

(Model.)

J. SIMMONS.
Trunk Caster.

No. 234,496.

Patented Nov. 16, 1880.

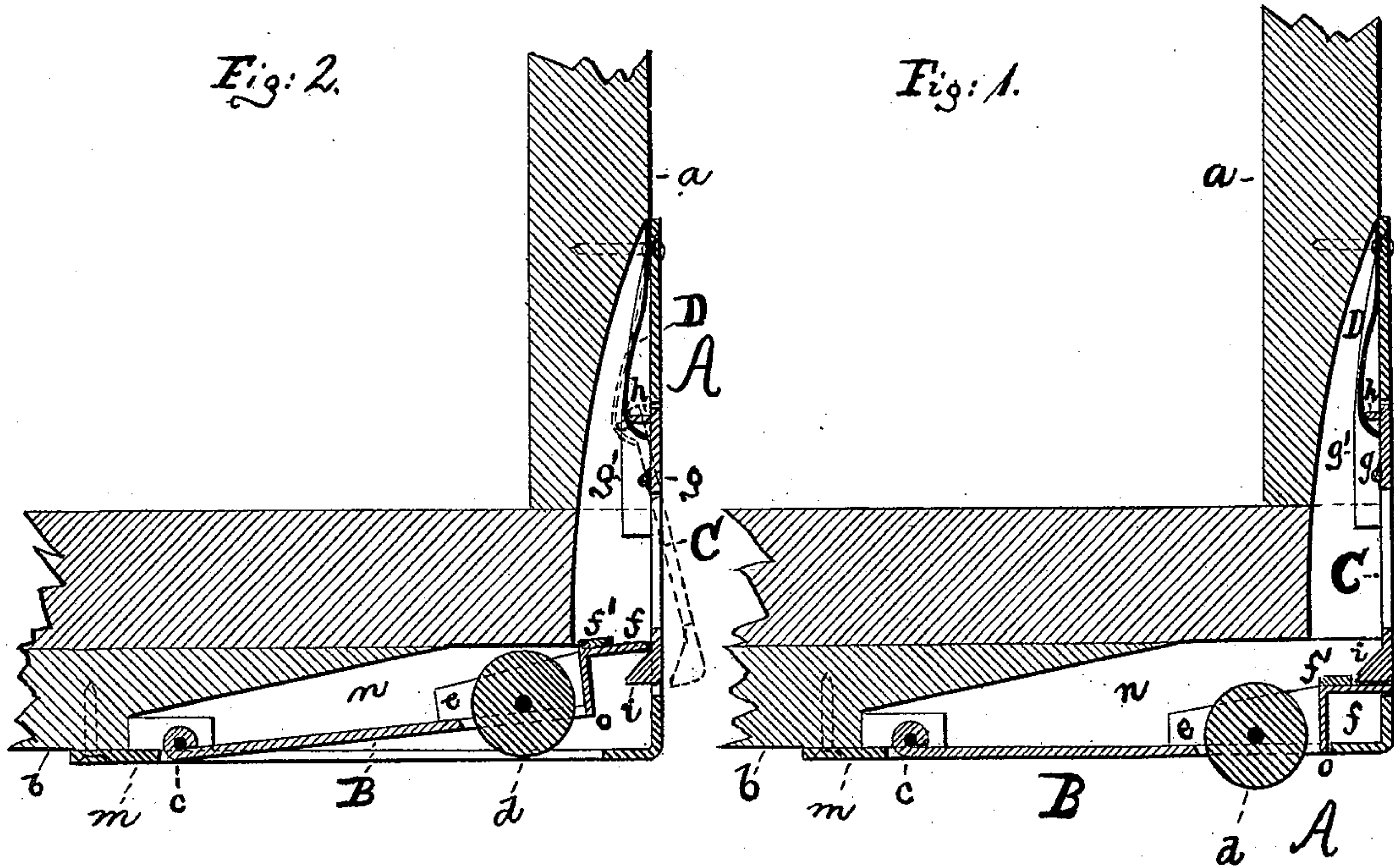
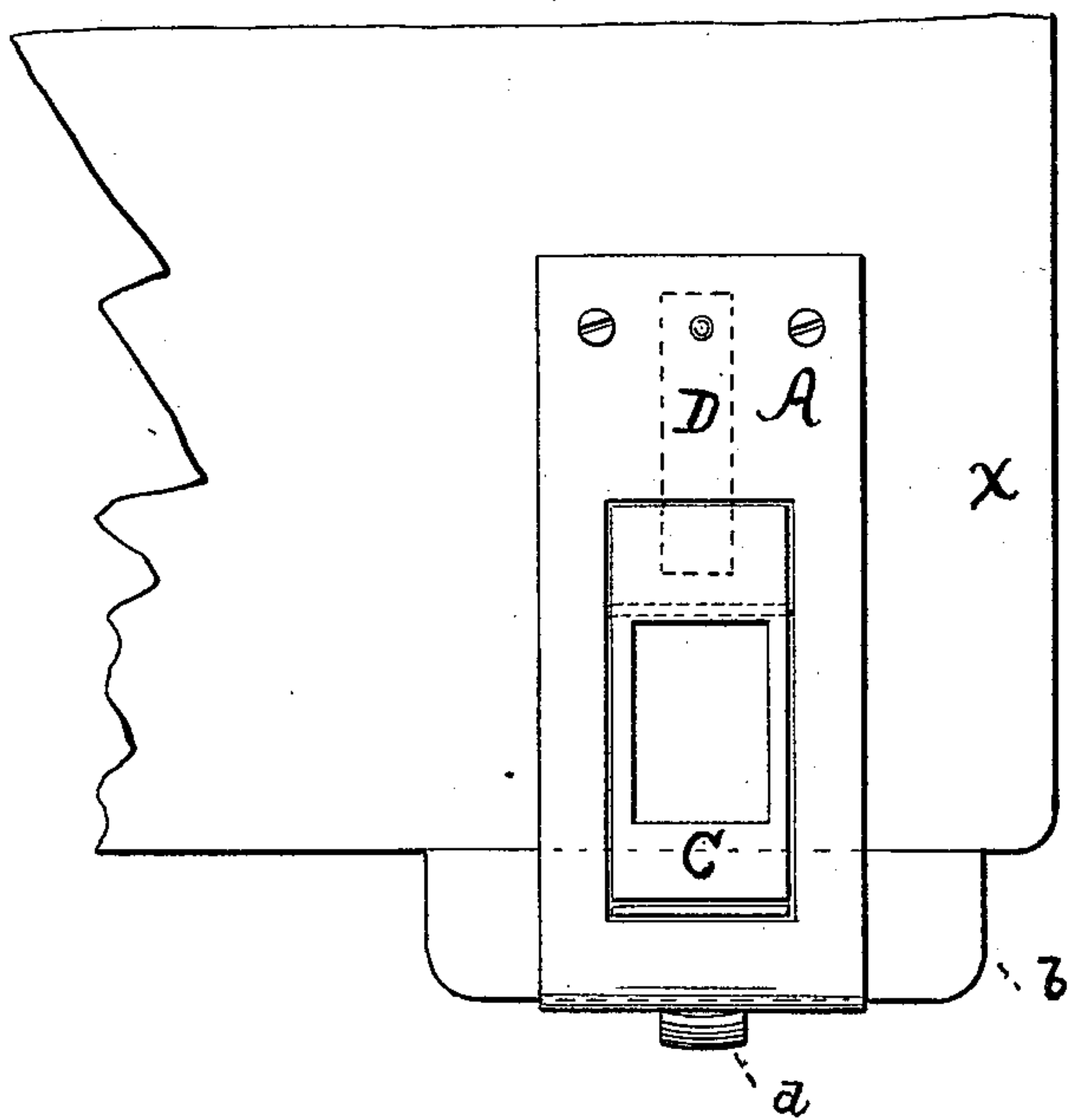


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES.
Willy H. E. Schmittz.
Henry H. Parker.

INVENTOR.
James Simmons
by his attorney
A. B. Zieser

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES SIMMONS, OF EAST LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF
ONE-HALF TO EDWARD F. HARTLEY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

TRUNK-CASTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 234,496, dated November 16, 1880.

Application filed September 8, 1880. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES SIMMONS, of East Long Branch, in the county of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and
5 useful Improvement in Trunk-Casters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in trunk-casters, which will prevent the frequent breaking of the rollers.

10 A trunk provided with my improved caster can, while on the floor of a room or hall, or on any level surface, be easily rolled about, the roller protruding from the bottom; but before the trunk is given into the care of any express,
15 steamboat, or railroad company, where the rollers are liable to be broken off by rough handling, the roller can be concealed by simply pushing it into a cavity in the trunk and cleat provided for that purpose, leaving the
20 remaining part of the caster stronger and more capable of resisting rough handling.

Figure 1 is a vertical central section of my caster, showing the roller in its position projecting from the trunk. Fig. 2 is a similar
25 section, showing the roller in the cavity, and Fig. 3 is a side view of the caster.

a is the bottom of a trunk, and *b* the cleat attached thereto. The caster *A* is attached to the cleat and end or side *X* of the trunk in
30 suitable manner. The body of the caster is an angular plate, *m*, of sheet metal or other material. It is fastened to the bottom of the cleat and end of trunk, as shown, a cavity, *n*, being formed between part of said plate and the
35 trunk, into which the roller *d* may be pushed. The lower wing of plate *m* has a rectangular hole, which is filled by a plate, *B*, that is pivoted at one end, *c*, to the said plate *m*, the other end carrying the trunk-roller *d*, which
40 is hung between upwardly-projecting lugs *e*.

The end of the plate *B* carrying the roller is bent upward, as at *o*, and then outward to form a lip, *f*, having a shoulder, *f'*, on its upper face. This lip *f* reaches to the outer side
45 of the vertical wing of plate *m*. This vertical wing also has a rectangular hole, which receives a plate, *C*, that is pivoted at its upper end at *g* to plate *m*, and has an aperture, so as to admit of ready insertion of the finger.

50 *g'* are lugs projecting inward from plate *m*

and carrying the pivot-pin *g*. *D* is a spring which is riveted to the upper part of the vertical wing of plate *m* and bears against a projection, *h*, on plate *C*, above its pivot *g*, tending
thereby to throw plate *C* against the trunk. 55

It will be readily understood that the spring *D* tends to press the lower (preferably thickened) part of plate *C* against the shoulder *f'* on plate *B* and over the lip *f*, thereby holding
said plate *B* firmly and securely on a level with 60 the bottom of the plate *m*, as in Fig. 1, and leaving the roller *d* to protrude from the caster, so that the trunk can be easily moved about, all as clearly shown in Fig. 1.

The plate *C*, bearing upon plate *B*, prevents 65 the same from swinging upward, and the lip *f*, resting on part of the vertical wing of plate *m*, prevents the plate *B* from dropping downward.

Now, when the trunk is tilted or lifted a 70 little, and by the finger being inserted into the hole in the plate *C*, said plate *C* is pulled outward against the pressure of spring *D*, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 2. The plate *C* is withdrawn from *D*, and the plate *B*, carrying
75 roller *d*, can now be pushed up into the cavity *n*, provided above it for that purpose. The plate *C* is now allowed to resume its normal position, which will bring its lower enlargement, *i*, beneath the lip *f* of the raised plate *B*,
80 as in Fig. 2, and thus effectually prevent plate *B* from dropping downward. In this position the roller *d* does not project beyond the plate *m*, and cannot therefore be broken off by even the most energetic "baggage-smasher." When
85 the trunk is again carried into a room or hall the roller can be easily made to serve its purpose by merely allowing the plate *B* to drop and become locked in the position shown in Fig. 1. 90

My invention also removes another great objection in the casters now in use. It is well known that if the rollers in casters now in use are broken the lugs or ears upon which they are hung will, when the trunk is carried into
95 a room, work great injury to the carpet or other floor-covering. My invention entirely removes this objection.

I claim—

1. The trunk-caster *A*, composed of plate *m*, 100