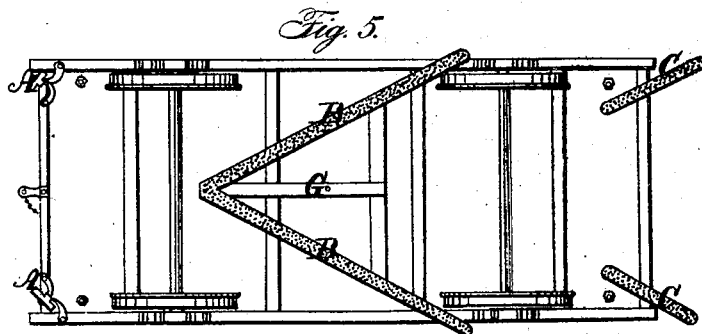
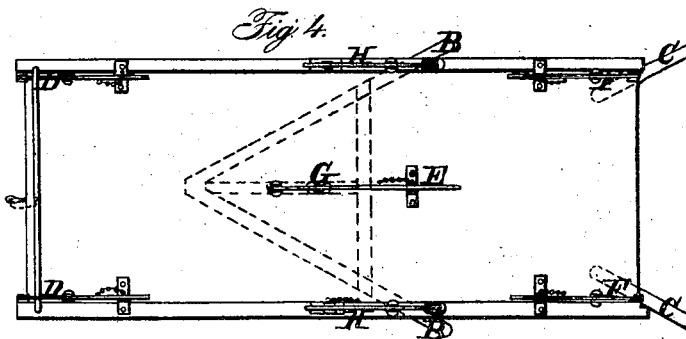
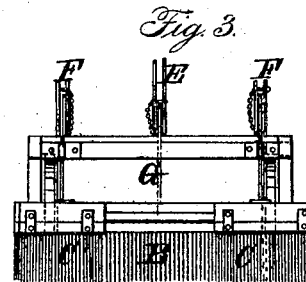
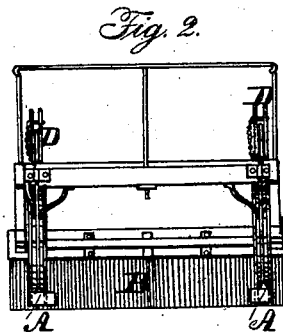
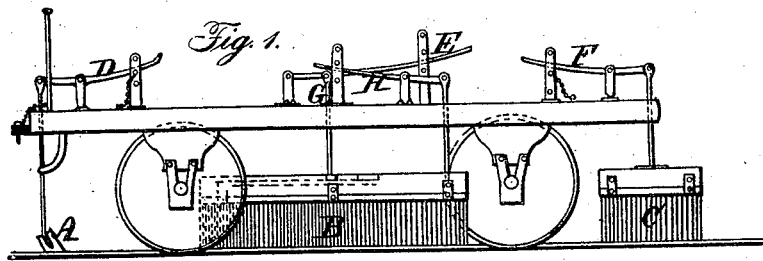


G. C. SHARP.
Car-Track Clearer.

No. 50,634.

Patented Oct. 24, 1865.



Witnesses.

Geo. C. Gooddard
Calvin S. Childs.

Inventor.

George C. Sharp.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE C. SHARP, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPROVED TRACK-CLEARER FOR RAILROADS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **50,634**, dated October 24, 1865.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE C. SHARP, of the city, county, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Machine for Clearing Railroad-Tracks from Snow and Ice; and I hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists of a combination of adjustable brooms or brushes with a platform and carriage running on wheels upon the track of a railroad, and is especially adapted to and serviceable upon railroads passing over the streets of cities, rapidly and effectually clearing the track from snow and ice. The following description shows its construction and mode of operation:

I make a platform of plank or other material of sufficient strength, of about eighteen feet in length and about six feet in width, and place it on four car-wheels of about thirty inches in diameter, suited to the track.

On the under side of the platform I attach two brooms or brushes, each extending diagonally from the front of the hind wheels to within a few inches of the middle of the axle of the forward wheels and there meeting. They are strengthened and made firm by a cross-bar running from one to the other about midway between the angle of meeting and the other end of the brooms; also by braces from the bottom of the platform. These brooms are placed on the under side of the platform and held there by rods passing through the platform, one from each foot of the brooms, and one from a bar which runs from the cross-bar above mentioned to the angle of meeting. On the top of the platform these rods are provided with levers, by which the brooms can be raised and lowered at either end, as the condition of the track and the snow and ice upon it require.

The brooms or brushes are made of wood, rattan, metal, or any material which is sufficiently strong, elastic, and durable. Rattan has been used and found serviceable. They are made fast by clamps and screws to strong backs, from which they can be detached to repair or renew them. A small broom or brush of the same construction is attached in like manner to the under side of the platform behind each of the rear wheels, crossing them diagonally, so as to sweep any remaining snow or ice from the track which has been left by the larger brooms. These are connected with levers on the

upper side of the platform, by which they can be lowered and raised and adjusted to suit the condition of the road.

Before each of the front wheels, and attached to the fore part of the platform, is a small scraper, with a projection on the edge of it adapted to and fitting into the groove of the rail, to clear the snow, ice, or other obstructions from it before the wheels pass over it, the scraper and the projection on it bending slightly inward toward the wheel, that it may yield, in some measure, to the inequalities of the rail or other impediment, the scraper being placed diagonally across the track to carry the obstructions from it.

The scrapers are of iron and are connected with levers on the top of the platform, by which they can be raised or depressed, as may be found necessary.

The brooms or brushes may be placed in other parts of the machine and in other positions, under the platform, in front of or behind the wheels; but the arrangement above described has been found practically to work very well, and is believed to be the best.

On the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents a side view of the machine; Fig. 2, a front view; Fig. 3, a rear view; Fig. 4, the top of the platform, and Fig. 5 the under side of the platform.

B represents the larger brooms; C, the smaller.

Other parts indicated by letters will be readily understood.

This machine has been found very useful in clearing snow and ice from the tracks of city railroads, having been put in practical operation for the purpose of trial during the last winter and found very well adapted to the purpose, accomplishing the desired result expeditiously, with a great saving of labor of men and horses. It is specially designed for such tracks, but may also be used on roads on which steam power is employed.

I do not claim any of the parts of said machine separately; but

I claim—

The combination of a platform on wheels with brooms or brushes, substantially as above described.

GEORGE C. SHARP.

Witnesses:

H. C. BANKS,
MOSES ELY.