

**No. 715,710.**

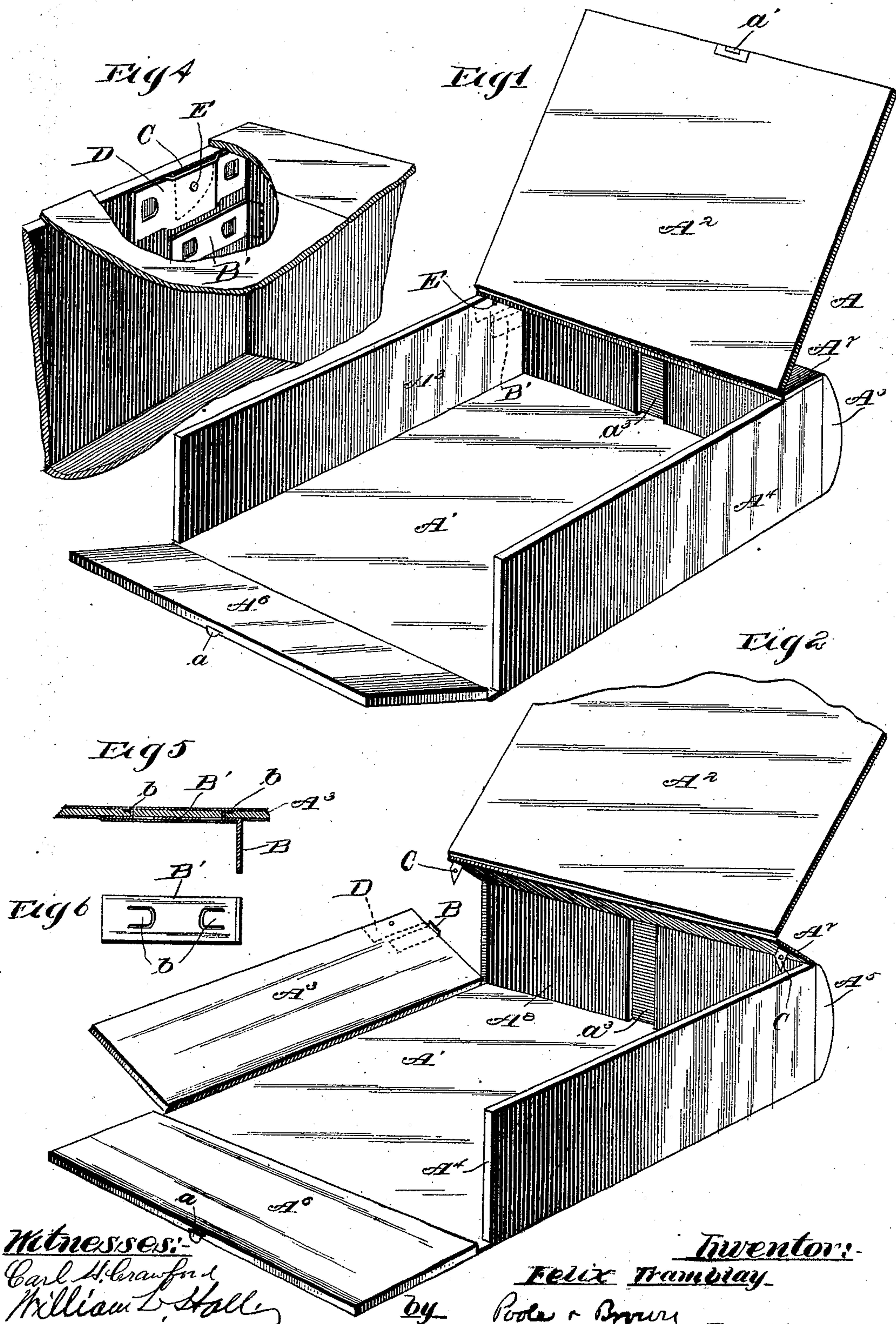
**Patented Dec. 9, 1902.**

**F. TRAMBLAY.**  
**FILE BOX.**

(Application filed Jan. 6, 1902.)

(No Model.)

**2 Sheets—Sheet 1.**







# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FELIX TRAMBLAY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## FILE-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 715,710, dated December 9, 1902.

Application filed January 6, 1902. Serial No. 88,497. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FELIX TRAMBLAY, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in File-Boxes; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in file cases or boxes for use in filing letters, bills, &c., of that class wherein the papers are filed between index-leaves held within the box or case by means of a suitable holding device attached to the back wall of the box.

The invention relates principally to a novel form of box of this character which is so constructed that the same may be "knocked down" or folded flat while being transported or stored and which when in its "set-up" position forms a rigid box, the several sections or parts of the box for this purpose being flexibly joined or hinged and provided at their margins with means for detachably locking or securing the same in their set-up position.

The invention relates also to other features of construction in filing-boxes, as will hereinafter more fully appear.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter set forth, and more particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a file box or case embodying my improvements, said box being partly opened to exhibit its construction. Fig. 2 is a similar view with parts broken away, illustrating a further opening or separation of the parts constituting the box. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the parts constituting a box in a completely opened or knocked-down position. Fig. 4 is a fragmentary perspective view of one corner of the box with parts broken away to illustrate more clearly the means for detachably interlocking the parts. Fig. 5 is a fragmentary section taken through one of the locking devices and part of the wall to which it is attached. Fig. 6 is a face view of the locking device illustrated in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is an

end view of the rear wall of the box with the end walls folded outwardly, showing the locking-socket in said end wall.

As shown in said drawings, A designates the file case or box as a whole, consisting of bottom and top walls A' A<sup>2</sup>, respectively, end walls A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup>, back wall A<sup>5</sup>, and front wall A<sup>6</sup>. Said top wall A<sup>2</sup> is hinged at its rear margin to a strip or ledge A<sup>7</sup>, which latter extends across the box from one end wall thereof to the other. The front wall A<sup>6</sup> of the box is hinged at its lower margin to the bottom wall A', so as to drop or fold outwardly. The front wall of the box is provided on its upper or free margin with the usual latch a, which is adapted to engage a metal socket a', secured in the front or free margin of the upper wall A<sup>2</sup> to lock said latter wall in place when the box is closed.

The end walls A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> and the back wall A<sup>5</sup> are hinged at their lower margins to the bottom wall, so as to swing or fold outwardly, and the ledge or strip A<sup>7</sup> at the back of the box is also hinged at its rear margin to the upper margin of the rear wall, said hinged connection enabling the several connected members of the box to be folded flat and to thereby occupy substantially the same plane, in the manner shown in Fig. 3. The hinged sections forming the ledge A<sup>7</sup> and the end and back walls are provided with fastening devices by which the same may be locked in their closed positions. The fastening devices for this purpose in the construction shown are made as follows:

B B designate lugs which are attached to the rear end margins of the end walls A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> and are adapted to enter sockets a<sup>2</sup> at the end margins of the rear wall A<sup>5</sup> when said end walls are thrown upwardly, as shown in Fig. 1, the lugs being located in a plane parallel with the back wall, with which they are engaged, and serving when they are engaged with the back wall to hold the latter from backward or outward movement. Said lugs constitute parts of plates B', Figs. 5 and 6, which are attached to the inner faces of said end walls A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup>, said plates being bent or folded at their ends to form the lugs B, which latter are disposed at substantially right an-



gles to the principal parts of the plates. The lug-plates B' are attached to the end walls of the box by means of prongs *b b*, which are cut and folded outwardly from the bodies of the plates and extend through apertures in the end walls and are clenched on the outer sides thereof in the manner shown in Fig. 5. In the finished box the plates on the inside of said end walls and the clenched or folded outer ends of the lugs on the outside thereof are concealed by the usual paper finishing paper pasted over the inner and outer surfaces of said walls. The sockets *a*<sup>2</sup>, Fig. 7, which receive the lugs B, are formed between the rear wall A<sup>5</sup> and a strip A<sup>8</sup>, secured to the inner face of said rear wall, one of said parts—to wit, the rear wall or said strip—being recessed or cut away at its ends to form said sockets.

C C designate other lugs which project downwardly from the under face of the ledge or strip A<sup>7</sup> at the ends of the latter and are located in planes parallel with the said end walls, said lugs being adapted when the box is in its set-up or assembled position to enter sockets formed between the inner faces of the end walls of the box and plates D D, attached to said walls near the rear ends thereof. Said plates D are attached to the end walls of the box in the same manner as are the plates D', being provided with prongs which are cut and folded outwardly therefrom and extend through said walls in the manner indicated in Figs. 3 and 4. The plates D may be bent inwardly between their ends to form sockets to receive the lugs C, or said plates may be flat and the end walls cut away to form said sockets. The lugs C are formed on the ends of narrow sheet-metal plates C', as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, and said plates C' may be connected with the ledge or strip A<sup>7</sup> in the same manner as are the plates B' and D, connected with the end walls of the box. The finishing-paper is shown in Fig. 4 as removed from the inner face of the end wall of the box in order to more clearly exhibit the connecting-plates D and B', attached to said wall.

The lugs B B on the end walls hold the back wall and the ledge attached thereto from outward movement away from the said end walls, while the lugs C C hold the said end walls from outward movement in a direction to disengage them from the back wall and ledge. The two sets of lugs B B and C C therefore in themselves serve to hold the parts of the box in place when set up or in condition for use, it being obvious that the parts will not become detached unless the ledge be lifted and swung back until the lugs C C are disengaged from the end walls and that if the lugs are tightly fitted in the sockets accidental separation of the parts is not liable to occur in the usual handling of the box.

As a further improvement, however, I provide means for positively locking the lugs C

to the end walls of the box in such manner as to prevent the ledge A<sup>7</sup> being lifted from the end walls. In the instance illustrated the said lugs and the plates D are apertured to receive locking-pins E, which pass transversely through the plate and lugs and serve to prevent accidental separation of said parts by the lifting of the ledge. Said pins also prevent the contents of the box bulging the ledge outwardly should the box be overfilled.

In assembling the box the back wall is first thrown upwardly and the end walls A<sup>3</sup> A<sup>4</sup> are afterward folded toward said back wall, so that the locking-lugs B thereof will enter the sockets *a*<sup>2</sup> of the back wall of the box. Thereafter the ledge A<sup>7</sup> is folded downwardly to bring the lugs C into engagement with the sockets *a*<sup>2</sup>, formed between the plates D and the end walls of the box. Said lugs may then be locked in said plates by inserting the pins E through the registering apertures therein, if such additional locking device be employed. If desired, the lugs C may extend entirely past the lower margins of the plates D and the locking-pins inserted through apertures in said lugs below said plate.

The ends of the strips A<sup>8</sup> obviously constitute shoulders on the back wall of the box, which engage the side walls and prevent the same moving inwardly past their upright positions, and the interlocking of the lugs with said side walls prevents the same spreading outwardly, thereby affording a rigid connection between the back and side walls of the box. It is obvious that the same general results would be secured if the parts A<sup>5</sup> and A<sup>8</sup> of the back wall were made of a single piece and the shoulder formed at the ends thereof by cutting away said wall at the ends. When the parts of the box are folded upwardly into the positions described and locked therein, therefore, the said parts constitute as rigid a structure as though permanently joined together in the ordinary manner, while at the same time said construction enables said parts to be separated and the box as a whole to be knocked down into the flat position shown in Fig. 3. The knocking down of the boxes in this manner obviously enables the boxes to be shipped in a much more compact state than when made in the ordinary manner and also enables said boxes to be shipped as a class of freight bearing a much lower rate than set-up or assembled boxes.

The back wall A<sup>8</sup> is cut away at the center of its inner face to form an upwardly-opening recess *a*<sup>3</sup>, which is designed to receive a holding device for the index-sheets, between which the papers are filed in the box in the usual manner. Said sheets and the holding devices therefor are, for the sake of clearness of exhibiting the main or principal features of the device, omitted. By reason of the flexible connection of the ledge or strip A<sup>7</sup> with the back wall of the box said ledge may be thrown upwardly and away from the end walls suffi-



ciently to expose the upper open end of the recess  $a^3$  to enable the usual fastening device to be inserted therein from above. The ledge when in its closed position closes said recess and prevents accidental displacement of said fastening device.

It is obvious that changes may be made in the details of the fastening and locking devices without departing from the spirit of my invention, and I do not wish to be limited to the exact structural details shown herein except as hereinafter made the subject of specific claims.

I claim as my invention—

1. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which is hinged to the upper margin of the back wall, said back wall being provided with a recess to receive a holding device for index-leaves and means for detachably securing said end, back and top walls in their closed positions.

2. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a narrow top section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, said back wall being provided with an upwardly-opening recess to receive a holding device for index-leaves and means for detachably securing said end wall, back wall and ledge in their closed positions.

3. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, said back wall being provided with an upwardly-opening recess to receive a holding device for index-leaves, interlocking connections between the rear margins of the end walls and the end margins of the back wall, and also between the end margins of the said ledge and the top margins of said end walls.

4. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, said back wall being provided with an upwardly-opening recess to receive a holding device for index-leaves, locking-lugs on the end walls adapted to enter sockets in the rear wall, and locking-lugs on said ledge adapted to enter sockets in the end walls.

5. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, said rear wall being provided with a recess to receive a holding device for index-leaves and in its ends with outwardly-facing shoulders against which the end walls bear, lugs on said end

walls adapted to enter sockets in said rear wall, and lugs on the said ledge adapted to enter sockets in said end walls.

6. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, said back wall being provided with an upwardly-opening index-holding-device recess which is closed by said ledge, lugs on the end walls adapted to enter sockets in the rear wall, other lugs on said ledge adapted to enter sockets in the end walls, and means for positively locking said last-mentioned lugs in their sockets.

7. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, said back wall being provided with an upwardly-opening index-holding-device recess which is closed by said ledge, locking-lugs on the end walls adapted to enter sockets in the rear wall, other lugs on said ledge adapted to enter sockets in the end walls, said last-mentioned lugs being provided with apertures and locking-pins adapted for insertion through said apertures and into registering apertures in the end walls.

8. A file-box provided in its back wall with an upwardly-opening index-holding-device recess, the top wall of said box comprising a narrow annular section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall, and which when in its closed position closes said recess, and a wider front section hinged to said narrow section and constituting the lid of the box, and locking means at the end margins of said ledge adapted to engage locking devices on the side walls of the box.

9. A knockdown file-box having end, front and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall to fold outwardly away from said bottom wall, said back wall being provided with means for attaching thereto a holding device for index-leaves, and a top wall which is hinged to the margin of the back wall to fold outwardly away therefrom, whereby all of said folding walls may be opened flat in the same plane with the bottom wall, and means for locking said folded walls in their closed positions.

10. A knockdown file-box having end, front, and back walls which are hinged to the bottom wall to fold outwardly away from said bottom wall, said back wall being provided with means for attaching thereto a holding device for index-leaves, and a top wall which comprises a narrow rear section or ledge which is hinged to the back wall to fold outwardly away therefrom, and a wider front section which is hinged to said ledge, whereby all of said folding walls may be opened

flat in the same plane with the bottom wall,  
and interlocking connections between the  
margins of the end walls and the end mar-  
gins of the back wall and also between the  
5 end margins of said ledge and the tops of  
said end walls.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my invention I affix my signature, in pres-  
ence of two witnesses, this 3d day of Janu-  
ary, A. D. 1902.

FELIX TRAMBLAY.

Witnesses:

C. CLARENCE POOLE,  
M. L. PRICE.