

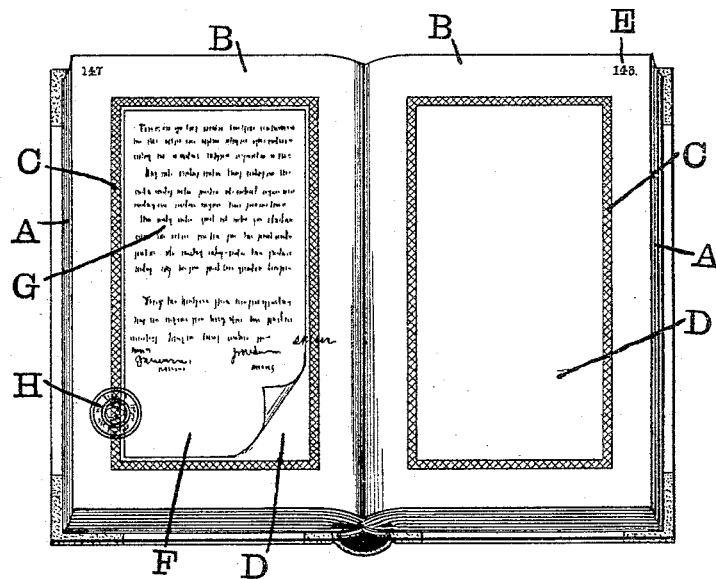
(No Model.)

J. W. SEE.

RECORD BOOK AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME.

No. 384,288.

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RECORD-BOOK AND METHOD OF MAKING THE SAME.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES W. SEE, of Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Records and the Method of Making Same, of which the following is a specification.

This invention pertains to books containing records, such as of the proceedings of deliberative bodies.

The invention relates to a method and device whereby the record-book will be caused to show on its face whether or not a detected alteration is fraudulent or irregular.

The improvements will be readily understood from the following description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawing, which is a perspective view of a record-book illustrating my improvements, the book being shown as open and as containing record-matter upon the left-hand page only.

In the drawing, A indicates the leaves of the book, composed of ordinary paper, but preferably of somewhat greater thickness than usual; B, the surface of the leaves; C, a border printed upon the surface of the leaves so as to inclose a panel to receive the record-matter, except such annotations as it may be desired to have written in the margins; D, the panel within the borders, the surface of the paper forming these panels being coated entire with gum and then allowed to dry; E, consecutive page-numbers on the leaves exterior to the borders; F, a sheet of paper attached to the surface of the leaf within the margin by being dampened and laid upon the panel, the size of this sheet conforming substantially with the size of the panel; G, the matter of record written upon the record-sheet F by a type-writer; and H a seal impressed upon the leaf, partly on the record-sheet and partly on the margin of the page outside the record-sheet, this seal being of that impression character which produces a design in low relief upon one side of the leaf of the book and the same *in intaglio* upon the opposite side of the leaf.

Integrity and durability are two important requirements in connection with books of record, and these requirements are generally secured by forming the leaves of more or less absorbent paper, and by writing the record-matter upon these leaves with a permanent

liquid ink capable of penetrating the fiber of the paper. The objections to such records are, first, the enormous expense of making them, and, second, the fact that as the record is being written clerical errors, always liable to occur, must be corrected by erasure and re-writing, in consequence of which method of correction the record will, after the passage of time, bear evidence of alteration after having been written, and thus suggest questions as to the integrity of the work. A further objection to such records is to the frequent lack of legibility, due to the peculiarities of handwriting and the smearing and blotting due to accident or carelessness.

The modern type-writing machines produce very legible and comparatively elegant work. They cannot be used, so far as I know, to write directly upon the pages of open books. The inks employed by them are, in most cases, open to the charge of fugitiveness, and this is especially the case as the inks employed by these type-writing machines are of a heavy character laid upon the surface only of the paper, as distinguished from a liquid ink which penetrates the fiber of the paper. Furthermore, the type-writer operator is, like the penman, liable to make mistakes in his work, and these mistakes he corrects by erasing the ink from the surface of the paper and reprinting the matter over the same spot. Type-writer work thus corrected will bear evidence of having been altered since being written, and the integrity of the record so made will be open to doubt. The alteration of a record made by a type-writer can be more easily effected than if made by pen and ink, owing to the fact that the work is not autographic, and that the alteration simply requires the removal of surface-work impressed by machine-type and the substitution therefor of other matter impressed by similar type. In short, the alteration does not involve the skillful imitation of personal handwriting. The use of the type-writer for record purposes is therefore seen to have been open to the following objections: First, lack of adaptation to work in open books; second, fugitiveness of ink; third, superficial character of the impression; fourth, ready susceptibility to alteration.

In using my improved record-book the rec-

ord-matter is written upon the sheet F in a type-writer in the usual manner, while the sheet is entirely separate from the record-book. The sheets for this work are, of course, to be chosen of a size to suit the panels in the record-book. The type-writer operator, in correcting mistakes as the work progresses, erases and rewrites in the usual manner. If the sheet when thus written is not satisfactorily fair and correct and clean, it may be destroyed and a new one written. When the record-sheet is satisfactorily produced, the back of the sheet is dampened, preferably by laying it back downward upon a wet cloth or the like. The sheet is then laid back downward upon the panel of the record-book, where it belongs, and pressed nicely to place, the border on the page of the record-book serving as a guide in fixing the sheet, and serving, also, as a neat outline for the sheet. The seal H is then impressed, preferably very soon after the insertion of the record-sheet, though the application of the seal should be deferred until record-sheets have been affixed upon both surfaces of the leaf of the book.

In fixing the seal H an ordinary seal-press is employed, and the result is a design in low relief upon one side and *in intaglio* upon the opposite side, the seal being partly impressed in the leaf of the record-book outside the border C and partly in three combined thicknesses, consisting of book-leaf and the two affixed record-sheets. The superior thickness of material on which the seal is impressed within the border, in conjunction with the softened character of the paper due to the presence of the moisture employed in affixing the record-sheets, gives to the seal distinctive characters inside and outside the border.

The dampening of the back of the type-written record-sheets causes the ink to be absorbed into the fiber of the paper toward the back of the sheet. This will be fully understood when I state that I have taken a type-written sheet, dampened its back, applied its back to a tissue copying-sheet, and subjected the two sheets to pressure in a letter-press, and thus produced a so-called "letter-press copy" from the back of the sheet. The result of this absorption toward the back of the sheet in the record-sheet now under consideration is that alterations which have been produced by the type-writer operator in correcting his mistakes become fixed. By this I mean that a future inspection of the sheet will show at once that the apparent alteration was made before the sheet was affixed to the page of the record-book. Any attempt at alteration after the record-sheet has been affixed to the page of the record-book will obviously present distinctive characteristics and be self-detective. The backward absorption of the ink into the fiber of the paper deprives the type-written sheet of its objectionable characteristic of being distinctively a sheet containing writing in a surface-impression only. By reason of the backward absorption of the ink

increased durability or permanency is given to the work, by reason of much of the ink being in the pores of the paper, and not exposed to the action of light. It will thus be seen that the record-sheet, when fixed to the leaf of the record-book, possesses the permanency of written records, the beauty, legibility, condensation, and cheapness incident to type-writer work, and a self-detecting quality as to subsequent alterations not essentially possessed by either type-writer work or written work. It will be seen that the only plan of altering such a record is to strip the record-sheet from the book-leaf and to substitute therefor another sheet containing different matter. It is the office of the seal H to effectually guard against such substitution. While the seal has no autographic qualities, and while the seal-press may be accessible to any person, it will still be found to be impossible to strip a record-sheet from a book-page and substitute another, and then reimpress the seal in such manner as to avoid detection. In the illustration I have shown the lower right corner of the sheet F as being turned upward. This is done merely to illustrate the fact that the sheet is a sheet separately attached to the page of the record-book. At the border just above this turned-up portion of the record-sheet I show a signature written partly on the record-sheet and partly on the margin outside the record-sheet. Such signature may be used in conjunction with or as a substitute for the seal, the signature thus used possessing autographic qualities, but is not so sure a reliance as the seal. The security afforded by the signature thus used will, however, be ample if care be taken to write such signature very soon after the record-sheet has been fixed to the book-page. The signature will then be written partly on damp paper and partly on dry paper, and certain peculiar flowings of the ink will take place at the edge of the record-sheet. It is not believed possible to strip a record-sheet and substitute a new one and apply this identifying-signature in such manner as to be beyond detection.

It should be particularly noted that in the formation of the improved record bad work may be discarded at any time before the application of the seal or identifying-signature which crosses the border. Before such final act a bad record-sheet may be stripped off and a new and better one substituted.

The entire surface of the leaves of the record-book may, if desired, be coated with gum; but it is far preferable to confine the gumming to the panels. The gum or analogous adhesive material employed must of course be soluble by moisture.

I do not claim a record-book with gummed receiving-pages, or a gummed sheet combined with a record-sheet having record-matter transferred to its back surface or through it from the back, as produced by the letter-copying-press process on transparent paper, or marks of identification partly on a gummed sheet

and partly on a sheet affixed thereto. These matters alone will not produce a record-book which will show on its face whether a detected erasure or alteration has been made before or
5 after the record-sheet is made a part of the record-book.

I claim as my invention—

1. That improvement in the art of making records which consists in gumming the appropriate surfaces of the leaves of the record-book, impressing the record-matter with absorbable ink upon the face surface only of a loose sheet of paper, applying moisture to the back of such impressed sheet, affixing such
10 sheet to the gummed leaf of the record-book, and applying a mark of identification jointly upon the surface of the affixed record-sheet

and upon the uncovered surface of the book-leaf, substantially as described.

2. In a record, the combination of a book having leaves provided with appropriate gummed surfaces, a record-sheet having record-matter impressed upon its face surface and absorbed toward its other surface affixed to such gummed book-leaf, and a mark of identification applied
20 jointly on the affixed record-sheet and an uncovered portion of the surface of the book-leaf, constructed substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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Witnesses:

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