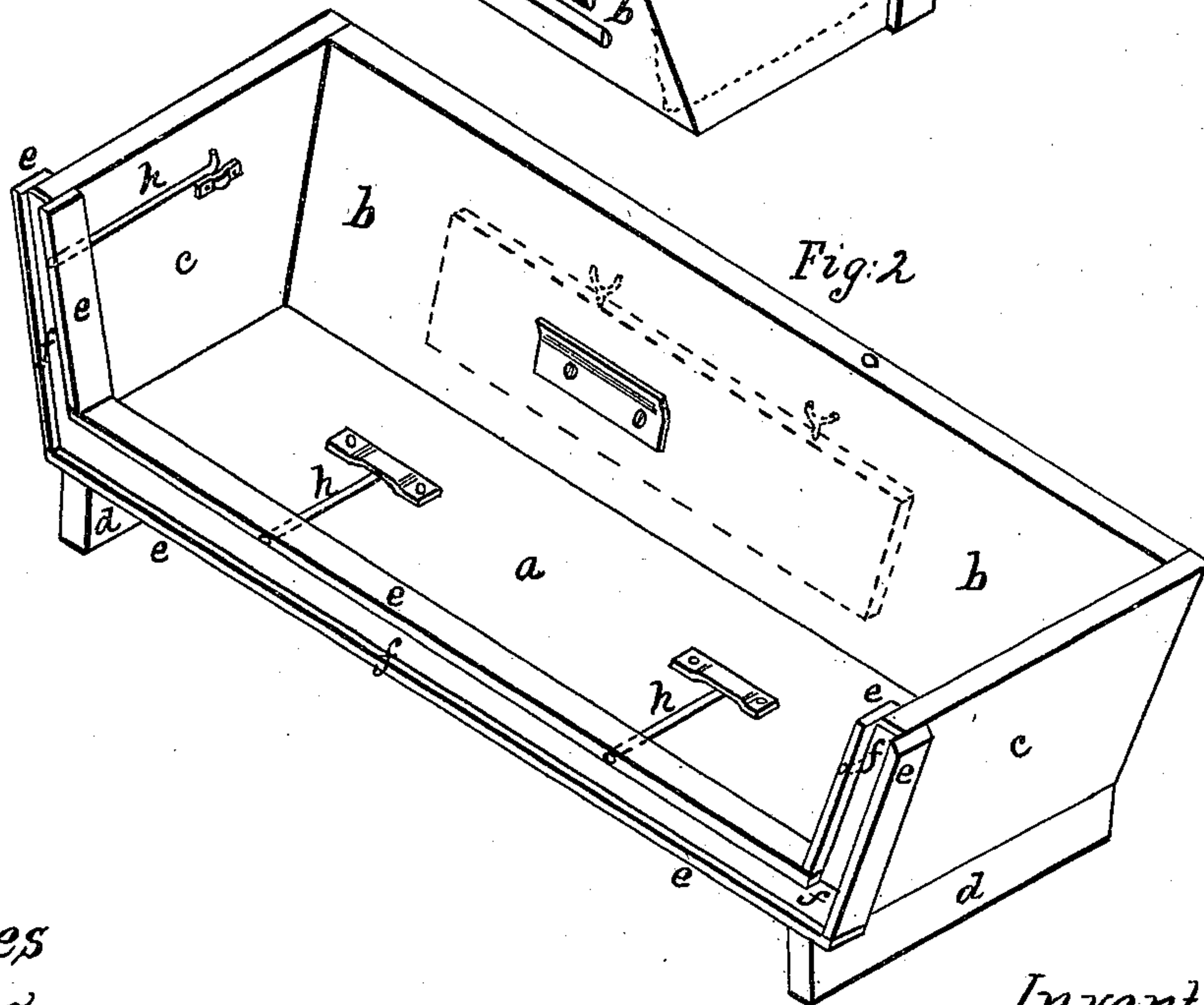
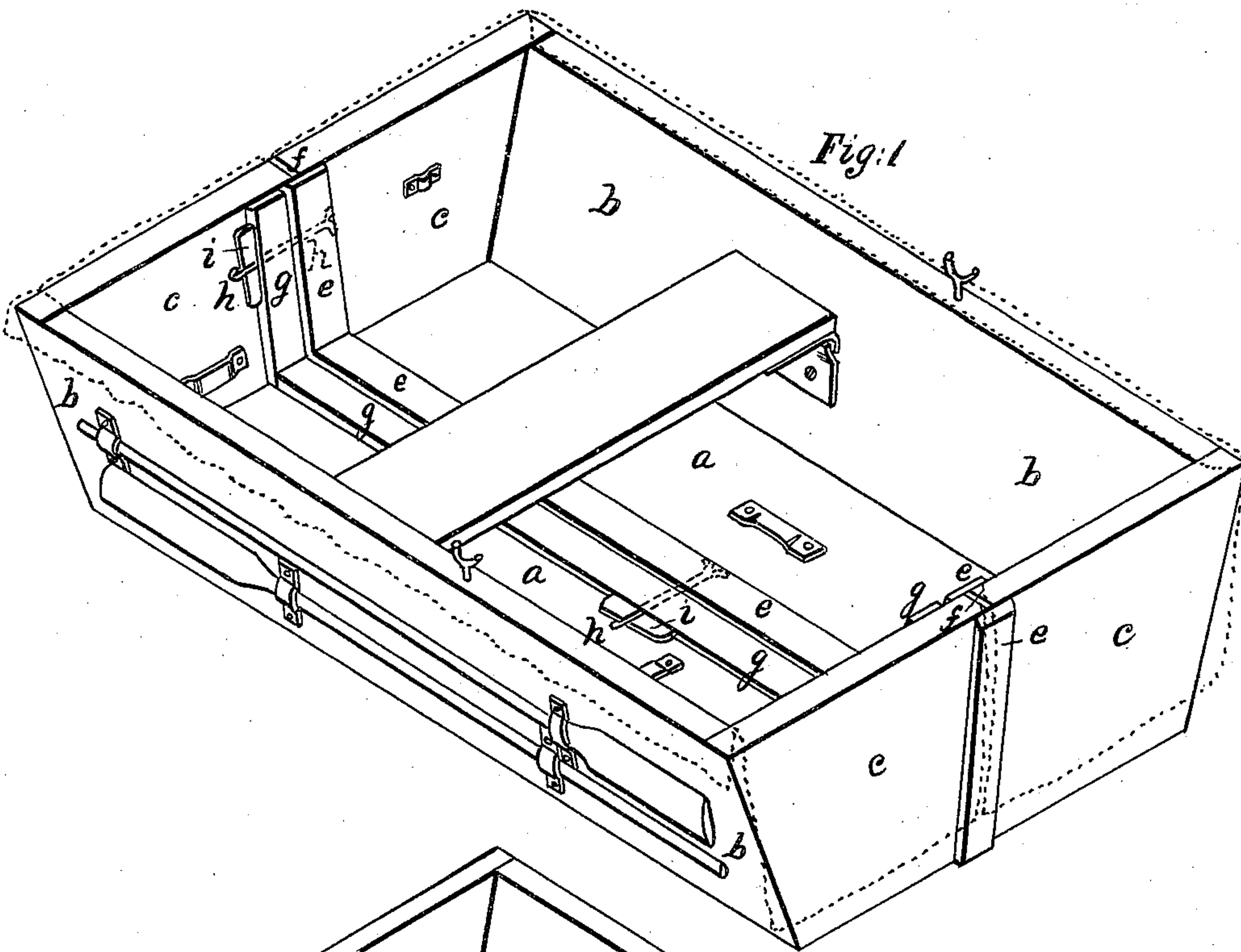


*J. Foster.*  
*Marine Furniture.*  
*N<sup>o</sup> 64,962. Patented May 21, 1867.*



*Witnesses*  
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# United States Patent Office.

JOSIAH FOSTER, OF SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

*Letters Patent No. 64,962, dated May 21, 1867.*

## IMPROVEMENT IN MARINE FURNITURE.

*The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.*

### TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, JOSIAH FOSTER, of Sandwich, in the county of Barnstable, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Marine Furniture; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practise it.

In cases of marine disaster by wreck, foundering, or fire, it is often the case that the boats provided for such emergencies are insufficient in capacity for reception of the persons exposed to danger from such misfortunes, especially in the case of passenger vessels. In such emergencies rafts and life-preservers, for the purpose of temporary support, are eagerly sought, and not unfrequently prove the means of preserving valuable lives. It is to increase the capacity and amount of means for temporarily floating passengers and crew in cases of disaster that is the object of my invention, said object being effected by the utilization of settees or sofas, which may be used as seats for the convenience of passengers in and about the various parts of vessels.

My invention consists in such a construction and adaptation of long seats, like sofas, lounges, settees, &c., that the union of two of them shall form a boat or vessel, comparatively water-tight, and of considerable capacity, in which the seat-parts of the sofas form the bottom of the boat, and the backs and ends of the sofas form respectively the sides and ends of the boat.

In the practice of my invention, I propose to have the feet, legs, or other supports of the long seats employed, made easily removable, so that the bottom of the boat made therefrom shall be comparatively smooth, so as to reduce resistance to propulsion of the boat through the water, and to have the front edges of the ends and seat of one sofa of a pair made with a groove, the bottom of which is faced or packed with rubber, while the front edges of the seat and ends of the other sofa of the pair are made to enter said groove and to bear firmly on the rubber, the two sofas being keyed or otherwise secured together.

Figure 1 of the drawings shows in perspective the upper parts of two settees or sofas, united according to my invention, so as to form a boat.

Figure 2, showing also in perspective that one of the co-operative pair of sofas, which has the rubber-bottomed groove, this view also showing the feet or legs of the sofa as in place thereupon, but representing the upholstery of the sofa as removed.

The bodies of sofas designed for contingent use, as described, should be comparatively stout, and should be put together with care and reference to such use.

In the drawings, *a* represents the seat-portions of the sofas; *b*, the backs; *c*, the ends, and *d*, the legs or feet. On either side of the front edge of one sofa of a co-operative pair are strongly secured cleats, *e*, which, projecting beyond the aforesaid edge, form a groove, which is bottomed with rubber, *f*, and which receives the front edge of the other sofa of a pair, as seen in fig. 1. On the inner side of the bottom and ends of that sofa, the edge of which projects into the described groove, are cleats, *g*, so placed that when the two sofas are united the edges of the cleats *e* and *g* shall not touch. These cleats serve conveniently as means through which the two sofas are secured to each other by bolts seen at *h*, which may be slid through holes bored in the cleats, and having slots through the ends thereof. Wedge-keys *i* driven therein serve to draw the edges of the sofas together and compress the rubber between them, making a water-tight joint. Under each sofa, or at the backs thereof, may be secured oars, suitable for use, and one or more thwarts or seats, so fitted as to aid in holding the sofas together, while at the same time acting to keep the sides of the boat from being pressed or sprung inward. The upper edges of the sofa are fitted for the reception of suitable row-locks, which may have, like the oars, seats and other necessary parts, a place of secure deposit about the sofas, so arranged as to be by location, or by the arrangement of the upholstery, concealed from view till the furniture is stripped and moved for use as a boat. One or two men can easily and very quickly strip a co-operating pair of sofas of their upholstery, and unite them together into a boat which will have considerable capacity and but little weight, and which might serve to preserve human life in lack of regular boats. The detail of proportion, and of the means for securing the two pieces of furniture together, are not of the essence of my invention, and may be varied to suit differing circumstances. To increase the chances of safety in the use of boats made up in sections from furniture, I propose to make use of air-chambers, which may be located as most convenient, though I prefer to secure them to the inside of the boat, upon its bottom, as less liable there to perforations than elsewhere, and leaving the bottom of the boat to act more efficiently as a mere raft in case of the staving in of the ends or sides.

I claim a construction of movable furniture for vessels, such that by means of packed joints, arranged and operating as set forth, it can be transformed into boats, substantially as described.

JOSIAH FOSTER.

Witnesses:

CHAS. H. LAPHAM,

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