G. S. SOWERS.

TRAIN CHECK RAILWAY TICKET.

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1,353,286. **Patented Sept. 21, 1920.**

Fig. 1.

THE MIDDLE WEST RAILWAY.

GOOD FOR ONE

First Class Passage

From Kansas City, Mo.

To San Francisco, Calif.

and RETURN by

the route and railroads designated below.
Subject to the following Contract:

(CONTRACT)

(Signed) U. R. Wise.

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ISSUED BY THE MIDDLE WEST Ry. Co.

Good For One First Class Passage

From Galveston, Texas,

To KANSAS CITY, Mo.

via THE SOUTHERN STATES Ry. Co.

Not good if detached from Contract.

6

10

8

5/1367. SOUTHERN STATES

FIRST CLASS Galveston Tex. TO Kansas City, Mo.

To avoid necessity of showing ticket, detach and display this TRAIN CHECK to patrolmen & trainmen.

NOT GOOD FOR TRANSPORTATION.

10

6'

8'

ISSUED BY THE MIDDLE WEST Ry Co.

Good For One First Class Passage.

From Kansas City, Mo.

to Denver, Colo.

VIA THE MIDDLE WEST RAILWAY Co.

Not good if detached from Contract.

6"

10

5/1367. MIDDLE-WEST

FIRST CLASS Kansas City, Mo. TO Denver, Col.

To avoid necessity of showing ticket, detach and display this TRAIN CHECK to patrolmen & trainmen.

NOT GOOD FOR TRANSPORTATION.

8"

Fig. 3.

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THE PROGRESSIVE Ry. Co.

First Class

From Prosperity,

To Ecstasy.

5/1397.

Good One Day from date of sale under tariff. Form 1.

J. M. Sharp. G.P.A.

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5/1397. Progressive Ry. Co. FIRST CLASS Prosperity To Ecstasy

To avoid necessity of showing ticket, detach and display this TRAIN CHECK to patrolmen & trainmen.

NOT GOOD FOR TRANSPORTATION.

14

Fig. 2.

5/1367 MIDDLE WEST

FIRST CLASS Kansas City, Mo. TO Denver, Colo.

To avoid necessity of showing ticket, detach and display this TRAIN CHECK to patrolmen & trainmen.

NOT GOOD FOR TRANSPORTATION.

8"

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TRAIN-CHECK RAILWAY-TICKET.

1,353,286. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Sept. 21, 1920.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE S. SOWERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spring Hill, in the county of Johnson, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Train-Check Railway-Tickets, of which the following is a full and exact specification.

The present invention relates to railway transportation tickets, and aims to provide an improved ticket construction with a view to expediting the handling of passengers at railway stations, and also preventing the loss of tickets due to the confusion and crowded conditions which commonly prevail at railway terminals and transfer points.

Accordingly, one of the objects in view is to provide a railway ticket which is characterized by a detachable train check or coupon forming a part of the ticket and having suitable indicia identifying the ticket and also authorizing the holder to detach and display said check or coupon for the purpose of obtaining admittance to his train.

It is also sought to devise a ticket construction of the sectional form comprising a plurality of transportation sections provided with a check or coupon associated with each section and adapted for use on boarding the train at the several points where passage is to be taken.

It is a further object to provide a ticket construction whereby the station and train officials may in all cases determine at a glance, through the medium of the train check or coupon feature, the character of the transportation with which the holder is provided, including the route or railway and destination and the class of passage which has been purchased.

With these and various minor objects in view, as will hereinafter appear, the invention will now be described by reference to the accompanying drawing, illustrating suitable forms of embodiment of the improvements, after which the features thereof deemed to be novel will be set forth and defined in the appended claims.

In the drawing—

Figure 1 is a face view of a sectional railway ticket embodying the present improvements, a portion of the ticket being represented as broken away;

Fig. 2 is a view showing one of the train checks or coupons detached from the remainder of the ticket; and

Fig. 3 is a face view of a card form of transportation ticket embodying the invention.

It is well known that it is the present practice at the more important railway stations and terminals and transfer points, where the passenger traffic is heaviest, to require passengers on boarding the trains to exhibit their transportation tickets, both at the station gates (separating the station from the train sheds) and again at the car steps. This practice has always been found to entail a considerable amount of delay and confusion, due to the time required by the railway officials in examining the tickets, as well as the time consumed by the passengers in producing their tickets for inspection; and the difficulty and inconvenience thus incurred are increased in proportion to the complicated character of the different varieties of tickets which are thus presented for hurried inspection at a time when it is necessary to handle the crowds with the greatest possible despatch. It often happens also that in the midst of such confusion passengers will lose their tickets in trying to manipulate their hand baggage and produce their tickets for display at the same time, or may even have their tickets stolen from them in the hurry and disorder of the crowd. It is therefore my object to provide a device which will not only enable the gate and train officials to pass the ticket-holders with much less confusion and with much greater despatch, but also permit the passengers to retain the valuable transportation sections of their tickets in safety on their persons, without requiring such transportation sections of the ticket to be displayed before the passengers have reached their seats upon the train.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, I have illustrated (see Fig. 1) a sectional railway ticket of the "strip ticket" form, comprising various transportation sections covering several successive passages over a designated route. The main body or contract portion of the ticket, 4, bears matter setting forth the contract, name of the issuing railroad, class of passage, etc., the ticket in the present case being issued by the "Middle West Railway" and showing that the holder is entitled to first-class passage from Kansas City to San Francisco and return. Forming a part of the main body portion of the ticket is also the final transportation

section (*i. e.*, final as regards time of use), 6, bearing the serial number of the ticket, "51367" and entitling the holder to first-class passage from, say, Galveston, Tex., to Kansas City, Mo., via the "Southern States" railway. With this ticket section 6 is detachably connected a train check or coupon section 8, separated from the section 6 by a weakened line 10. This train check or coupon section 8 bears indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket, namely, the ticket number, 51367, the class of passage "First class," as well as the route over which the next succeeding transportation coupon 6 is to be used, viz., the Southern States from Galveston to Kansas City; also indicia authorizing the holder to detach and display this check or coupon section in lieu of the remainder of his ticket in order to gain admittance to the train, as embodied in the words "To avoid necessity of showing ticket, detach and display this train check to gatemen and trainmen;" and finally, the train check or coupon section 8 bears the words "Not good for transportation," thus voiding its use for any other purpose than that expressly authorized.

Any number of transportation sections 6′ and train check or coupon sections 8′ may be embodied in the ticket as represented by the portion broken away in Fig. 1, according to the character of the route covered by the ticket. In the present case the initial transportation section of the ticket (*i. e.*, initial as regards time of use) is represented at 6″, said section 6″ entitling the holder to first-class passage from Kansas City to Denver via the Middle-West Railway; and detachably connected with the section 6″ is a train check or coupon section 8″ also bearing indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket, namely, the ticket number, class of passage, the route "Middle-West" and the points, Kansas City and Denver, between which the next succeeding transportation section 6″ is to be used, as well as the matter authorizing the display of said check or coupon in lieu of the remainder of the ticket, and the matter voiding its use for transportation, the same as with all the other train checks or coupons forming a part of the ticket.

When the holder of the ticket goes to take his train, say, from Kansas City to Denver, it will be understood that he simply detaches the train check or coupon section 8″ and places the remainder of the railway ticket in his pocket or purse; he then shows the train check 8″, in its detached form as illustrated in Fig. 2, to the gateman in order to pass the gate to the train sheds, and again shows the said train check 8″ to the trainman at the car steps in order to be admitted aboard the train. The same procedure will be followed with reference to the remaining train checks or coupons 8, 8′, etc., of which the railway ticket may be comprised. These checks or coupons may be surrendered at the car steps or later to the conductor of the train, according to whatever rules may be prescribed by the issuing road.

In Fig. 3 the invention is illustrated as embodied in a card form of ticket, good for a single continuous passage, the main body portion 12 of the ticket comprising the transportation section, to which the train check or coupon section 14 is detachably connected by means of the weakened line 16. This train check or coupon 14 bears indicia identifying it as a part of the ticket, namely, the ticket number "51397," the class of passage, and the route, which, in the present instance, is from "Prosperity" to "Ecstasy," via the "Progressive Railway Co."; in addition to which the said check or coupon bears the same matter as those already described for authorizing its use in lieu of the remainder of the ticket for gaining admittance to the train and voiding its use for transportation purposes.

It will thus be seen that means is provided for avoiding the delay incident to passing through the station gates to the trains, as the gateman is not obliged to scrutinize all the different tickets presented for his inspection by the passengers, nor is he obliged to stop and take such tickets from their envelops and unfold the same for the purpose of examining them or waiting until the ticket-holders do it for him, as is frequently now the case. The passengers are thus enabled to pass through the gates to the train with a minimum loss of time. The same means protects the passengers from the inconvenience of handling their tickets in the confusion of the crowd, and guards against their losing their tickets or having them mutilated or even stolen under circumstances which are most favorable for thefts of this sort. For example, women especially, with considerable hand baggage or with children, are very likely to get confused in the excitement and press of the crowd, and may easily lose track of their tickets and not at once notice the loss of them. Again it sometimes happens that one party may assist another to the train, as a gentleman escorting a lady, and temporarily thrust the railroad ticket into his pocket until they are past the gate and aboard the train, and then forget, at parting, to hand the ticket over to the passenger. The present device entirely eliminates the possibility of any such oversight, since the passenger may place his transportation away in safety in his purse and use merely the train check to board the train, the loss of which train check would not of course entail the loss of his transportation. The train check may be surrendered to the conductor on the train, or at

the car steps on boarding the train as provided for in the wording of the train check in Fig. 3. Where surrendered to the conductor on the train, it may then be punched by the conductor and used as a hat check or placed in a holder or the like, for that portion of the trip covered by the transportation section corresponding to that particular train check or coupon. Where the train checks or coupons are surrendered at the car steps they may then be used, if desired, as a medium for obtaining a check on the transportation collected by the conductor, as will be readily understood.

It will thus be apparent that I have provided a simple and efficient means for carrying out the desired objects of the invention, and while I have illustrated convenient and practical forms of embodiment of the same I desire to reserve the right to make all such formal changes or modifications as may fairly fall within the scope of the following claims.

Having described the invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters-Patent, is:

1. A sectional railway ticket comprising a body portion bearing indicia rendering it good for passage, and a train check in the form of a coupon detachably connected with said body portion and bearing indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket and authorizing the holder thereof to detach and display said coupon in lieu of the remainder of the ticket on boarding the train.

2. A sectional railway ticket comprising a body portion bearing indicia rendering it good for passage, and a train check in the form of a coupon detachably connected with said body portion and bearing indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket, and also identifying the class of passage and the route thereof and authorizing the holder of said ticket to detach and display said coupon in lieu of the remainder of the ticket on boarding the train.

3. A sectional railway ticket comprising a body portion bearing indicia rendering it good for passage, and a train check in the form of a coupon detachably connected with said body portion and bearing indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket but voiding the use of said coupon for passage while authorizing the holder to detach and display the same in lieu of the remainder of the ticket on boarding the train.

4. A sectional railway ticket comprising a plurality of transportation sections bearing indicia rendering them good for passage between given points, and a train check in the form of a coupon detachably associated with each of said transportation sections and bearing indicia identifying it as a part of the railway ticket and authorizing the holder thereof to successively detach and display said coupons in lieu of the remainder of the ticket on boarding the train at the several points corresponding to said transportation sections.

5. A sectional railway ticket comprising a plurality of transportation sections bearing indicia rendering them good for passage between given points, and a plurality of train checks in the form of coupons detachably connected by said transportation sections and bearing indicia identifying said coupons as parts of the railway ticket and authorizing the holder thereof to successively detach and display said coupons in lieu of the remainder of the ticket on boarding the train at the several points corresponding to said transportation sections.

In witness whereof I hereto affix my signature.

GEORGE S. SOWERS.