R. J. SCHUHMANN.

AUTOMATON SIGN.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 25, 1915.

1,168,751.

Patented Jan. 18, 1916.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig 1

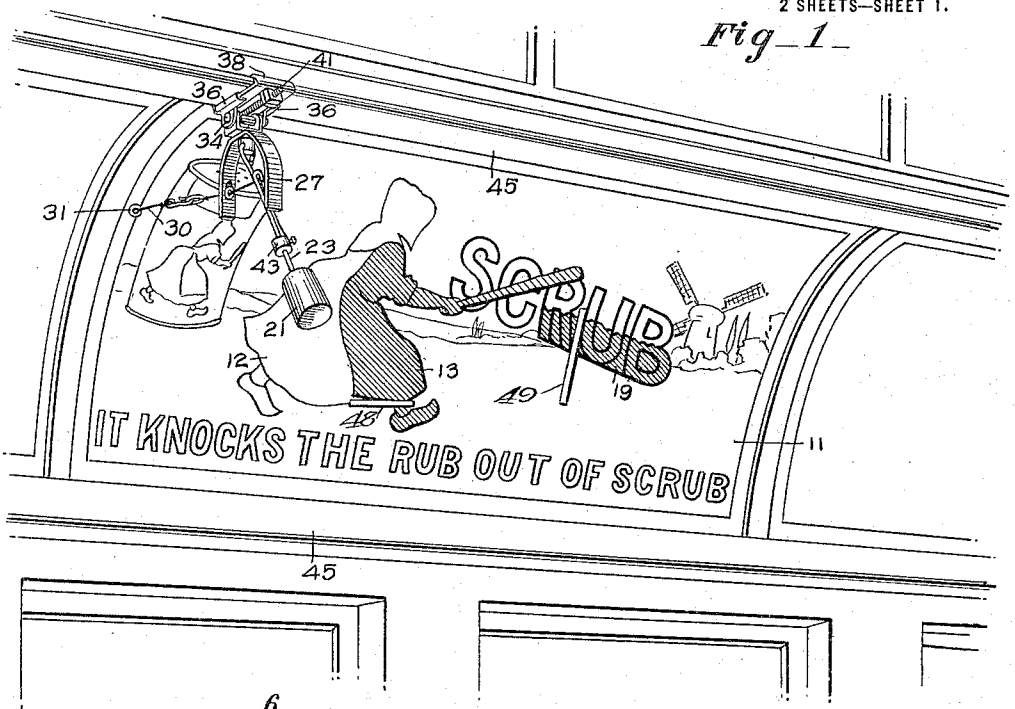
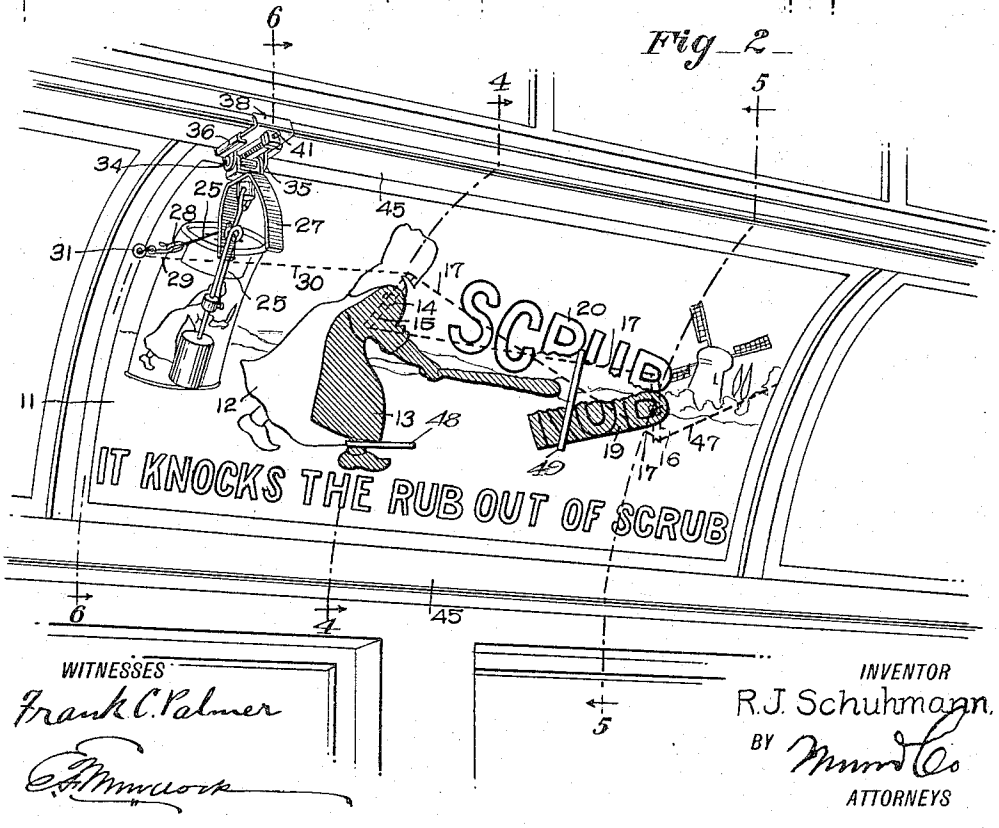


Fig 2



WITNESSES

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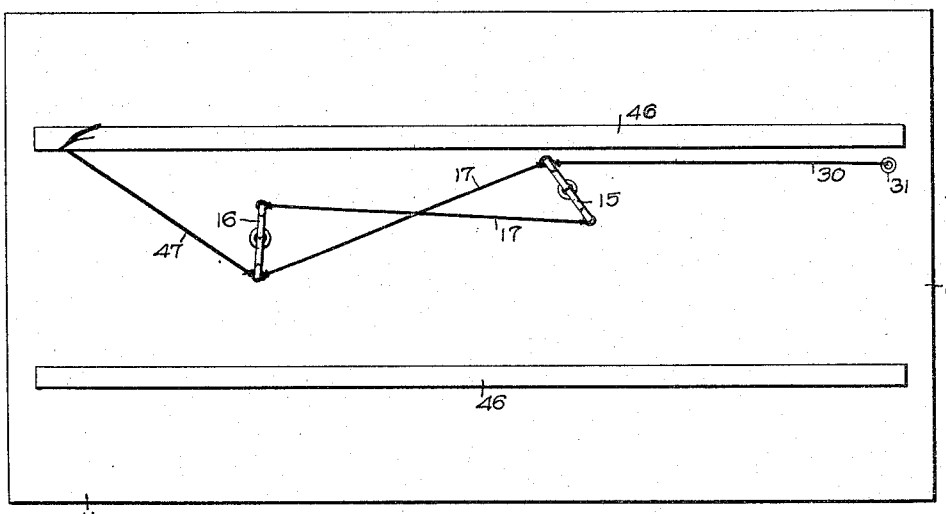
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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.



11

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

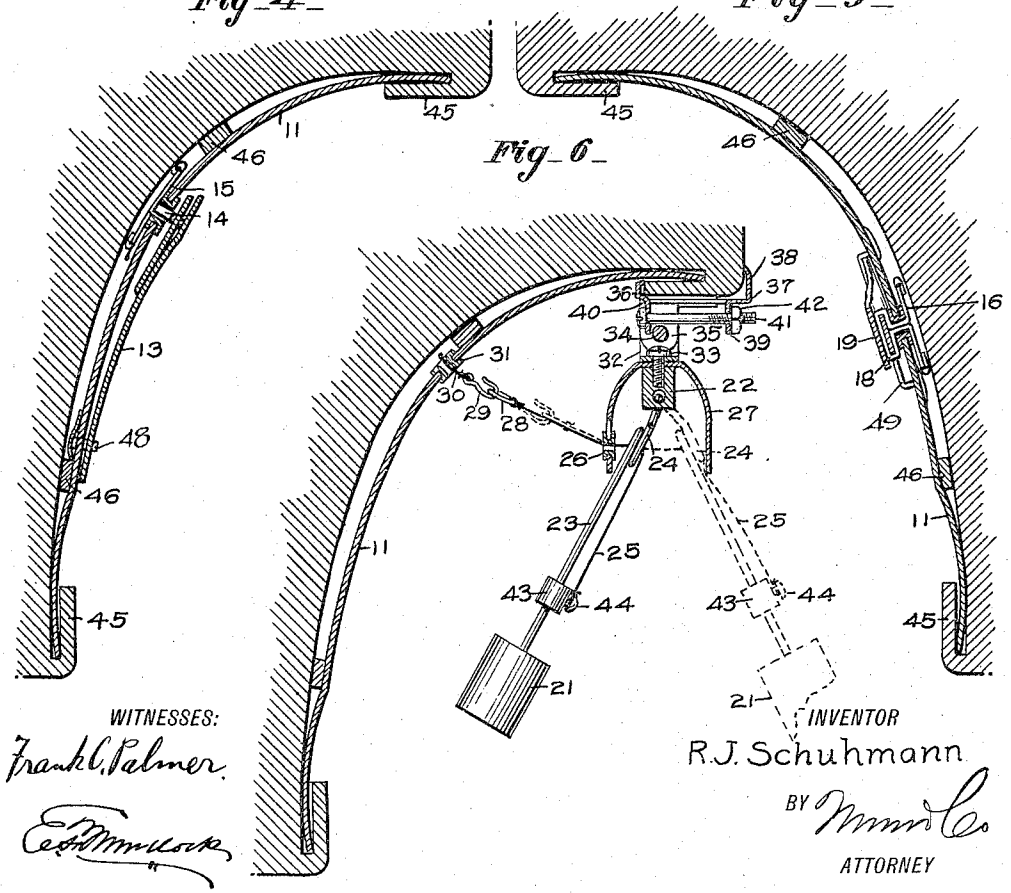


Fig. 6.

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AUTOMATON-SIGN.

1,168,751. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 18, 1916.

Application filed May 25, 1915. Serial No. 30,267.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD J. SCHUHMANN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Louisville, in the county of Jefferson and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and Improved Automaton-Sign, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

Among the principal objects which the present invention has in view are: to provide a sign of the character mentioned with power means for moving a section thereof in simulation of the action of a living figure; to provide a power means for the purposes set forth operable in correspondence with the motion of a vehicle by which the sign is carried; and to simplify the mechanism of said power means.

Drawings.—Figure 1 is a perspective view, showing a sign constructed and arranged in accordance with the present invention, as installed in the lantern of a street car, the movable parts of the sign being shown in their inactive position. Fig. 2 is a similar view, showing the movable parts of the sign in their active position; Fig. 3 is a view of the back of a sign constructed in accordance with the present invention and showing part of the transmission mechanism employed in conjunction therewith; Fig. 4 is a vertical section on an enlarged scale, the section being taken as on the line 4—4 in Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is a similar section, taken as on the line 5—5 in Fig. 2; and Fig. 6 is a similar section taken as on the line 6—6 in Fig. 2.

Description.—As seen in the drawings, a panel 11, has imprinted on the surface thereof lines pictorially representing a portion of a human figure. The portion referred to is herein designated an inactive section 12. Movably mounted on said panel and in conjunction with the inactive section 12, is an active section 13. In the figure shown in the drawings, section 13 is rigidly mounted on a pin 14, which pin forms a pivot for said section and for a rocking bar 15, extended from the back of the panel 11. The bar 15 is operatively connected, as seen best in Fig. 3 of the drawings, with an auxiliary bar 16. The connection between the two bars 15 and 16 is formed by cables 17, which are crossed to produce relatively opposite rotary movements of the bars 15 and 16. Rigidly connected with the bar 16 and with the loop head 18 thereof, is a second active section 19. The active section 19, like the active section 13, has relation to an inactive section 20 of a portion of the imprinted surface on the panel 11.

The invention has in view, the production of moving members, such as the active sections 13 and 19, so connected that the one apparently operates upon the other. Thus, as shown in the embodiment of the invention and in the panel 11, the active section 13 simulates a portion of the body of a woman, which when thrown back produces the optical illusion as of the body being advanced and slightly bent forward and down. Connected with and forming a part of the said active section, is a portion shaped to simulate the arm of the person represented in the imprint, having in the hand thereof, a club which is extended in juxtaposed relation to the active section 19. The active section 19 is movable from the position shown in Fig. 1, to the position shown in Fig. 2 and in unison with the movement of the active section 13 of the picture representing the human figure. The relation between the sections 19 and 20, is that indicated by the drawings, where the section 20 forms a portion of the word imprinted on the panel.

By rocking the bars 15 and 16 around their respective pivots, it will be found that the illusion is produced as of a person striking with the club, the portion of the word indicated, with the effect of breaking the said word, by the blow imparted by the club. To render the simulation more suggestive and as an explanation of the action portrayed, some motto or suggestive matter is imprinted on the panel 11, such as shown in the drawings, where the inscription is, "It knocks the rub out of scrub." The said inscription has particular significance with reference to the word formed by the active and inactive sections 19 and 20, which combined, form the word "scrub," while the active section 19 more particularly forms a portion of the three last letters "rub." Therefore, in service, if means for rocking the said bars 15 and 16 are provided, the simulation will continuously be that the figure is in reality knocking the last end of the word, to wit, the "rub" from the word, "scrub."

The mechanism herein provided for actuating or rocking the bars 15 and 16, embodies a weight 21 which is pendulously mounted to swing on a suspension block 22. For this purpose, the weight 21 is provided with a suspension wire 23, having formed therein a coil 24 to form an eyelet, through which is passed a flexible wire 25. The wire 25 is also passed through an eyelet 26 in the end of a yoke 27. At the end of the wire 25, a ring 28 is mounted to engage a hook 29 on the exposed end of a pull cord 30. The pull cord 30 is passed through an eyelet 31 mounted in the panel 11, as seen best in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

The yoke 27 has rigidly connected therewith, a U-shaped hanger 32. The hanger 32, yoke 27 and block 22 are structurally united by a screw 33. The hanger 32 is pivotally connected by a shaft 34 with clips 35, which are extended from a slide plate 36, best seen in Fig. 6 of the drawings.

The slide plate 36 has overturned edges to receive a plate 37, which has an upstanding gripping jaw 38 and a pendant tab 39. The tab 39 is disposed in line with a tab 40 extended from the plate 36 and perforated to receive a screw 41. A nut 42 is engaged with the screw 41, the purpose being to draw the jaw 38 toward an upstanding edge of the plate 36. This construction affords an easy and convenient method of hanging the weight 21 on a car or vehicle structure.

It is the purpose of the present invention, to afford means for alternating or replacing panels such as 11, the movable parts of said panels, all being operated from the same power means. For this reason, the wire 25 is provided with the ring 28 and the cord 30 with the hook 29. When it is desired to remove any panel 11, the said ring is removed from the said hook and the panel is completely disconnected from the power means. To adjust the wire 25 to various working conditions, the said wire is anchored to a collar 43 which slides on the wire 23, being held in adjusted position thereon by a set screw 44. It will be understood that by moving the collar 43 on the wire 23, the variations in distance between the hook 29 and the eyelet 26 may be accommodated.

Operation.—The panels 11 are particularly designed to fit within the lantern or cove of public vehicles, such as street railway cars or busses, which are usually equipped with undercut rails, such as indicated in the drawings by the numerals 45, to receive the edges of the panels. The panels 11 constructed in accordance with the present invention are arranged on the back with longitudinally disposed fender strips 46, which serve to hold the back of the panel away from the car body structure, to form a channel wherein work the bars 15 and 16 and the transmission elements connected therewith, including the elastic band 47, which is employed to retract the said bars 15 and 16 and members connected therewith, to the normal position as shown in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings. The end of the band 47 is rigidly held on one of the strips 46, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

To place the panels 11 in service for support by the rails 45, the said panels are bent on their longitudinal center and the edges of the said panels are placed at the entrance of the spaces behind the said rails 45. As the panels are forced inward, their edges are forced under the said rails to the position, shown in Figs. 4 to 6 inclusive. Each weight 21 is independently mounted on the car structure and preferably on the upper rail 45 by manipulating the nut 42 on the screw 41 to open and close the slide plate 36 and jaw 38 to grip the said rail. When the panel is adjusted, the ring 28 of the wire 25 is caused to engage the hook 29. The collar 43 is then adjusted to draw the pull cord 30 to a median position, or position where the active sections 13 and 19 are intermediate the positions shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, the band 47 being stretched to accommodate this movement.

When the above-described arrangement has been established, it will be found that as the car or vehicle moves, the weight 21 swings on the block 22 from the position shown in full lines in Fig. 5 of the drawings, to the position shown by dotted lines in said figure. This movement of the weight 21 pulls the cord 30 and rocks the bars 15 and 16 and the active sections 13 and 19 mounted thereon, so that the said sections are moved in accordance with the position to simulate the action of the person or thing, as per the design. The section 13 and the section 19 are guided in their movement and at the free ends thereof, by guide bars 48 and 49 respectively. The bars 48 and 49 are rigidly attached to the panel 11 having perpendicularly extended ends or legs therefor.

It will be understood that after each weight 21 is installed, it will remain attached to the car structure, though the panels 11 may be varied or replaced by others.

Claims:

1. A sign as characterized comprising a panel, having imprinted thereon inactive pictorial sections; a plurality of active pictorial sections pivotally mounted on said panel in corresponding relation to said inactive sections; power means embodying a swinging weighted member suspended in spaced relation to said panel; flexible transmission devices operatively connecting said weighted member and said active sections; means for mounting said weighted member, said means embodying a yoke for limiting

the swinging of said weighted member; and means embodying clamping jaws and a contracting screw therefor, for mounting said yoke permanently in service.

2. A sign as characterized comprising a panel, having imprinted thereon inactive pictorial sections; a plurality of active pictorial sections pivotally mounted on said panel in corresponding relation to said inactive sections; power means embodying a swinging weighted member suspended in spaced relation to said panel; and flexible transmission devices operatively connecting said weighted member and said active sections, said transmission devices embodying a pull cord mounted on said panel, a wire mounted on said power means and a hook and eyelet for operatively connecting said pull cord and wire for establishing service relation therebetween.

3. A sign as characterized comprising power means, embodying a pivot block; means for permanently mounting said block on a vehicle structure; a weighted member pendulously connected with said block; and a yoke fixedly mounted on said block for limiting the extent of operation of said weighted member.

In witness whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD JOSEPH SCHUHMANN.

Witnesses:
MAX A. REYNOLDS,
HENRY BAUMGARTEN.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."