

F. M. WILLS.
 TONNEAU TABLE FOR AUTOMOBILES AND THE LIKE.
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1,348,613.

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Fig. 1.

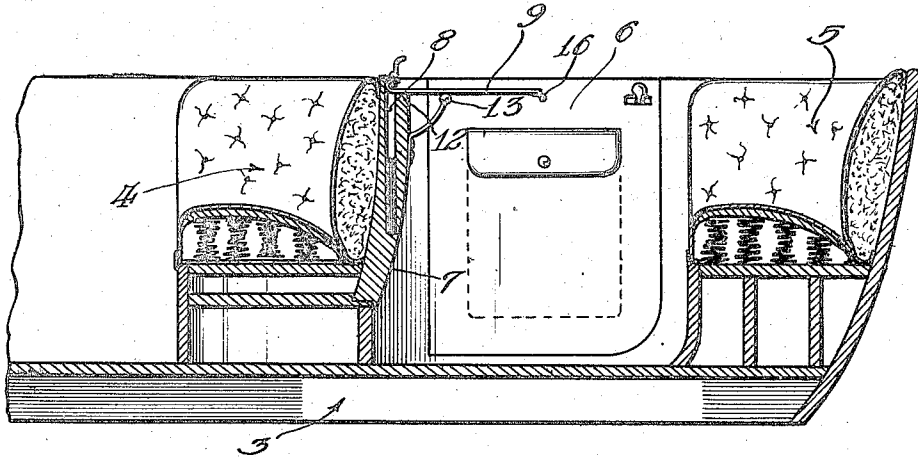
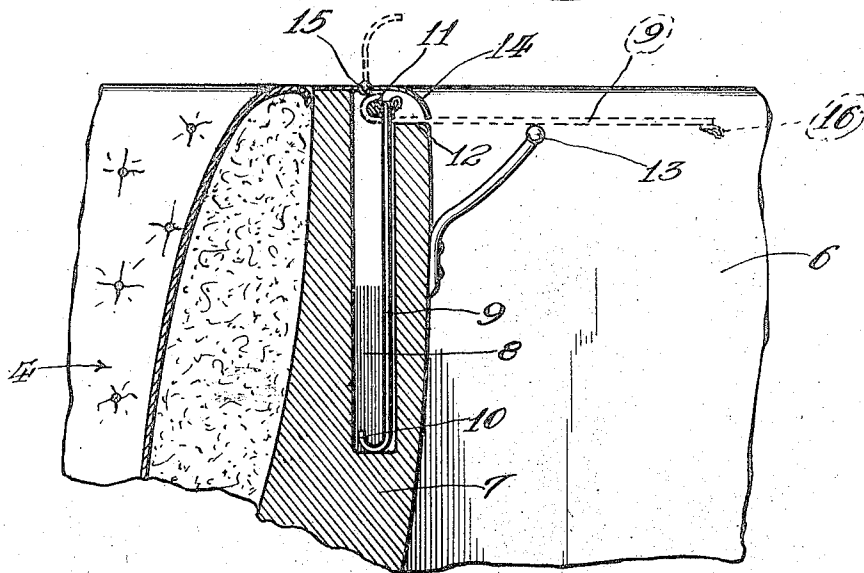


Fig. 2.



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TONNEAU-TABLE FOR AUTOMOBILES AND THE LIKE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK M. WILLS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Elgin, county of Kane, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tonneau-Tables for Automobiles and the like, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention has to do with an improved tonneau table for use in automobiles and the like. The table to which the present invention particularly relates is so formed and related to the body of the automobile that, when standing in operative position, it will constitute a table conveniently located for the use of the occupants in the rear portion or tonneau of the machine. When in this position, it may be used for any convenient purpose, such as serving the luncheon, playing a game, or any other suitable or usual purpose. On the other hand, the arrangement is such that, when not in use, the table may be dropped back into position within a slotted opening in the back portion of the front seat in which position it is completely out of the way and protected against the weather and elements. Furthermore, when so moved into the non-operative position, the parts are fully covered and protected, and the automobile presents a very neat and pleasing appearance.

Other objects and uses of the invention will appear from a detailed description of the same which consists in the features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows a longitudinal section through a portion of an automobile body showing the position which the table occupies with respect to the front seat and with respect to the rear portion or tonneau; and

Fig. 2 shows a detailed fragmentary section on enlarged scale showing the table and the manner in which it may be moved back into the slotted opening and there protected.

Referring to the drawing, the body of the automobile in its entirety is designated by the numeral 3. For purposes of convenience in illustration and description, I have shown a front seat 4 and a rear seat 5; and have also illustrated a door 6 giving access to the tonneau.

In the back portion 7 of the front seat, and generally in the frame of said back portion, I provide a vertically extending

slotted opening 8 of width suitable to accommodate a table 9 when the same is dropped into the closed position shown by full lines in Fig. 2. In some cases the table will be of the full width of the tonneau, and in other cases only a portion of said width, depending upon the wishes of the designer.

The slotted opening 8 will be of depth suitable to accommodate the table when dropped into the lowered position, and will, therefore, be of a depth approximating the width of the table itself.

The table 9 will generally be made of pressed sheet metal and in such case it may be provided with a fancy or beaded edge portion, or may be left perfectly plain; and, if desired, its faces may be enameled or painted to harmonize with the finish of the car, or special designs may be placed thereon. For example, in some cases, it may be found desirable to place the design of a checker-board on one face of the table, so that when the table is drawn out into the operative position shown in Fig. 2, the occupants of the rear portion of the car will have at their disposal a checker-board on which to play checkers, chess, or any other similar game.

The table itself is provided on its inner end with a hooked portion 10; and across the upper end of the slotted opening 8 there extends a rod 11, which rod has its end portions secured firmly within the frame of the car or to the back of the front seat. Ordinarily this rod 11 will be of a diameter approximating the curvature of the hooked portion 10, so that when the table is drawn up and tilted over into the horizontal position, said hooked portion will easily engage the rod 11.

Ordinarily the rod 11 will be placed slightly above the position of the upper end 12 of the back of the seat, so that when the table is thrown over into the horizontal position, it will either rest upon or clear said upper edge 12. When it rests upon said upper edge, it will be supported thereby, and, in conjunction with the rod 11, will be held in the horizontal position. Owing to the proximity of the upper edge 12 to the rod 11, it may, in some cases, be found that the supporting moment thus produced is insufficient to properly carry the load of the table and the articles placed thereon; in which case use may be made of the robe rail 13 which is ordinarily present and lo-

cated at some distance behind the upper edge 12. When the robe rail is to be used in this manner for providing support for the table, the parts should be so related that the table
 5 will come to rest upon the robe rail either at the same time that the table finds a support upon the upper edge 12 or independently thereof. In many cases, the entire support for the table will be provided between the rod 11 and the robe rail 13.

If desired, a cap 14 may be provided for normally closing over and protecting the upper portion of the slotted opening 8. Such cap, when provided, may be hinged to
 15 the upper portion of the seat at the point 15 so that it can, upon occasion, be raised into the dotted line position shown in the figure.

If desired, suitable finger pieces or grips 16 may be provided on the upper or outer
 20 edge of the table so as to facilitate raising the table into the working position.

While I have herein shown and described only a single embodiment of the features of my invention, still I do not limit myself
 25 to the said embodiment, except as I may do so in the claims.

I claim:

1. The combination with an automobile body having a front seat with a vertical
 30 back, there being a vertically extending slotted opening in the back portion of said seat, and having a horizontally extending robe rail on the back face of the upper portion of the back of said seat, of a rod extending
 35 across the upper portion of said slotted opening, a sheet metal table adapted to work within the slotted opening and having a width substantially equal to the depth of the slotted opening, a hooked edge portion
 40 on the inner edge of the table adapted to engage the rod when the table is raised into working position, the robe rail and rod being located at substantially the same elevation, whereby when the table is raised
 45 into the working position its inner edge will hook onto and engage the rod, and its under face will rest upon and be supported by the robe rail, and a cover hinged to the upper portion of the seat and normally lying
 50 over and closing the upper edge of the slotted opening, substantially as described.

2. The combination with an automobile body having a front seat with a vertical
 55 back, there being a vertically extending slotted opening in the back portion of said seat, and having a horizontally extending robe rail on the back face of the upper portion of the back of said seat, of a sheet metal table adapted to work within the

slotted opening and having a width sub- 60
 stantially equal to the depth of the slotted opening, a hooked portion on the inner edge of the table, means on the back of the seat adapted to engage said hooked portion when the table is raised into working position, 65
 the robe rail and said means being located at substantially the same elevation, whereby when the table is raised into the working position its inner edge will cooperate with said means, and its under face will rest upon 70
 and be supported by the robe rail, and a cover hinged to the upper portion of the seat, and normally lying over and closing the upper edge of the slotted opening, substantially as described. 75

3. The combination with an automobile body having a front seat with a vertical back, there being a vertically extending slotted opening in the back portion of said seat, and having a horizontally extending 80
 robe rail on the back face of the upper portion of the back of said seat, of a sheet metal table adapted to work within the slotted opening and having a width substantially equal to the depth of the slotted opening, a hooked portion on the inner edge of 85
 the table, and means on the back of the seat adapted to engage said hooked portion when the table is raised into working position, the robe rail and said means being located 90
 at substantially the same elevation, whereby when the table is raised into the working position its inner edge will cooperate with said means, and its under face will rest upon and be supported by the robe rail, substan- 95
 tially as described.

4. The combination with an automobile body having a front seat with a vertical back, there being a vertically extending slotted opening in the back portion of said 100
 seat, and having a horizontally extending robe rail on the back face of the upper portion of the back of said seat, of a sheet metal table adapted to work within the slotted opening and having a width substan- 105
 tially equal to the depth of the slotted opening, and means in conjunction with the inner edge of said table, and the back of the seat adapted to engage each other when the table is raised into the working position, 110
 the robe rail and said means being relatively so positioned that when the table is raised and moved into the horizontal position, it will simultaneously engage said parts and be supported thereby, substan- 115
 tially as described.

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