





# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM EDWARD LEMP, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA.

## CAR-DOOR LATCH.

No. 865,191.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 3, 1907.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM EDWARD LEMP, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Mobile, county of Mobile, State of Alabama, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Car-Door Latches, of which the following is a full and clear specification.

My invention relates to improvements in car-door latches and has for its object to provide a simple and effective device designed especially for swinging doors of refrigerator cars.

With the above and other objects in view the invention consists in certain features of construction hereinafter specified and particularly pointed out in the claims.

These objects are attained by the means illustrated in the following drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of a portion of a car having my device attached thereto; Fig. 2 is a view of my improved latch showing the parts in a locked position, the base of one member being in section; Fig. 3 is a front view of a portion of the doors in a closed position showing the method of utilizing portions of the latch in connection with a seal; and Figs. 4 and 5 are detail perspective views of the latch members.

Like letters indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

The latch comprises a door-member A and a wall member B, adapted to be secured in their respective positions by means of screws or bolts. The door member A consists of a base plate *a* having formed integral therewith or rigidly secured thereto a hook *b* having inclined faces *c* and *d*, said faces being relatively broad and positioned one behind the other, and a supporting rib *e*. The inner face of the hook is provided with a lip or projection *f*.

The wall member consists of a base plate *g* provided with a slot *h*, the plate being cast with bearings *i* at each side of the slot. A hook *k* provided with integral pintles *m* is pivoted in the bearings *i*, said hook having an inclined face *n* adapted to contact with the inclined faces upon the door member, a lip or projection *o* adapted to engage the lip *f*, and a stop *p* at its inner end upon its lower side, adapted to engage the base plate *g* to normally hold the hook in a horizontal position.

To the rear of the base plate of the wall member and between said plate and the wall is secured a spring metal plate *r* having a tongue *s* bent therefrom, said tongue projecting through the slot *h* and bearing upon the top of the hook to form a spring normally holding

the hook to its position. One of the hooks is provided with a hole *t* whereby a seal can be applied as shown in Fig. 3.

In operation the doors are thrown open, the inclined faces of the hooks come into engagement and act as spring bumpers, retarding the doors sufficiently to prevent slamming, the pivoted hook rides over the face *c* of the opposing hook, and falls into engagement with the face *d*. When in this position the doors are positively locked and the counteracting lips upon the hooks prevent creeping and the unlocking of the doors; also when in this position the doors are effectually prevented from rattling by the engagement of the inclined faces of the pivoted hook *k*, with the inner inclined faces of the stationary hooks, the frictional contact between the faces and the force of the spring being sufficient to overcome this objection which tends not only to jar the doors but also to strain the hooks.

By forming the pivoted hooks with integral pintles I obviate the danger of losing the hook by the accidental loss of the pivot pin. It will be observed also, that by forming the stationary hook as shown and described I am enabled to provide a hook with relatively broad contacting surfaces and at the same time obtain a light and substantial member.

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

1. A latch comprising a stationary member having two inclined faces one in the rear of the other upon its upper side, a vertical shoulder separating the two inclined faces, and a gravitating member and means for pivotally attaching it to a support, this gravitating member being provided with a head whose under side is inclined and adapted to normally bear and slide upon the rear one of the inclines of the stationary member, for the purpose set forth.

2. In a latch, the combination of a stationary member adapted to be attached to a support and having an inclined surface and a vertical shoulder, the upper end of this shoulder being provided with an inwardly extending lip, and a movable member and means for pivotally attaching it to a support, this movable member being provided with a head whose lower end is provided with an outwardly extending lip, for the purpose set forth.

3. A latch comprising a stationary member having two inclined surfaces, one to the rear of the other, and a lip and means for securing it to a support, and a pivoted member having an inclined face and integral pintles, and means for securing it to a support, and a spring adapted to contact with the pivoted member.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in the presence of two witnesses this 8th day of May, 1907.

WILLIAM EDWARD LEMP.

Witnesses:

R. P. TURNER,

H. F. CRAWFORD.