No. 676,396. Patented June 11, 1901.

T. P. HEINEMANN.

CHANGEABLE SIGN.

(Application filed July 5, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 2.

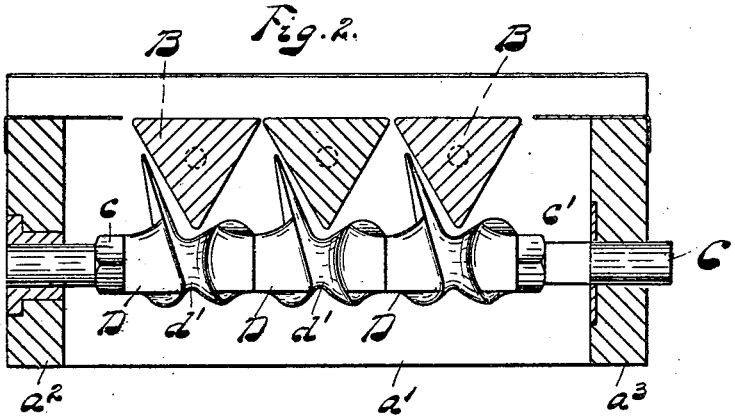

Fig. 1.

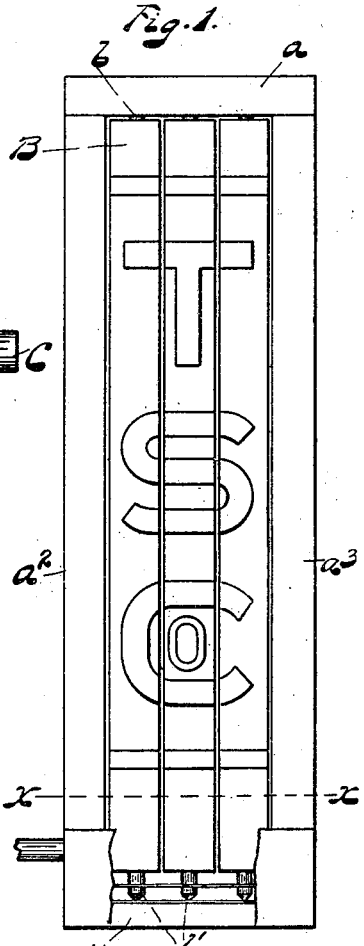

Fig. 3.

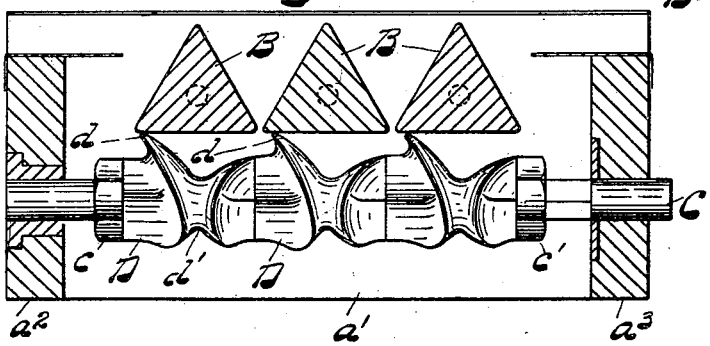

Fig. 4.

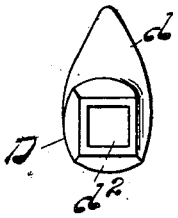

Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE P. HEINEMANN, OF CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO FRANCIS T. ROOTS, OF SAME PLACE.

CHANGEABLE SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 676,396, dated June 11, 1901.

Application filed July 5, 1900. Serial No. 22,476. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE P. HEINEMANN, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Connersville, in the county of Fayette and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Changeable Signs, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is a sign which will at regular intervals present to the eye successive flat surfaces bearing different signs or decorations in a manner such that while the change from one sign to the next is made rapidly each sign remains stationary for an interval of time of sufficient length for it to make a distinct impression upon the eye. This object is attained by the means described in the annexed specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a three-sectioned sign embodying my invention, the lower part being broken away to expose the pivots upon which the sections rotate. Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view, upon an enlarged scale, taken upon line $x\,x$ of Fig. 1 looking from the rear. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing a different position of the sections and of the operative mechanism. Fig. 4 is a detail end view of one of the tappet-bearing collars which are to be secured upon the shaft for imparting an intermittent motion to the sections. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the same.

Referring to the parts, the frame consists of top and bottom boards a and a', connected by side pieces a^2 and a^3.

The sign is made up of trilateral pieces or sections B, whose cross-section is the shape of an equilateral triangle. These sections B are journaled upon pivots b and b' in the top and bottom boards of the frame, so that in each of the three stationary positions the edges of the adjacent sections are close together, the front faces of the sections all lie in the same plane, and the portions of characters or characters on the faces constitute a complete sign. In Fig. 1 only three sections are shown; but of course as long a sign as desired may be made by multiplying the sections.

Operative shaft C is journaled in the side pieces a^2 a^3. It is rectangular in cross-section, except at the points where it is journaled in the frame, and is to be given a uniform rotation by any suitable mechanism.

Upon the shaft opposite each one of sections B is secured a collar D, formed integral with which is a spirally-inclined tappet d for contacting the successive faces of the section to rotate it. Extending from one side of the base of the tappet and around to the opposite side of the collar in a plane at a right angle to shaft C is a groove d', into which the corners of the sections fit, so that the sections are held firmly in a position such that the faces in front are all in the same plane, as above described, while the shaft continues to revolve. Just before it reaches the other side of the base of the tappet the groove takes a spiral course, so as to move the section so that the next face of the section is brought into the path of the tappet to be carried to the front to form part of another sign. Perforation d^2 in collar D is made rectangular, so that a number of collars may be strung upon the shaft corresponding to the number of the sections B and be held in place thereon between two jam-nuts c c'.

What I claim is—

1. In a sign the combination of a frame, trilateral pieces journaled side by side therein, a shaft journaled in the frame, and collars secured upon the shaft each bearing a tappet for engaging the faces of the trilateral piece opposite it whereby the pieces are made to present flat sign-bearing surfaces intermittently to the eye, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a sign the combination of a frame, trilateral pieces journaled side by side therein, a shaft journaled in the frame, and collars secured upon the shaft opposite the pieces each bearing a tappet to engage the faces of the piece opposite it whereby the pieces are rotated intermittently and having a groove to receive the corners of the piece to hold the piece in a position such that the pieces together form flat sign-bearing surfaces, substantially as shown and described.

THEODORE P. HEINEMANN.

Witnesses:
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