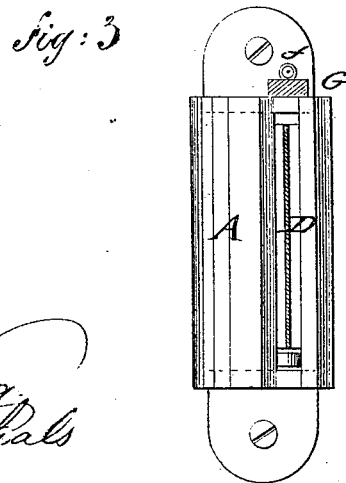
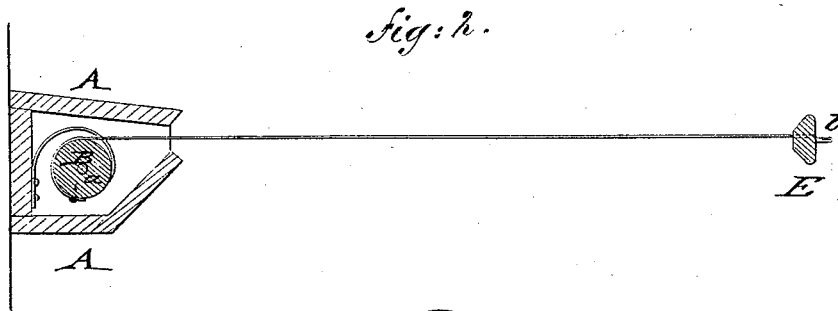
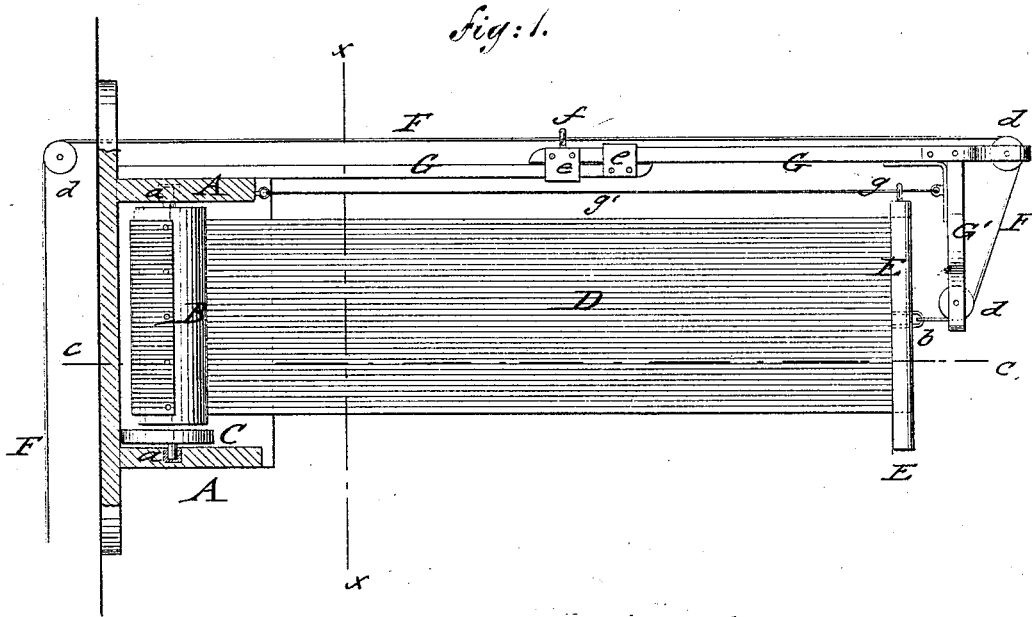


R. D. COUCH & J. M. LAMB.  
 FLAG-SIGNALING APPARATUS.

No. 181,912.

Patented Sept. 5, 1876.



WITNESSES:

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INVENTOR:

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 BY *[Signature]*  
 ATTORNEYS.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUFUS D. COUCH AND JESSE M. LAMB, OF SHARPVILLE, INDIANA.

## IMPROVEMENT IN FLAG SIGNALING APPARATUS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,912**, dated September 5, 1876; application filed July 11, 1876.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, RUFUS D. COUCH and JESSE M. LAMB, of Sharpville, in the county of Tipton and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Signal-Flag, of which the following is a specification:

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 represents a sectional elevation of our improved signal-flag; and Figs. 2 and 3 are horizontal and vertical sections of the same, respectively on line *c c* and *x x*, Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of our invention is to enable the telegraph-operator or agent to signal all approaching railway-trains without leaving his office, or even his seat at the operating-table, and at a moment's warning, by a signal-flag of suitable size, which is displayed in such elevated position that conductors and engineers of approaching trains may readily see it above the crowd of people which throng about the depot when trains are due.

The invention will first be described in connection with the drawing, and then pointed out in the claims.

In the drawing, A represents a box or receptacle of suitable height and width, that is applied, by means of a supporting-board, to the wall of the depot or other place where the signal-flag is required. A cylindrical roller, B, is placed vertically in the box A, and made to revolve by central top and bottom pivots *a* in boxings sunk into the inside of the boards forming the top and bottom of the box. The roller B is provided at the pivots or other suitable place with a spiral band-spring, C, that is attached at the inner end to the pivot, and at the outer end to the box, and coiled to turn the roller in one direction, so as to wind up the signal-flag D, that is tacked at its inner end to the same. The opposite end of the flag D is applied to a cross-piece, E, that fits the slotted opening of the box when the flag is rolled up at the inside of the box, so as to close the box. The cross-piece is connected, by a central staple,

*b*, to the cord F, that passes over pulleys *d* at the end of a vertical arm, G', and of a horizontal supporting-arm, G. The vertical arm G' is rigidly braced near the outer end of the horizontal arm G, which is made in sections sliding in guide-bands *e*, one along the other. The sliding arm G is firmly adjusted at any length required to be set to the size of the flag by a suitable clamp-screw, *f*. The cord is conducted through a hole of the board and wall, and over a pulley at the inside of the wall, to the office of the telegraph-operator or other attendant, so that the signal is readily displayed by pulling the cord, and drawn in by the power of the spring on releasing the cord. The cross-piece at the end of the flag is guided, by a top staple, *g*, along a wire, *g'*, stretched between box A and vertical arm G', to secure the regular winding and unwinding of the flag.

This construction of the flag admits the ready signaling by pulling out the flag, and the quick withdrawing of the signal after use, from the inside of the building.

The flag has to be attached to the cylinder or roller in such a manner that the unwinding of the flag winds up the spring, and produces the rewinding of the flag when the hold on the same is released.

Having thus described our invention, we claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, with the slotted inclosing flag box or receptacle, of a cross-piece at the end of the flag, fitting the opening of the box, to close the same when the flag is wound up within the box, substantially as described.

2. The combination of the signal-flag with the sliding supporting-arm, having guide-bands and set-screw to adjust arm to length of flag, substantially as specified.

RUFUS D. COUCH.  
JESSE M. LAMB.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM G. MATTHEWS,  
BENJAMIN F. ZELLER.