

M. L. SWEENEY.
CABLE OR TELEGRAPH CODE.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 26, 1908.

916,899.

Patented Mar. 30, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

Anf	Havana sailed 10 A.M.
Ano	50 Bales Tobacco, Chicago
Anj	160 Packages Bremen

Fig. 2.

Bab	103 First Class Passengers
Bac	104 Packages Liverpool
Bad	200 Cases Cigars Buenos H. & Monte

Fig. 3.

Cab	67 Second Class Passengers
Cac	10 Packages Antwerp
Cad	250 Bundles Hides Hamburg

Fig. 4.

A	ABC Code
E	Western Union Code

Fig. 5.

Anf bab cab	Havana sailed 10 A.M. 103 First Class Passengers, 67 Second Class Passengers
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Fig. 6.

Anf bab caba	Consider
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Inventor

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Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 7.

Table No 1.	
Anf	Your action has our entire approval
Ano	Report final results
Anj	Await our letter.

Fig. 8.

Table No 2.	
Anf	Have shipped you today
Ano	500 Bales of hemp for Havana
Anj	500 Bales of cotton for Liverpool

Fig. 9.

Table No 3.	
Anf	Quote price on corn
Ano	Quote price on wheat
Anj	Quote price on rye

Fig. 10.

Aba	Table No 1.
Odi	Table No 2.
Emo	Table No 3.

Fig. 11.

Abaanfano	Odianfano.
Your action has our entire approval	
Report final result. Have shipped you	
today 500 bales of hemp for Havana	

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CABLE OR TELEGRAPH CODE.

No. 916,899.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MORTIMER L. SWEENEY, a citizen of the United States, residing at New York, in the county of New York and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cable or Telegraph Codes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to an improved cable or telegraph code, the primary object of which is to produce a code by which the tolls for the transmission of messages will be materially reduced.

A further object of my invention is to enable any of the well known general codes to be used in connection with my special code as supplementary thereto.

A further object of my invention is the provision of a code in which errors in transmission may usually be readily detected, thus obviating the delay caused by attempting to decipher a message in which such errors have occurred.

A further object of my invention is the provision of means by which the size of the code and the number of code words used therein may be increased to a practically indefinite extent.

With these and other objects in view my invention consists in forming a code made up from words of three letters each, adapted to be joined together to form pronounceable words of six or nine letters. Under the present international rules of the cable and telegraph companies any pronounceable word containing ten letters or less may be transmitted as a single word. Consequently under my system it is possible to send three code words joined together, for which the toll for but one word will be charged.

A further object of my invention is to enable my code, which is particularly adapted to be used as a private code, and wherein the amount of information that can be transmitted thereunder is limited to the business for which it is designed, to be used in connection with any general code. This I accomplish by adopting a series of single letters each designating a certain general code and indicating that all matter following such single letter is of the code which the single letter designates. This single letter is added at the end of the last word written in my private code, and does not increase the aggregate of letters in the word transmitted be-

yond the permissible number. I preferably form the three letter code words so that they each end in a consonant.

Referring to the drawings wherein I illustrate portions of pages of a code constructed according to my system Figures 1, 2 and 3 indicate three sections of my code; Fig. 4 is a portion illustrating that part of my code showing single letters indicating general codes; Fig. 5 illustrates a message written entirely in my code and the same deciphered; Fig. 6 a message written partly in my code and supplemented by the use of a general code; Figs. 7, 8 and 9 indicate sections of my code showing three tables in which the code words indicate different phrases; Fig. 10 is a portion illustrating one form of indicators for indicating which table is to be consulted to translate the code message, and Fig. 11 illustrates a message which has to be partly read in one table and partly in another.

In Fig. 5 I have illustrated a message which will be transmitted as one word and which is formed from code words taken from each of Figs. 1, 2 and 3, consequently the one word illustrated will convey all the information for which three words would ordinarily be required.

In Fig. 6 I have shown a message composed of two words, the first word being formed of three code words taken from my code to which is added the letter, indicating that the rest of the message should be translated by the use of a certain general code and cannot be found in my code.

It will be understood that when a message of the character shown in Fig. 5 is received the receiver simply divides it into three letter code words, and upon looking each one up separately deciphers the entire message. Upon receiving a message as written, as illustrated in Fig. 6, the words are similarly divided into three letter words until a word is encountered containing four, seven or ten letters. The first portion of said latter word is divided into three letter words and the last letter of this word indicates what general code is to be consulted to decipher the remainder of the message.

While I prefer to have my three letter words terminate in a consonant, as is indicated on the drawing, it is evident that this is not essential, but that all or part of the three letter words may terminate in vowels.

In Figs. 7 to 11 I show my means for ex-

panding the code to cover practically an indefinite number of phrases. It is to be noted that there are only about four thousand three letter combinations which are suitable for use in forming code words, and that therefore the form of code heretofore described is limited to about four thousand phrases. Where more phrases are desired I designate the first set of three letter combinations with their meanings as table Number 1. I then repeat the three letter combinations, giving them different meanings, as table Number 2. I can then repeat the three letter combinations with a third set of meanings as table Number 3, and so on until all the phrases desired for the code have been given a three letter combination to indicate them. To indicate which table is to be consulted in the translation of a message I provide indicators, such for instance as illustrated in Fig. 10, which will indicate that the portion of the message following such indicator is to be read from one of the tables. For instance in the form shown where the three letter combinations which make the body of the code end in consonants the table indicating words are shown as ending in a vowel. Consequently when a three letter combination, such as "aba" or "adi" or "emo" are encountered in translating a message, they indicate which of the three tables is to be consulted.

In the message shown in Fig. 11 the first word should be read from table Number 1, the second word from table Number 2, and the third word from table Number 3. It is

evident of course that instead of the three letter indicators for the tables a single letter, or two letters may be used. A single letter is preferable to two letters, for the reason that it will not add to the number of words in the message and can be prefixed to any nine letter code word as has been described in connection with the general code indicators.

Without enumerating the equivalents and without setting forth all the forms which my invention may take, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is—

1. A code which consists of a series of three letter words each of which has a predetermined meaning, said three letter words being adapted to be combined into a nine letter pronounceable word and transmitted as a single word, and a series of single letter code symbols which may be added to a word formed by the combination of the three letter words.

2. A code which consists of a plurality of tables, each table comprising a series of three letter words each of which has a predetermined meaning, said three letter words being adapted to be combined in a nine letter pronounceable word and transmitted as a single word, and indicators adapted to be used with said three letter words to indicate a particular table.

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

MORTIMER L. SWEENEY.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS M. PHELPS,
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