

No. 652,509.

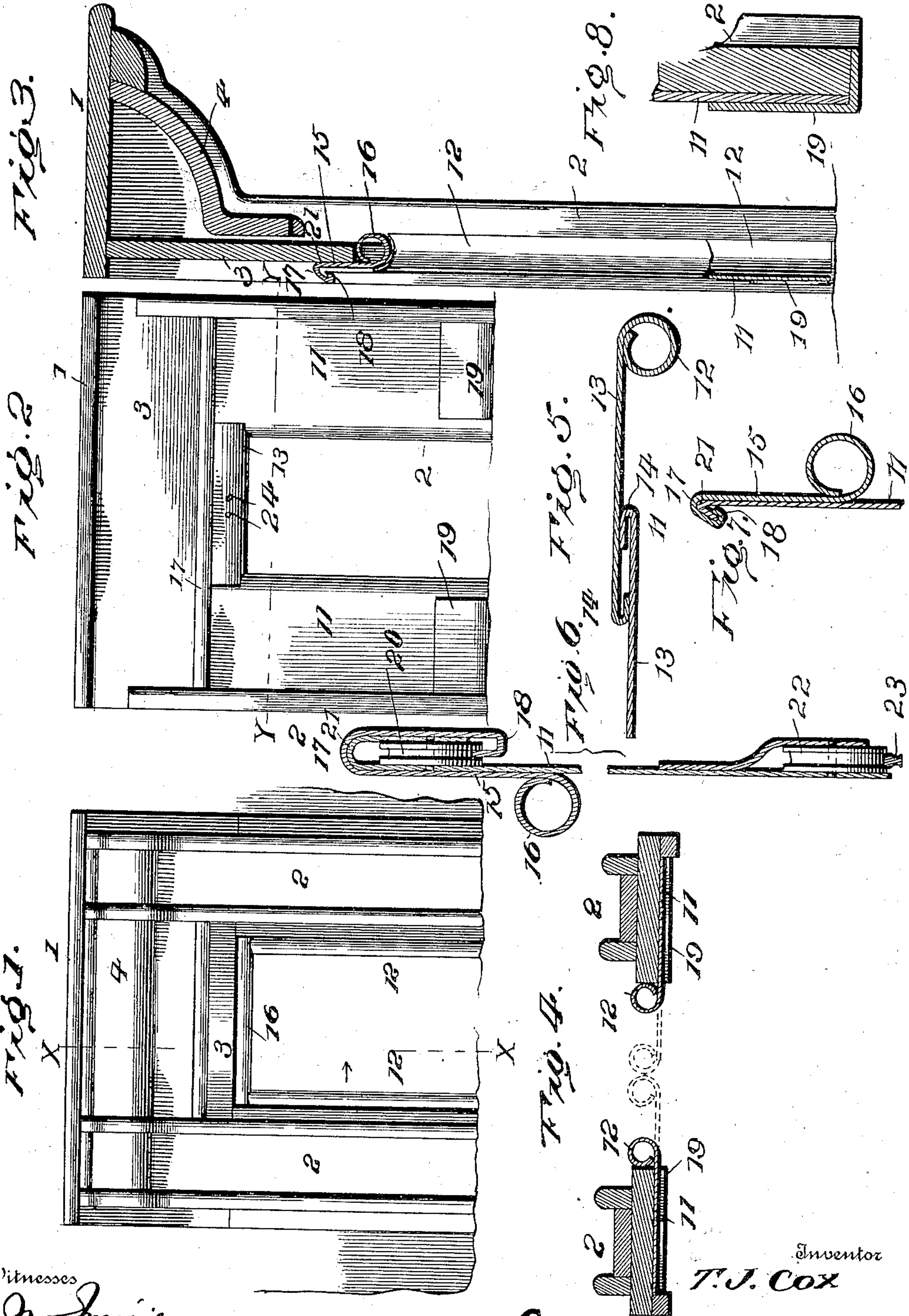
Patented June 26, 1900.

T. J. COX.

MANTEL.

(Application filed Mar. 7, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. COX, OF GAINESVILLE, TEXAS.

MANTEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 652,509, dated June 26, 1900.

Application filed March 7, 1899. Serial No. 708,140. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. COX, a citizen of the United States, residing at Gainesville, in the county of Cooke and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Mantels; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to mantels for fireplaces, and is designed to combine therewith means for preventing fire from sparks flying into the room when no occupant is present and on the alert to extinguish them and for closing the fireplace in summer or when no fire is required, thereby shutting off draft and adding to the appearance of the mantel. The fire boards or guards are slidable laterally across the fireplace from behind the legs or side pieces of the mantel, and when pushed aside are concealed from view, the projecting edge portions forming a finish, presenting a handhold, and limiting the inward movements of the guards. These guards may be mounted in any desired manner and may be single or sectional.

The invention, besides guarding against fire and adding to the appearance of the mantel, is possessed of other advantages and merits which will appear more fully hereinafter.

The invention in its application is susceptible of many changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction without departing from or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

In the drawings, which are illustrative of the invention and show an embodiment thereof, Figure 1 is a front view. Fig. 2 is a rear view. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section on the line X X of Fig. 1 looking to the right, as indicated by the arrow, the lower portion of the guard being broken away. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line Y Y of Fig. 1, the dotted lines indicating the position of the guards when drawn out. Fig. 5 is a detail view showing a modified form of guard. Fig. 6 shows a different manner of mounting the guard. Fig. 7 is a sectional detail of the upper portion of a guard and the track therefor on a larger scale. Fig. 8 is an enlarged detail section of the lower portion of a guard,

the retaining-plate therefor, and a leg of the mantel.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The mantel may be of any design, finish, or material, and comprises the shelf 1, legs 2, headboard 3, and spanner 4, the latter bracing the shelf.

The fire board or guard is composed of two parts 11, similarly constructed and mounted, each part sliding behind a leg 2 of the mantel and hidden and protected thereby. The precise manner of mounting the parts of the guard is unimportant so long as they have a free sliding movement laterally across the fireplace. The parts 11 are sheet metal and their inner vertical edges are formed into a roll 12 or otherwise bent to engage with the inner edges of the legs and limit the movement of the parts when drawn aside or pushed outward. These bent edges 12 add materially to the appearance of the mantel, constitute stops, and provide handholds to be grasped when operating the guard. The parts may be single or sectional, according to the width of the fireplace, thereby enabling them to slide wholly behind the legs 2. For wide fireplaces the parts 11 are composed of sections 13, having opposite vertical edges bent inward, as shown at 14, to interlock, whereby when the first section is drawn out to a determined distance its bent edge 14 will engage with the bent edge 14 of the next section and cause it to move outward with the said first section in the continued movement thereof. When the extensions are drawn out or extended, the interlocking bent-edge portions 14 prevent lateral displacement and the formation of spaces between the overlapping parts. Moreover, the bending of the edges 14 reinforces them and prevents in a great measure buckling and warping. A plate 15 is secured to the rear side and lower edge portion of the headboard, and its lower edge portion is rolled, as shown at 16, to correspond with the rolled edges 12 of the fireboard. The upper edge of the plate is curved at 17 and re-curved at 18, forming a track upon which the fireboard slides. The upper edge of the parts 11 is curved, as at 21, to extend over and em-

brace the track or recurved edge portion 18 of the plate 15, thereby preventing the lifting of the fireboard after the parts have been properly assembled. A plate 19 is attached 5 to the lower end of each leg 2, and the parts 11 slide between it and the legs. It is obvious that the parts 15 and 19 may be reversed. In order to reduce the friction of the parts 11, rollers, as at 20, may be applied to the 10 curved edge 21. (See Fig. 6.) Other rollers 22 are applied to the lower edge of the fireboard and run upon a track 23 extending over the hearth. These rollers 22 are located wholly in the rear of the fireboard and are 15 concealed from view. One or the other set of rollers may be dispensed with or both may be used simultaneously.

From the foregoing it is obvious that the fireboard may be mounted in a variety of 20 ways or be composed of single or sectional parts. The closing of the fireboard prevents sparks flying into the room and setting fire thereto when no one is present. Stops 24 project from the plate 15 and limit the move- 25 ment of the parts 11 when drawn across the fireplace. The fireboard also modifies the effective radiation of heat into the room by having its parts separated more or less and provides a means for regulating the draft to 30 cause the fire to burn slowly or briskly, and when closed in warm weather shuts off the fireplace and prevents drafts therethrough.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

- 35 1. In a mantel, a fireboard slidable across the fireplace and behind the legs, and having its outer vertical edges rolled to give a finish to the mantel, provide handholds and form stops, substantially as set forth.
- 40 2. In a mantel, a fireboard slidable across the fireplace and behind the legs and composed of independent slidable sections, the outer edge of the inner section being bent, and the inner edge of the outer section being 45 reversely bent to and adapted to interlock with the said bent edge of the inner section, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a mantel, a fireboard slidable across the fireplace and behind the legs, and having its outer edges rolled, and a plate secured to 50 the headboard and having its lower edge rolled to correspond with the rolled edges of the fireboard, substantially as set forth.

4. In a mantel, a plate extending across the fireplace and having a longitudinal edge por- 55 tion curved and recurved to form a guideway, and a guard slidable across the fireplace and having an edge portion curved to embrace the recurved edge portion of the aforesaid plate, substantially as set forth. 60

5. In combination, a mantel, a plate extending across the fireplace and having an edge portion bent forming a guideway, a guard 65 slidable across the fireplace and having an edge portion bent to interlock with the bent edge portion of the said plate, and a retainer-plate spaced from the mantel and overlapping the opposite edge portion of the guard and cooperating with the aforesaid guideway 70 to hold the guard in place in any adjusted position, substantially as described.

6. In a mantel, a plate attached to the rear side of the headboard and extending across the fireplace and having its top edge bent to form a guideway and the intermediate por- 75 tion of its lower edge formed into a roll extending beneath the lower edge of the headboard and between the legs of the mantel, and a guard slidable across the fireplace from behind a leg of the mantel and having its 80 outer vertical edge formed into a roll with its upper end abutting against the horizontal roll of the said plate, the guard having its upper portion extending beyond the upper end of the roll and slidable upon the afore- 85 mentioned guideway, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS J. COX. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

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W. H. BROWN.