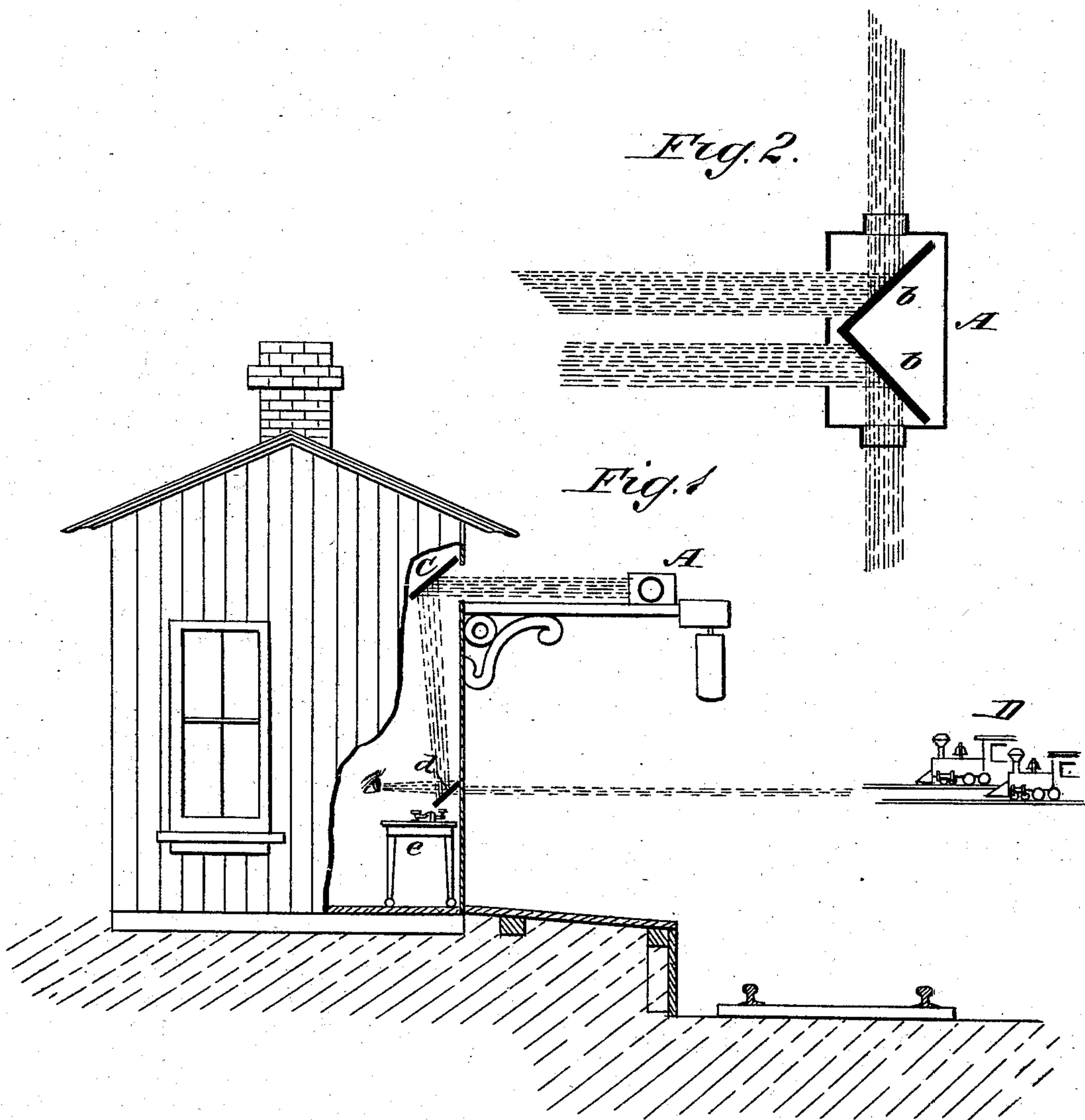


(No Model.)

S. L. PALMER.
Train Indicator for Railroad Stations.

No. 241,411.

Patented May 10, 1881.



WITNESSES:

Francis McArthur
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INVENTOR:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SIDNEY L. PALMER, OF SERENA, ILLINOIS.

TRAIN-INDICATOR FOR RAILROAD-STATIONS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 241,411, dated May 10, 1881.

Application filed January 27, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIDNEY L. PALMER, of Serena, La Salle county, Illinois, have invented a new and Improved Train-Indicator for Railroad Stations, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is to enable telegraph operators at railroad-depots to remain at the operating-tables and have in full view the tracks and switches at or near the stations, thereby facilitating the work of noting and telegraphing the approach of trains, and securing more perfect safety from accidents.

To insure a clear understanding of the object and purpose of my invention, it should be known that an operator at a station is responsible for the switches, and is required to telegraph the approach of trains. Besides this he has frequently to answer inquiries from other stations as to whether certain trains are approaching, and usually attends to the ordinary telegraph business. To watch the track he must frequently leave his table, especially if the track is curved, so that his work is not only interrupted, but there is more or less risk of its being improperly done.

My invention consists in an arrangement of reflecting-mirrors, which convey to the operator's table a picture of the track extending in both directions from the station.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of a railroad-depot, partially broken open to show the interior arrangements according to my invention, the track in front being in transverse section, and Fig. 2 is a horizontal section of the reflecting-box.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A is the reflecting-box, placed in front of the depot-building, at a suitable elevation above the

track. This box is apertured at opposite sides, and there are fitted within the box two mirrors, *b*, placed at an angle of forty-five degrees behind the apertures, so as to reflect toward the depot-building and at right angles to the track. Within the building is a mirror, *c*, placed in the line of reflection from mirrors *b*, and inclined at a suitable angle for reflecting to a mirror, *d*, that is placed above the operator as he sits at the table. There is thus brought to the eye of the operator a picture of the track in both directions from the station, so that the approach of trains is readily observed, and the switches can be observed night or day. The view given to the operator is that of two parallel tracks appearing to extend from him, and two trains approaching at once would be seen, as shown at D, the train at the left of the operator being the one coming from that direction.

This arrangement is simple, inexpensive, and most efficient for the purposes named. It is evident that the reflecting-box, being elevated, will take in a longer view of an uneven or curved track than could be seen by a person standing on the track.

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

In train-indicators for railroad-stations, the reflecting-box A, arranged in front of and above the depot-building, apertured at opposite sides, and provided with mirrors *b b*, placed at an angle of ninety degrees to each other, in combination with the mirrors *c d*, arranged with relation to the operator's table *e* and the mirrors *b*, as and for the purpose specified.

SIDNEY LAVERN PALMER.

Witnesses:

DANIEL MASON,
Dr. T. W. CHASE.