

No. 617,424.

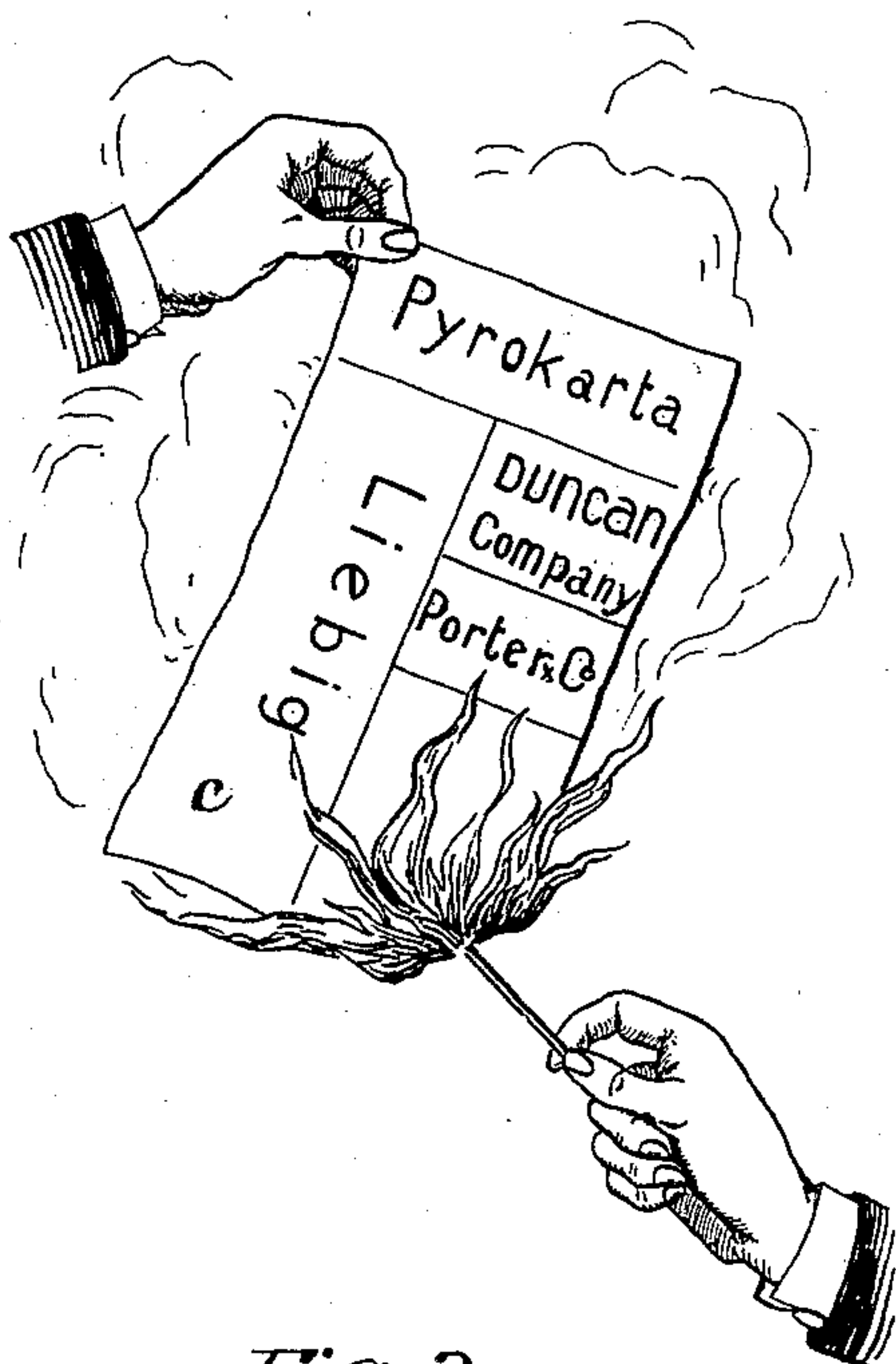
Patented Jan. 10, 1899.

R. PFLAUM.  
FIRE LIGHTER.

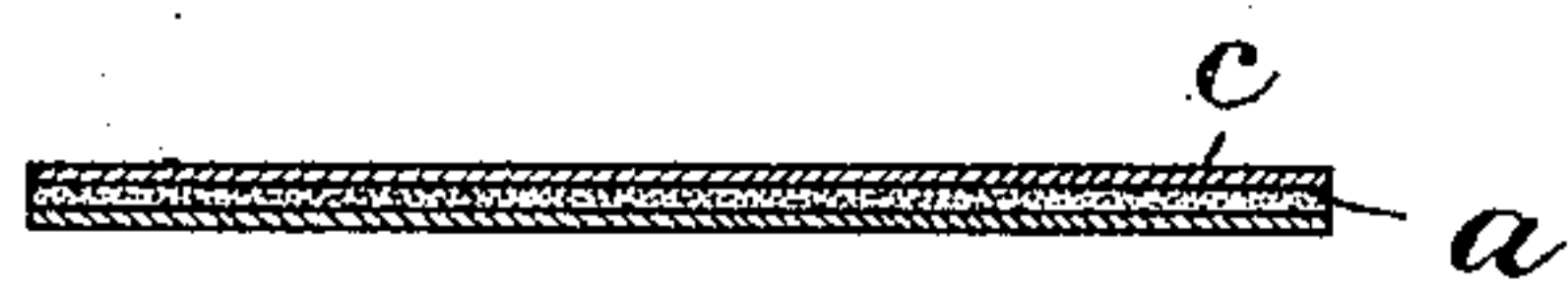
(Application filed Dec. 31, 1897.)

(No Model.)

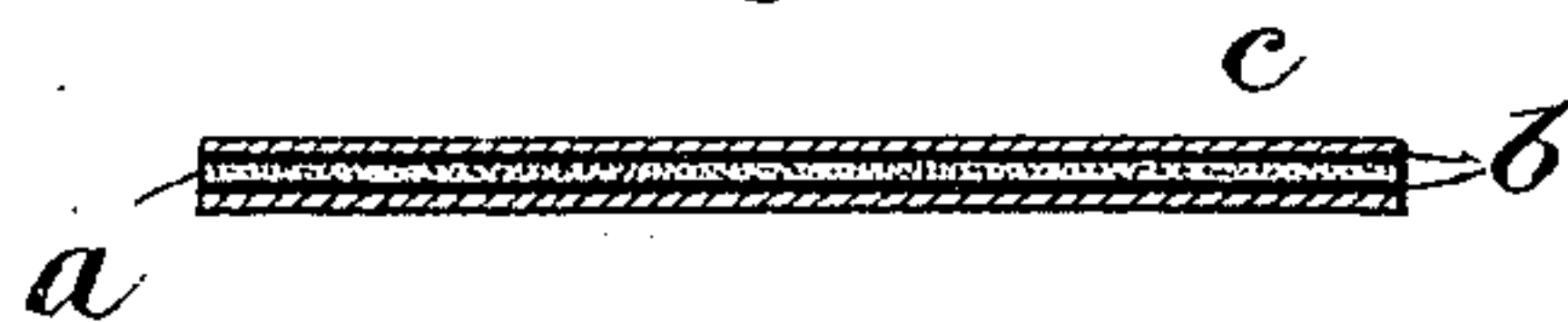
*Fig. 1*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses:

*J. G. Stinkell*  
*James Stevens*

Inventor:

*Richard Pflaum,*  
*by Loren Freeman*  
*his attorney*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD PFLAUM, OF BERLIN, GERMANY.

## FIRE-LIGHTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 617,424, dated January 10, 1899.

Application filed December 31, 1897. Serial No. 665,189. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, RICHARD PFLAUM, a subject of the King of Prussia, Emperor of Germany, residing at Berlin, in the Kingdom  
5 of Prussia, German Empire, have invented new and useful Improvements in Fire-Lighters in Laminated Form Covered with Advertising Sheets, of which the following is a specification.

10 This invention relates to a fire-lighter of laminated form having a protecting covering of sheets of paper or other similar material suitable to be printed with advertisements.

These new fire-lighters are lighter, cleaner,  
15 and safer than those hitherto known and possess a degree of combustibility that adapts them for kindling every kind of domestic fire and stove.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is  
20 a perspective view illustrating a fire-lighter embodying the invention and showing the manner of using the same. Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view thereof, and Fig. 3 is a similar view of another form of the invention.

25 The preparation of the new fire-lighter is conducted as follows: Paper or pasteboard or other similar sheets *a*, of any desired kind and strength, are saturated with a mixture of combustible matters and mineral matters, as  
30 shown in Fig. 2, or are covered with a thin layer *b* of the same, as shown in Fig. 3, or both treatments may be applied successively. As the combustible materials all kinds of resins and resinous substances, tar or constituents of  
35 tar, paraffin, fats, waxes, sulfur, charcoal, &c., as well as mixtures of these substances, can be used either in the form of powder or in a molten condition or dissolved in an appropriate solvent. As suitable mineral matters,  
40 water-glass, clay, heavy spar, gypsum, sand, &c., are chiefly useful. These may be applied according to circumstances, mixed with the combustible substances or by themselves or in suspension in water. The paper may be

covered with such matters in a manner similar to the printing of paper hangings, newspapers, or fabrics, and also by mere painting with a brush.

The paper may be covered with the combustible mixture either on both sides or on  
50 one side. The latter method is generally the better, since then the combustible layer can be covered with a second coated paper which may be printed with advertisements or otherwise utilized.

It will be obvious that if the surfaces of the coated sheets were left exposed, particularly when the combustible material consists of resinous matters, paraffin, fats, waxes, or  
60 tar, they would be very objectionable to handle, especially in warm or damp weather, owing to the liability of the material sticking to or discoloring the hands and of the sheets sticking together when rolled up or superposed. In order to obviate these objections,  
65 the outer faces of the sheets *a* are not provided with a coating of combustible material, and any desired figures or advertisements may be printed upon these faces.

The new fire-lighter is sent into the market  
70 in the form of rolls or in convenient pieces. For example, they may be cut in pieces the size of a playing-card and these compressed to a handy block.

I claim—

75 As a new article of manufacture, a fire-lighter of laminated structure consisting of two or more sheets of suitable flexible material, the outer sheets being coated upon their inner faces with a combustible substance, and  
80 secured together, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD PFLAUM.

Witnesses:

WILLY ZIMMERMANN,  
GUSTAV HEILSMANN.