

No. 659,875.

Patented Oct. 16, 1900.

C. S. SERGEANT & H. L. LIBBY.

SIGN.

(Application filed Dec. 11, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

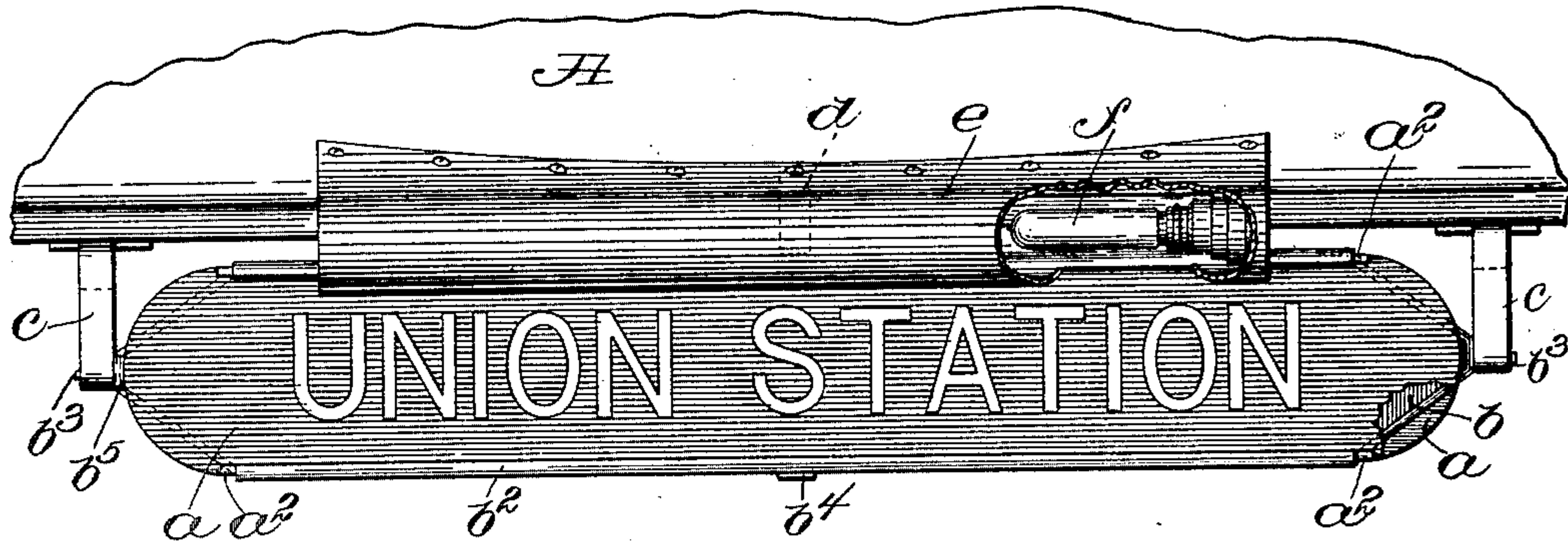


Fig. 2.

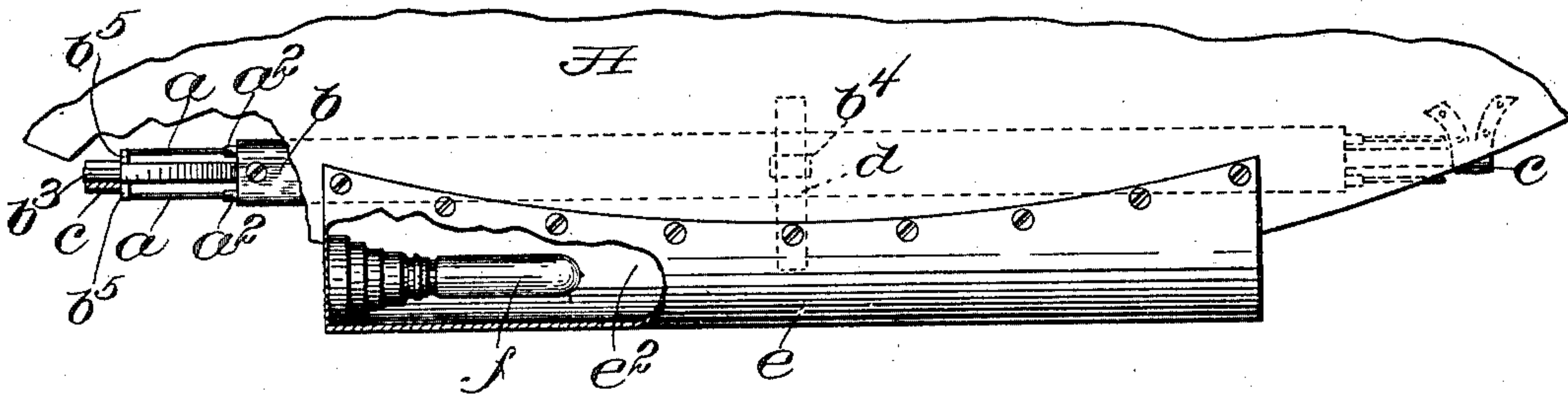
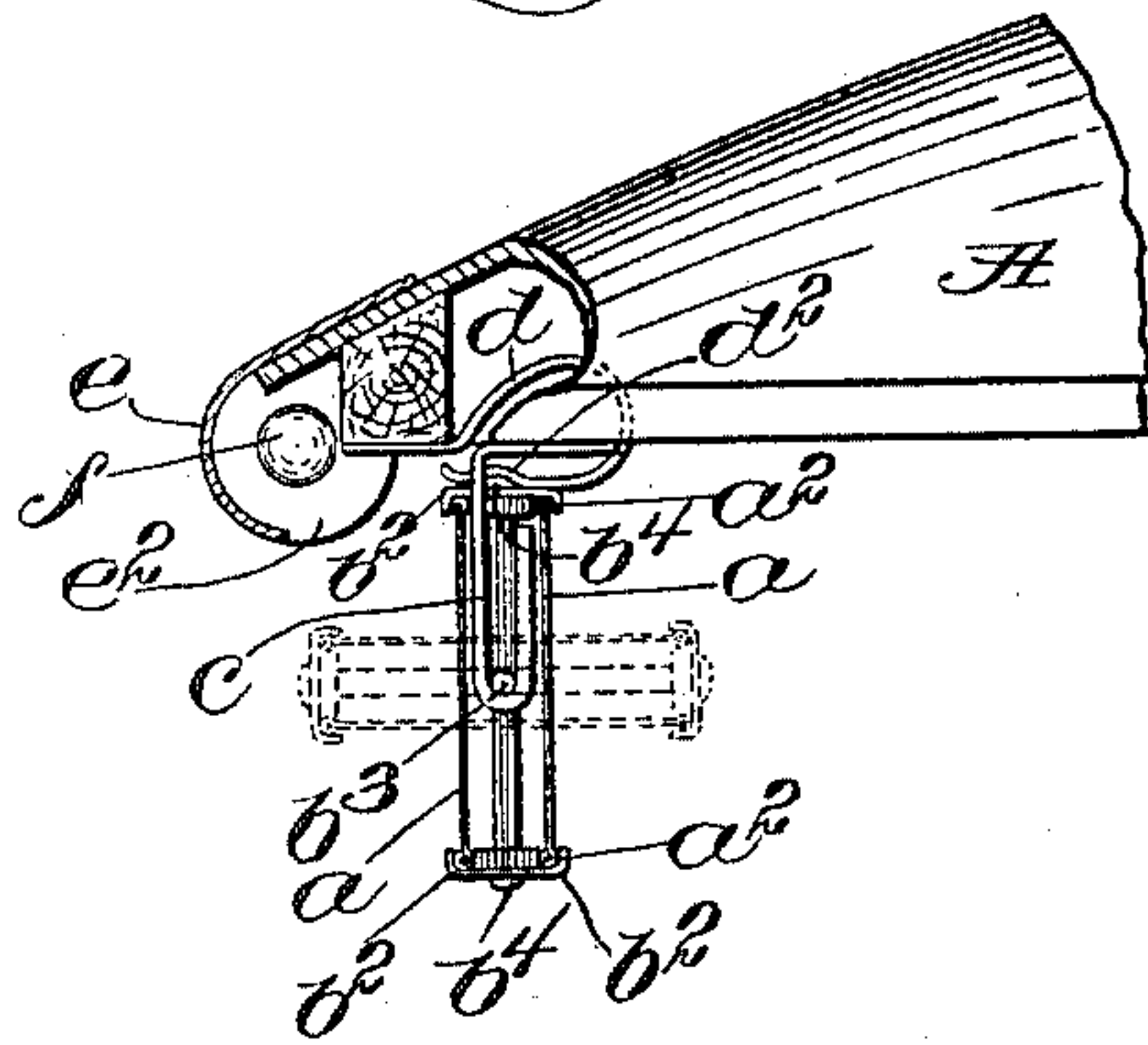


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 659,875, dated October 16, 1900.

Application filed December 11, 1899. Serial No. 739,940. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES S. SERGEANT, of Brookline, county of Norfolk, and HARRY L. LIBBY, of Boston, county of Suffolk, State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Signs, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

10 The present invention relates to a sign apparatus for street-cars, and is shown as embodied in a reversible sign apparatus preferably located at the end of the car, the invention consisting in certain details of construction and arrangement whereby a large number of designations may be selectively employed with a single sign apparatus, while any two designations which are being used at the same time may be easily reversed at the end of the route.

The invention further consists in an illuminating device for the signs of novel construction and arrangement whereby the signs are rendered easily legible after dark.

25 The invention is herein shown as embodied in a sign apparatus for the end of the car, the said sign apparatus being rotatably mounted in brackets below the hood, which may be provided with a curved reflector containing one or more lamps, the said reflector being so shaped as to shield the lamps and prevent them from being seen from the front and at the same time to reflect the rays of light upon the sign below. The reversible member may have different names or designations painted upon opposite sides, or it may consist, as herein shown, of a frame or supporting member adapted to contain removable sign members capable of being readily inserted or applied, so that by having a number of such removable members each with different designations on opposite sides as many changes as desired may be made with very little trouble. The said reversible member will be hereinafter referred to for convenience as the "sign," since it really constitutes the sign proper whether the designation is painted on it or on a detachable sign member. The supporting-brackets for the sign are so arranged that the sign apparatus may be bodily removed and replaced without the use of any fastening de-

vices, so that the frames themselves or, more commonly, the signs where the frame is not employed may be taken out and others substituted.

Figure 1 is a partial front elevation, with parts broken away, of the hood of the car having a sign embodying the invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof similarly broken; and Fig. 3 is a side elevation, partly in section, showing in full and dotted lines the normal and intermediate positions of the sign.

In the construction shown the sign members a are indicated as formed of sheet metal having the proper words painted on opposite sides, the said members being capable of connection with the reversible sign apparatus, which is shown as consisting of a frame b , in any suitable or usual way, as by sliding said members or "sign-slides," as they will be hereinafter called, into channels b^2 in the reversible sign apparatus.

Each sign-slide is shown as provided with a strengthening-bead a^2 along its edge, the said beads fitting the sockets b^2 , which are open at their ends, so that the sign-slides a may be removed or inserted by sliding them endwise. In order to protect the faces of the sign-slides both when in use and when not in use, the beads are arranged to project laterally beyond each face of the sign-slide, so that the characters will not be rubbed or worn during the insertion or removal of the signs or when they are not in use and are put away. It is obvious, however, that in cases where frequent changes are not necessary the proper words may be painted directly upon the reversible member b , which in this case would itself constitute the sign proper, and may therefore be termed the "sign." The said sign b is shown as provided at its ends with projections b^3 , arranged to be supported by hook-shaped supports or hangers c , secured to the under side of the hood A , there being a sufficient space between the hood and the end of the hook member of each hanger to permit the ready removal of the sign by simply turning the same half around, as indicated in dotted lines, Fig. 3, and then lifting the same until the projections b^3 clear the ends of the hook. The said supports c thus

afford an efficient holder from which the sign cannot be accidentally removed, it being unnecessary, however, to manipulate any fastening device or the like in order to remove the sign.

To retain the sign *b* in either of its operative positions, the said sign is provided with a holding device *d*, shown as a retaining-spring, suitably connected with the hood and having a curved portion *d*², arranged to engage a projection *b*⁴, thus holding the sign in place, but readily yielding when the sign is to be turned.

When the sign is in the form of a frame, as shown, to hold the detachable sign-slides *a* the guides or channels *b*² are placed sufficiently far apart to allow the sign-slides to clear the hangers or supports *c*, so that the said sign-slides can be taken out and reversed or replaced by others without taking down the reversible sign apparatus. The said channels *b*² are shown as provided at one end only with stops *b*⁵ to arrest the slides, which are inserted from the opposite end when said slides are properly positioned.

A further feature of the invention consists in the means for illuminating the sign, the hood of the car being shown as provided at its end with a projecting shield *e*, which is curved so as to inclose one or more lamps *f*, but which terminates at such a point that there is an open space *e*² adjacent to the face of the sign. The inner surface of the said shield is a reflecting-surface, so that the rays of light are directed toward the face of the sign, the lamps themselves being hidden from view, so that as a car is approaching the sign can be easily seen. So far as relates to this feature of the invention it is obviously immaterial whether the sign is reversible or not, the essential feature residing in the location of the lamps just below the end of the hood, the reflecting-shield projecting beyond the end of the hood and the sign located underneath the hood at the rear of the lamps and shield. By locating the lamps just below the edge of the hood a portion of the light is reflected back over the top of the sign, which, as shown, is separated from the platform-roof, this light materially aiding in the illumination of the platform without, however,

dazzling the motorman, whose face is completely shielded from the light by the sign itself.

We claim—

1. The combination with the hood or platform-roof of a car; of a reversible sign mounted in supports secured to the under side of said hood; and a spring locking device also secured to and projecting from the hood and overlying the sign to engage either edge thereof which is uppermost, as set forth.

2. The combination with the hood or platform-roof of a car; of hook-shaped supports, one member of each support being secured to and projecting down from the said hood, and the hooked end of the other member being separated from the under side of the hood by a distance greater than the thickness of the sign; bearing projections at the ends of the sign adapted to lie in the throats of the said hook-shaped supports; and a locking-spring also secured to the hood and projecting over the sign whereby it is adapted to engage the side of the sign which is uppermost, substantially as described.

3. A street-car sign comprising a reversible supporting-frame; supports for the said frame secured to and projecting downward from the under side of the hood of the car at the rear of the edge thereof; a locking device adapted to engage the side of the said frame which is uppermost, the said locking device also being secured to the under side of the hood; and sign-slides fitting the said frame, substantially as described.

4. The combination with the sign mounted below the roof of the car; of a reflector in front of the sign; and lamps between said reflector and sign, said lamps and reflector being below the roof of the car but far enough above the sign not to obscure the same from view, as set forth.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES S. SERGEANT.
HARRY L. LIBBY.

Witnesses:

HENRY J. LIVERMORE,
JAS. J. MALONEY.