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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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INTERCHANGEABLE ACCOUNT-TABLET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 365,084, dated June 21, 1887.

Application filed September 24, 1886. Serial No. 214,482. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN G. MARK, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Omaha, in the county of Douglas and State of Nebraska, have invented new and useful Improvements in Interchangeable Account-Tablets, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, illustrating the invention, in which—

Figure I is a face view of a board to which my devices to make the account-tablet complete are attached. Fig. II is a perspective representation of one of the card and count holders removed from the board; Fig. III, a top view of Fig. II; Fig. IV, a section of Fig. I on line *x*, cutting two count-holders and the counters therein. Fig. V shows a card removed from a holder.

The purpose of this invention is to provide a compact account tablet or register which may have the devices on the face thereof changed, so as to keep accounts of one business or more on one board. This is accomplished by the means hereinafter in detail set forth.

A represents a board, of any desired size and thickness, to support the devices to be thereto attached in accordance with the number of articles of which a record is to be kept.

B B, &c., represent what I term "card and count holders." The lower edges of these holders are turned upward to hold the lower edges of the cards, and the upper edges thereof are bent to form V-shaped grooves, as shown.

The portions C, forming the back of the grooves, are bent down to hold the upper edges of the cards. At the bottom of the V, formed by the parts C D, the part D is bent upward for the purpose of forming guides for directing the shanks of the counters F G into the slots *a a a*, &c., which are formed through the bottom of the V-shaped part. The counters F G are preferably made of metal; but they may be made of any material which is suitable to have figures engraved therein or printed thereon and will withstand the manipulation they are subjected to, and can be bent to form the outwardly-projecting top portions, F, which serve as finger-holds for placing the counters in the slots *a* of the card and count holders B.

In practice, suitable fonts of the counters

having figures thereon from 1 to 0, inclusive, will be kept ready for use.

At Fig. III the projecting top portions of the counters are represented as chamfered off on one corner each, that a better finger-hold may be had for removing them from or placing them in the holders, and both corners of the lower ends of the shanks may be chamfered to facilitate their being placed in the slots *a*; but the chamfers should not come above the upper edges of the bent edges E, that the device may have a neat appearance. The holders B are placed in tiers on the board, as shown, above Q R S T, their edges coming closely together, nails H or screws being employed to hold them in place. By means of the V-shaped grooves the upper back edges of the counters lie outside of the face of the upwardly-bent parts E, whereby any counter can be readily drawn out of its seat or inserted therein. The tiers Q R S T may be placed close together; but I prefer to have some little space, P, between them, to make a distinction between the several sums computed.

The top row of holders, B, horizontally on the card, being the top portion of tiers Q R S, contain a description of glass on cards V, and the three next under holders, J, contain the size and number of boxes of that size. The third rank from the top contain a given number of kegs of spikes, kegs of horseshoe-nails, and number of tacks. The fourth row, L, in the tier contains the number of horseshoes, round inch-iron, and Ames shovels. The row M shows the number of boxes of XXX-tin to be seven hundred and eighty-two, the amount of square inch-iron to be three hundred and seventy-nine bars, and eleven hundred pick-axes. The row N shows timbers to be twelve feet, fourteen feet, and sixteen feet long, and the row O shows the size of timbers to be four by six, and nine hundred and fifty-six pieces twelve feet long, ten thousand four hundred and fifty-three pieces fourteen feet long, and five thousand four hundred and two pieces sixteen feet long. From this it will be seen that one holder B may contain a card, V, on which is the description of articles in stock, and also the counters G F, showing the number of articles, and that one row of holders may contain cards descriptive of articles, and the row below made to contain

the counters showing the number of articles; and it is evident that the means for connecting the counters G F with the holders B may be modified and serve the same purpose without any change in the principle of the invention, and that the board and devices may be enlarged and extended to keep accounts or register various classes of business not enumerated herein. A partial extension of the board is shown at the upper right-hand, where counters 7 and 5 are marked.

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

15 1. In an interchangeable account-tablet, the holders B, each formed with an overturned lower portion, E, and an overturned upper portion, C, to hold the cards V, said portion C being turned upwardly, as at D, to form a

groove to guide the counters F G into slots a 20 in the bottom of said groove, in combination with said counters, the shanks of which bear figures, and their top portion bent to project at an angle to said shanks, and a support, A, as described and shown.

25 2. The holders B, each formed with a bent portion, C and E, to hold the card V, and with a V-shaped slotted groove, as specified, projecting in front of the face of the part E, to permit the counters in a lower holder to be 30 lifted up past the counters in a holder next above it, in combination with the support, as A, and counters F G, as specified.

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Witnesses:

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