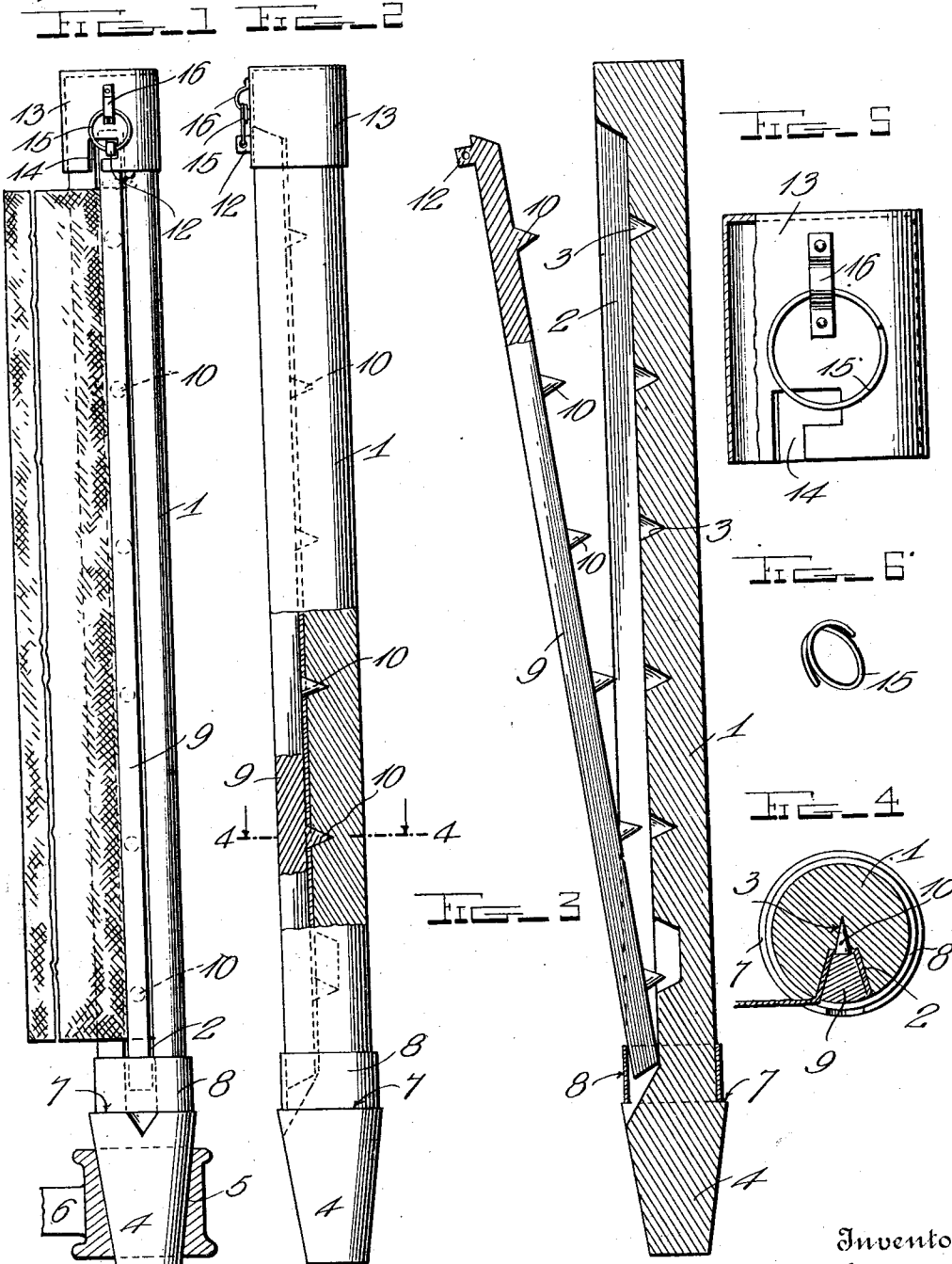


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1,036,168.



Witnesses

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED B. UPDIKE, citizen of the United States, residing at San Francisco, in the county of San Francisco and State of California, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Flagstuffs; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in flag staffs.

One object of the invention is to provide a flag staff for signal flags of railway cars, locomotives and the like having an improved means for detachably securing a flag thereto whereby when the flag has become worn out the same may be removed and a new flag placed on the staff thus obviating the necessity of providing a new staff each time a new flag is required.

Another object is to provide a device of this character which will be simple, strong, durable and inexpensive in construction, efficient and reliable in operation and which will securely hold the flag when fastened thereto.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, and the combination and arrangement of parts as will be more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a side view of my flag staff showing a flag secured thereto, parts of the flag being broken away and the staff supporting socket being shown in section; Fig. 2 is a side view taken at right angles to Fig. 1, parts being broken away and shown in section; Fig. 3 is a central vertical sectional view of the staff showing the fastening member in open or released position; Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view on the line 4-4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is an enlarged side view of the cap and fastening ring for the upper end of the flag clamping member; Fig. 6 is a detail perspective view of the fastening ring for the flag clamping member.

Referring more particularly to the drawings 1 denotes my improved flag staff in one side of which is formed a longitudinally disposed groove or channel 2 in the inner wall of which is formed a series of tapered recesses 3 the purpose of which will be hereinafter described. On the lower end of the

staff is formed an enlarged tapered shank 4 which is adapted to be engaged in the usual tapered socket 5 of the flag supporting bracket 6. The upper end of the tapered shank 4 forms a square shoulder 7 and the lower end of the groove or channel 2 is formed on an incline or angle and has its lower end disposed below the shoulder 7 as shown in the drawings.

Arranged on the lower portion of the flag staff and engaged with and supported by said shoulder 7 is a sleeve or ferrule 8, which covers the lower end of the groove or channel 2 and forms a socket in which is adapted to be engaged the lower end of a flag clamping or fastening bar 9, having its sides formed to fit the inclined side walls of the channel 2. The upper end of the groove or channel 2 and the engaging upper end of the bar 9 are also preferably formed on a slight angle as shown. On the inner side of the bar 9 is formed a series of conical shaped pins or teeth 10 which are adapted to fit into the tapered recesses 3 formed in the inner wall of the groove 2. On the outer side of the upper end of the bar 9 is formed an outwardly projecting apertured lug 12 the purpose of which will be hereinafter described.

To secure the flag to the staff, the inner edge of the flag is engaged with the inner sides of the clamping bar and with the pins or teeth 10 therein, after which the bar 9 is swung into engagement with the grooves 2 and the pins 10 thus forced through the flag and into the recesses 3. The bar 9 with the flag thereon, as described is held in the groove 2 in the staff by means of a cap 13 which fits over the upper end of the staff and has formed in one side, adjacent to and opening through its inner edge, a bayonet slot 14, the inner open end of which is adapted to receive the lug 12 being passed upon the staff until said lug is opposite to the right angular or horizontal portion of the slot, after which the cap is turned to bring the lug into the inner end of the horizontal portion of the slot, thereby securely fastening the upper end of the bar 9 in the groove 2 to hold the flag. This engagement in the slot 14 of the lug 12 also prevents the disengagement of the cap 13 from the upper end of the staff. The cap 13 is further held in operative engagement with the upper end of the staff by means of a split retaining ring 15 which is secured in a clip 16 se-

cured on the cap 13 and is adapted to be engaged with the apertured lug 12 on the upper end of the bar 9 thereby preventing said cap from turning and thus disengaging the lug, from the notch 14.

By forming the lower end of the groove 2 to open below the sleeve or ferrule 8, water will be permitted to pass out and foreign matter will be prevented from accumulating in the lower end of the groove behind the sleeve and thus clogging up the lower end of the groove.

By providing a flag staff as herein shown and described, when a flag wears out it may be readily removed from the staff and a new flag securely fastened thereto, thus saving the expense of providing each flag with a separate staff.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is:

1. A flag staff provided with a longitudinal groove having its lower end wall tapered outwardly, a ferrule secured around the staff inclosing part of said groove and leaving the lower end of the groove open, a flag clamping bar adapted to fit in the groove with its lower end inclosed by the ferrule, and means for securing the upper end of the bar.

2. A flag staff provided with a longitudinal groove, a ferrule secured on the staff near the lower end thereof, and forming that part of the groove into a socket, a flag clamping bar fitting in said groove with its lower end in said socket and provided with an outwardly projecting lug near its upper end, and a cap adapted to fit over the up-

per end of the staff, and clamping bar and provided with a bayonet slot to receive the lug on the clamping bar.

3. A flag staff having formed therein a longitudinally disposed groove and a series of recesses, a tapered shank formed on the lower end of said staff, said shank having its upper end projecting beyond the outer side of the staff to form a shoulder, a ferrule arranged on said staff and engaged with said shoulder, a clamping bar having its lower end loosely engaged with said groove and ferrule, a series of teeth formed on the inner side of said bar and adapted to be forced through the flag and into engagement with the recesses in the staff, an apertured lug formed on the outer side of the upper end of said bar, a cap having a detachable engagement with the upper end of the staff, said cap having formed in its inner end a bayonet slot adapted to be engaged with said apertured lug on the clamping bar whereby said cap is held in position on the staff and the upper end of the bar held in operative engagement with the groove in the staff, and a split ring loosely connected with said cap and adapted to be engaged with the apertured lug on said bar whereby the cap is held in engagement with said lug.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALFRED B. UPDIKE.

Witnesses:

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