate their ends.

An important feature of the invention, therefore, lies in the provision of novel means for overcoming the objectionable features just noted, and to this end I provide intermediate the ends of one of the sections, conveniently the main or body part of the platform, bracing or stiffening instrumentalities constructed and arranged to constitute a support extending substantially from side to side of the body part, at a point removed from the usual end bracers. The advantages of the intermediate bracing instrumentalities mentioned are many, among which may be noted the fact that the platform so constructed is braced and stiffened throughout, twisting, springing and wobbling are prevented and racking and rocking are avoided, it being borne in mind that the bracing instrumentalities also constitute

spacing means for the separated strips or slats comprising the make-up of the sections.

A platform fashioned along the line of the present invention is simple in construction, cheap to manufacture and at the same time efficient, durable and practicable.

The novel details in the construction and arrangement of the several parts will be pointed out in the description following, and for a clear understanding thereof, reference is directed to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, and wherein I have disclosed for the purpose of illustration satisfactory embodiments of the invention.

In the drawings—Figure 1 is a plan view of a preferred form of the invention showing the sections of the platform in collapsed or closed position. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is an end view. Fig. 4 is a top plan view showing the sections extended. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the locking device.

With further reference to the drawings wherein like reference characters refer to corresponding parts throughout the several views, 1 is a center or main body section and 2 end sections, which latter are of substantially the same thickness as the main body section and are adapted in a manner to be described, to slide relative to said body section and assume a closed or collapsed condition as indicated in Fig. 1, or extended position as shown in Fig. 4.

The section 1 is made up of a plurality of closely associated strips or slats, separated one from the other for the reception of substantially similar strips or slats comprising the end sections. Spacing blocks 3 are arranged one between each strip of the end sections and at the ends of the latter so as to maintain the strips of the end sections properly spaced, an auxiliary block 3^a being provided to the outside of the outermost slat or strip of each section so as to contact when in closed position with the outermost strip or slat 1^a of the main section 1. When the plank is in use, the blocks 3^a will constitute in effect a continuation of the bearing formed by the strip 1^a to engage a wall, or the like, and prevent rocking of the plank. Novel means are provided for suitably supporting the spacing blocks in position, whereby no obstruction is offered to the surfaces of the sections, the same comprising a

rod or rods 4 extending through alined apertures in the said spacing blocks and the respective strips of the sections 2. By providing a plurality of rods it will be noted that the spacing blocks 3 will be held im-
 5 movable and any retaining devices at the ends of the rods which would offer obstructions thereby made unnecessary. Extending between and over the respective strips
 10 of the main or body section 1 are rods or bands 5, which are secured in any desired manner to the upper and lower surfaces of the slats of the section 1 adjacent the ends of the latter. Similar rods or bands 6 are
 15 applied at the inner ends of the end sections 2, it being observed that the rods or bands 6 may contact stops 6^a secured in the body near the ends which constitute means for limiting the outward movement of the end
 20 sections 2. It has been found in practice that the middle or main body section of the platform will twist or spring upon weight being applied thereto, and to overcome this and other objections, I provide
 25 novel stiffening and bracing instrumentalities intermediate the ends of the section 1.

In the structure disclosed in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the bracing instrumentalities comprise blocks 7 which are relatively
 30 long and are disposed one between each strip or slat of the section 1, thereby providing spacing blocks for the latter. These spacing blocks 7 offer no obstructions beyond the upper and lower surfaces of the
 35 section 1 and are maintained in position by a plurality of rods 8 passing through complementary apertures in the blocks 7 and the strips of the section 1. Conveniently the rods 8 are located on opposite sides of the
 40 longitudinal center of the spacing block and thus serve after the parts are tightly bound together to resist independent turning or bending action at the center of the main portion of the platform. The construction
 45 materially strengthens the center part of the platform against checking or breaking transverse the center lining. Platforms of this character are made of relatively narrow strips approximating seven-eighths of an
 50 inch in thickness, two inches in width, and eight feet in length, thus presenting a very frail structure if the respective strips are not tightly bound together and braced or re-
 55 inforced centrally across the plank. I have ascertained that the proper manner of securing this bracing and uniting of the parts at the center is to employ at least a plurality of bolts, rods or their equivalent and locate them so that the breaking and torsional
 60 strain will be resisted at localized points on opposite sides of the centers of the blocks. When in position these blocks 7 constitute a rigid support for each of the parts of the section 1 and will prevent any springing,
 65 twisting or wobbling of the parts, which is

an important feature of the invention, since owing to the uses to which structures of the character under consideration are put, it is essential that the platforms be rigid
 70 throughout, whereby the workman may obtain a firm footing, it being borne in mind that often times a steady hand is absolutely necessary, and any spring or wobbling of the platform would prevent this.

The innermost strip of the end sections
 75 are extended at their inner ends at 2^a which, when the end sections are closed overlap the block 7 and contact one with the other thereby providing substantially continuous side and upper and lower surfaces.

The strips of the respective sections are disposed edgewise so as to provide a substantial depth to the platform and overcome the springing to a large extent, and by reason of the close association of the strips the
 80 feet or heels of the workmen cannot slip into the spaces therebetween.

The structure just described makes it possible to have each of the sections 1 and 2 of the same width which is of importance in
 90 that it has been found in practice that if the end sections are narrower than the body part the platform will rock and tip in use which is objectionable and dangerous to the workmen.

In operation, the parts having been properly applied, the strips of the main or intermediate and end sections while having a snug interlocking fit are free to slide longitudinally relative to one another, the rods or
 100 bands 6 and the stops 6^a constituting means for limiting the extension movement and the blocks 7 constituting a rigid point of contact for the respective end sections when in closed position.

Novel means is employed for securing the plank sections in closed position, the same conveniently taking the form of spring bail
 110 17 on one of the extensions 2^a adapted to engage over a notched part 18 of the adjacent part 2^a as shown. This locking means is shown as constructed and arranged to offer no protuberance beyond the surfaces of the sections and when the parts are locked,
 115 the lower surface of the collapsed plank is continuous, thereby overcoming any likelihood of parts of a wagon engaging in the space between the section and opening of the same in placing the plank onto and taking
 120 the same from the wagon.

What I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. In a plank of the character described, the combination with a central section
 125 formed of a series of longitudinally extending strips spaced apart and having their end portions connected, of end sections comprising a series of strips spaced apart slidably positioned between the strips of the central section and having their end portions con-
 130

5 nected together, and means for uniting and
bracing the intermediate portion of the
strips of the central section comprising a
series of blocks fitted between the spaces be-
tween the strips, and a plurality of fastening
rods passing through the strips and blocks
on opposite sides respectively of the center
of the latter.

10 2. In a plank of the character described,
the combination with a central portion com-
posed of a series of spaced apart strips hav-
ing their ends connected, and sliding end
extensions formed of strips positioned to
slide between the strips of the central section
15 and having their ends connected, of means
for strengthening and uniting the strips of
the central section intermediate the ends
thereof comprising a series of spacing blocks
interposed between the respective strips, and
20 means for uniting the various strips and
blocks located on opposite sides of the center
of said blocks, for the purposes specified.

3. In a plank of the character described,
the combination of a central section com-
posed of a series of separated narrow strips 25
having their ends connected, end sections
composed of strips slidably mounted be-
tween the strips of the central section and
having their ends connected, spacing blocks
interposed centrally between the strips of 30
the center section, and means for binding the
blocks and the strips together at the said
center point, whereby the central part of the
center section is rendered unitary in its con-
struction, the respective strips held against 35
independent tilting or twisting action, and
said central part of the center section
strengthened.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN S. TILLEY.

Witnesses:

CALVIN T. MILANS,
GEO. D. RILEY.