

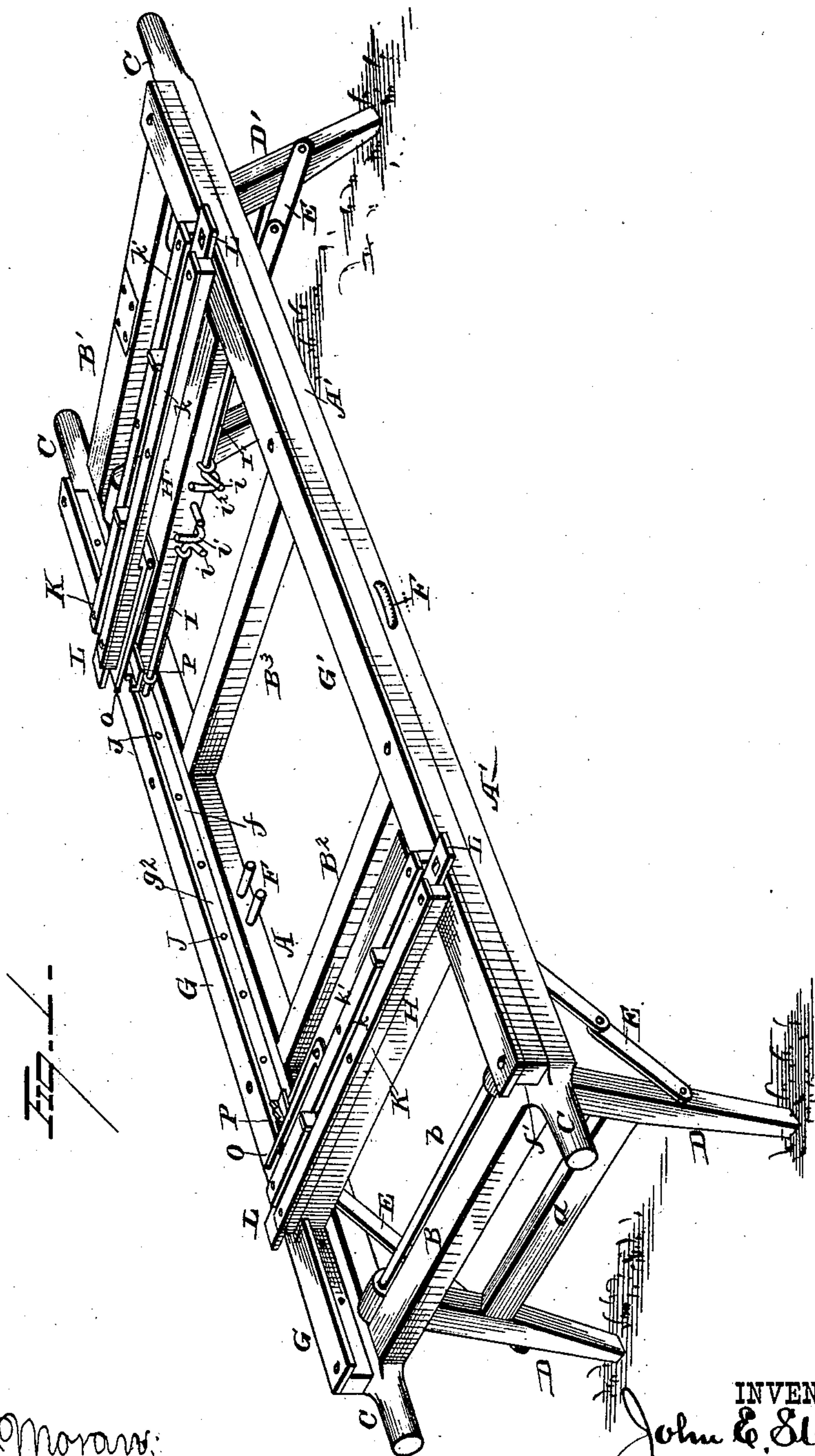
(Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. E. STOETZEL.
HEARSE AND COFFIN BARROW.

No. 250,997.

Patented Dec. 13, 1881.



WITNESSES

Herman Moraw.
E. J. Vottingham

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(Model.)

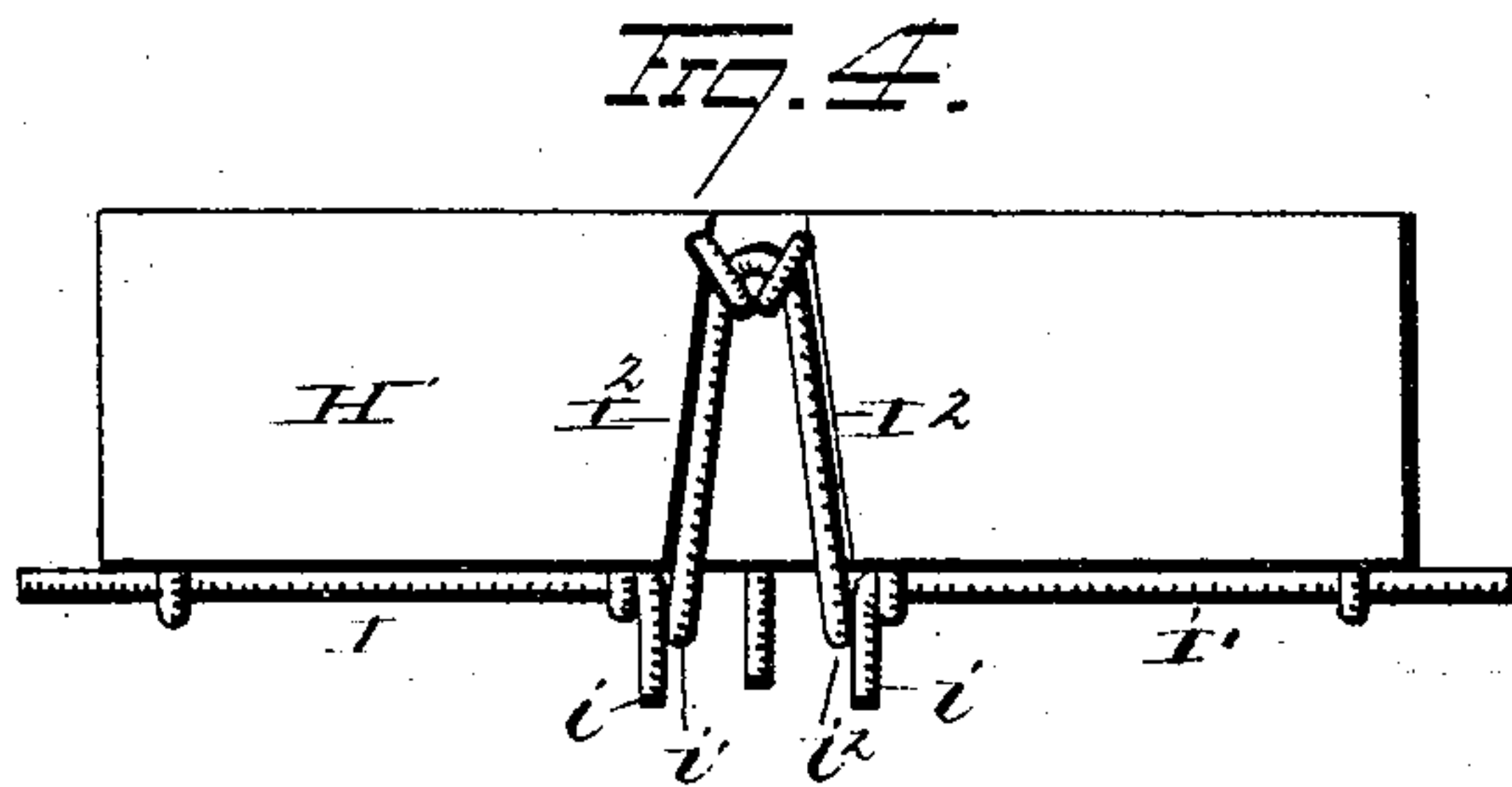
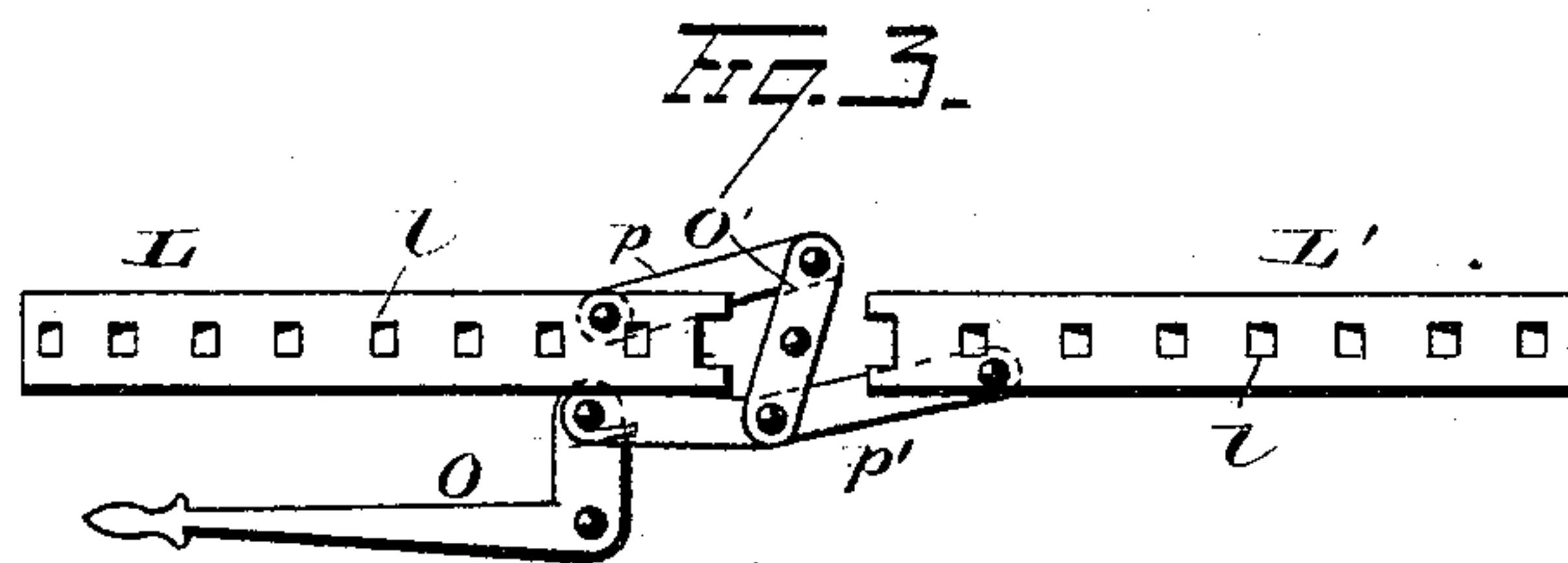
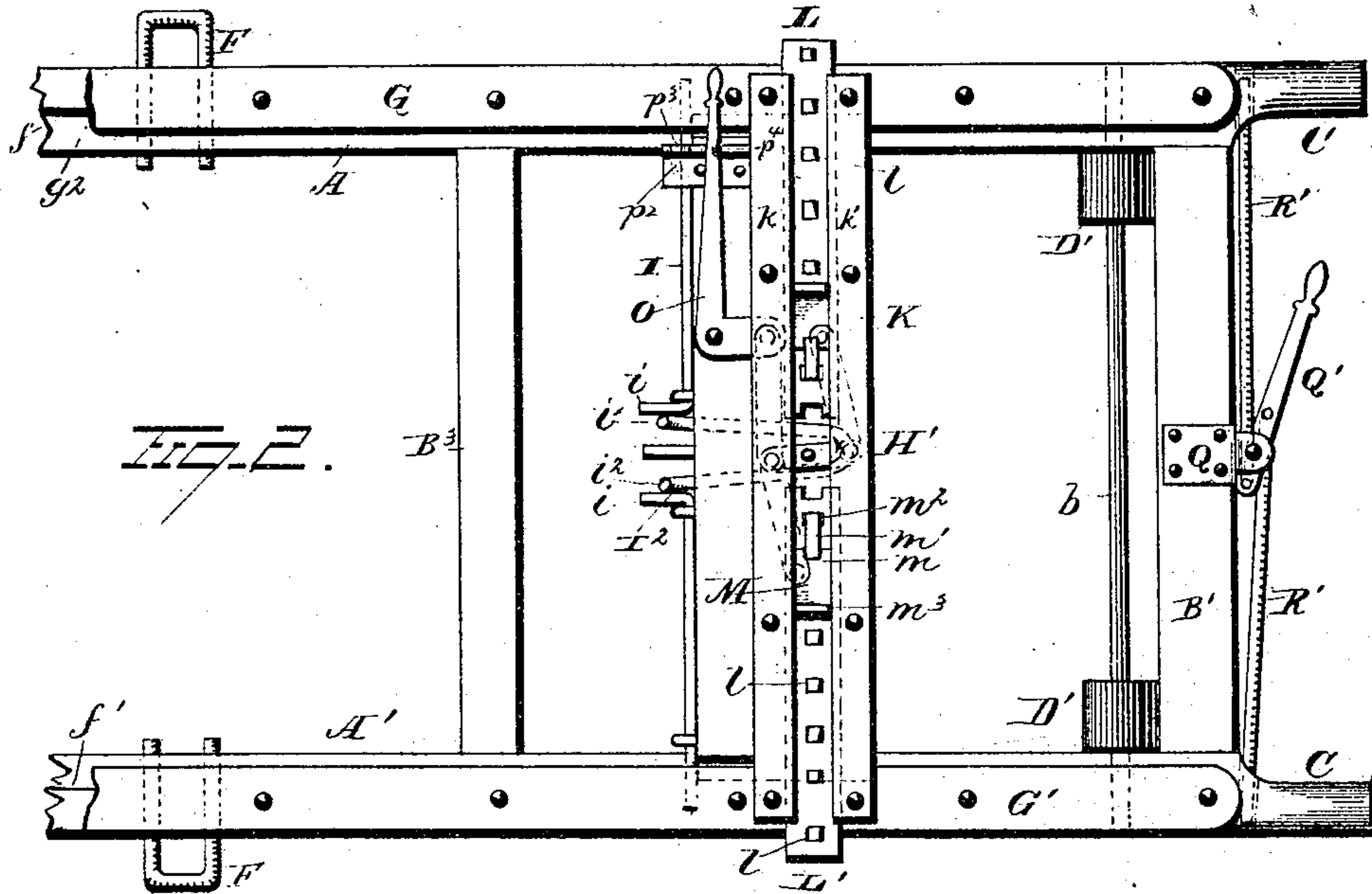
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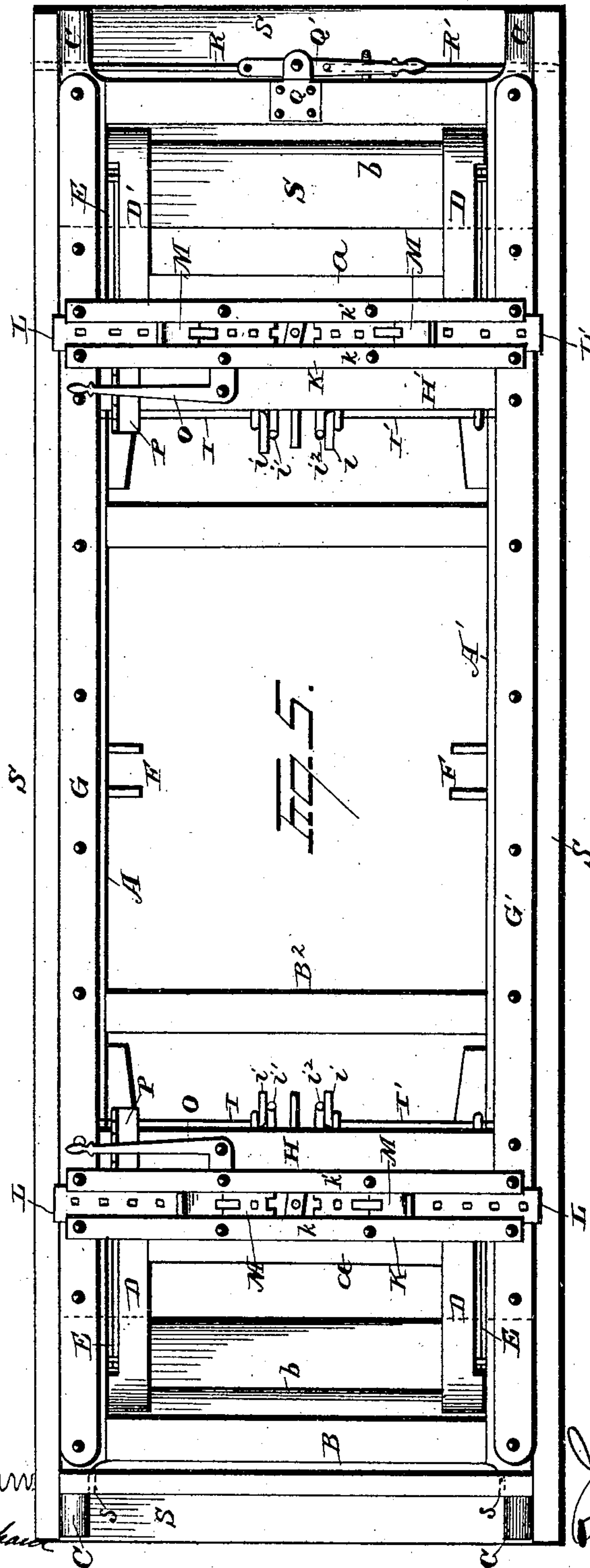
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WITNESSES

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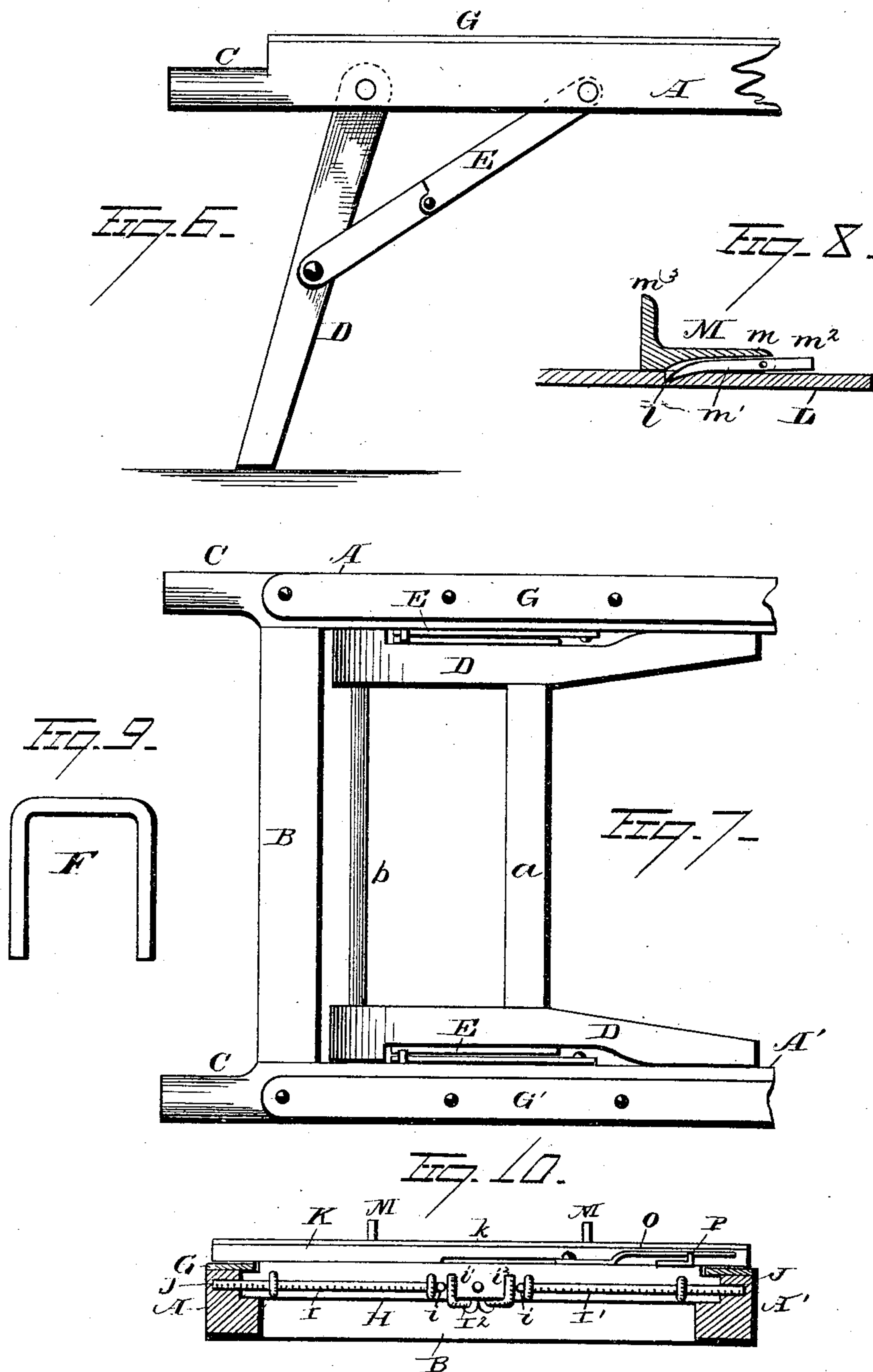
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. STOETZEL, OF PERU, ILLINOIS.

HEARSE AND COFFIN BARROW.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 250,997, dated December 13, 1881.

Application filed April 23, 1881. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. STOETZEL, of Peru, in the county of La Salle and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful
5 Improvements in Hearse and Coffin Barrows; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it,
10 reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in hearse and coffin barrows, the object being to provide a barrow which shall be light, simple,
15 and economical in construction, and provided with devices for its secure attachment to a coffin-box and prevent the displacement of the latter, and also provided with devices for its removable attachment to the bottom of the
20 hearse.

With these ends in view my invention consists in certain features of construction and arrangement of parts, as will hereinafter be described, and pointed out in the claims.

25 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of my improved hearse and coffin barrow. Fig. 2 is an enlarged view of one end of the barrow. Fig. 3 is a detached plan view of a pair of the adjustable rack bars or plates. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the under
30 side of one of the adjustable supporting-pieces, showing the location and arrangement of the sliding bolts and springs. Fig. 5 represents the barrow secured to the bottom of the hearse. Fig. 6 is a view in side elevation of one of the folding legs and jointed brace. Fig. 7 shows the legs in their folded position. Fig. 8 is an enlarged detached view of one of the adjustable stops. Fig. 9 is a detached view of one
35 of the side handles, and Fig. 10 is a transverse section.

A A' represent the side frame-pieces, and B B' the end cross-bars, of the barrow, while the frame is braced by the intermediate cross-bars,
45 B² B³. The side pieces, A A', project beyond the cross-bars B B', and are formed into handles C, by which the barrow is transported from place to place. D D' are folding legs, a pair being located at each end of the barrow.
50 Legs D D' are connected by a brace, a, and are pivoted at their upper ends on a rod, b,

secured at its ends to the side pieces, B B'. These legs are provided with folding braces E, the opposite ends of which are pivoted to the side frame and leg. Braces E are formed with
55 a knuckle-joint, so that, the jointed portion being depressed, the legs are held firmly against displacement while supporting the barrow-frame. By raising the jointed portion of the braces the latter are readily folded, and there-
60 by allow the legs to be snugly folded beneath the barrow-frame.

Each one of the side pieces, A A', has connected therewith, near its longitudinal center, an adjustable handle, F, which may be forced
65 inwardly, so as to be flush with the outer surface of the side pieces, thereby forming no obstruction in sliding the barrow into the hearse. When the handles are desired for use they may be pulled out a sufficient distance to be grasped
70 by the hand. The inner faces or sides of the side pieces are rabbeted, as at f f', and upon the upper faces thereof are secured the metal or wooden strips G G', whereby there is formed a groove, g², on the inner sides of each side
75 piece.

At opposite ends of the barrow-frame are located the adjustable cross-bars or supports H H', the opposite ends of which are inserted in the grooves g, whereby said cross-bars or
80 supports are prevented from vertical displacement and allowed a movement toward and from each other. Each one of the cross-bars or supports H H' is provided with two spring-bolts, I I', the inner ends of which are bent to
85 form handles i, which latter are acted upon by the free ends i' i² of the spring I², fastened to the under side of the supports. Bolts I I' engage in the series of holes J formed in the side pieces, A A', and allow the cross-bars or sup-
90 ports H H' to be locked in any desired position. When a long coffin or casket is to be secured to the barrow these supports are secured near the opposite ends of the side pieces, and when a short casket is to be secured to the
95 barrow the supports are secured nearer its center.

Upon the upper face of each one of the cross-bars or supports H H' is secured a guide, K, which may be made of wood with two metal
100 strips, k k', secured to its upper surface, or it may be made of a single piece of casting, as

desired. Within the guide K are placed the two sliding rack bars or plates L L', each having a series of notches or depressions, *l*, formed therein.

5 M is an adjustable stop, consisting of a plate, *m*, having a pawl, *m'*, pivoted in one end thereof, said pawl being provided with an extension, *m*², to enable it to be raised and disengaged from the notches in the adjustable rack bar or
10 plate. The rear end of plate *m* is provided with an upwardly-projecting flange, *m*³, which engages with the lower edge of the casket.

Each one of the adjustable rack bars or plates is provided with one of these stops M, which
15 are secured in place by their pawls engaging in the notches or depressions *l*. The stops are secured to the rack bars or plates at proper distances from each other to allow of the insertion of the coffin or casket between them,
20 when the rack bars or plates are moved toward each other simultaneously, and the stops firmly engaged with the opposite sides of the coffin, thereby firmly securing the latter against displacement.

25 The following mechanism is employed for imparting movement to the rack bars or plates:

O are bell-crank levers, and are pivoted to the cross-bars or supports H H'. Each lever O is connected by a link, *o*, with one end of a
30 pivoted bar, O', located in a slot or recess in the support or cross-bar. The opposite ends of the bar O' are connected with the rack bars or plates by the links *p p'*.

To the cross-bars or supports H H' are secured the locking-plates P, each having an
35 upturned flange, *p*², provided with a series of ratchet-teeth, *p*³, with which engages the lip *p*⁴ on the handle end of the bell-crank lever, whereby, the latter being actuated, the rack
40 bars or plates are moved simultaneously either toward or from each other, according to the direction in which the lever is moved. To the rear cross bar or brace of the barrow-frame is secured a bracket, Q, in which is pivoted a le-
45 ver, Q'.

To the hand-lever, on opposite sides of its pivotal bearing, are pivoted the sliding rods R R', the free ends of which pass through holes in the side pieces of the barrow-frame. By
50 retracting these rods the barrow-frame may be readily inserted into the bottom of the hearse S and the forward handles be inserted in the handle-openings *s* in the forward portion of the hearse-bottom, while the lever Q' being re-
55 versed operates to move the rods R R' out-

wardly and cause them to engage in holes in the hearse-bottom, thus securely fastening the barrow-frame to the hearse-bottom.

It is evident that many slight changes in details of construction and arrangement of parts 60 might be resorted to without avoiding the spirit of my invention, and hence I would have it understood that I do not limit myself to the exact construction and arrangement of parts shown and described, but make no claim in 65 this application to features of construction and combinations of parts disclosed in the prior joint application of Haas and Stoetzel.

Having fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters 70 Patent, is—

1. In a hearse and coffin barrow, the combination, with the side frame-pieces having grooves formed in their inner and adjacent sides, of the adjustable cross-bars having sliding bolts con- 75 nected therewith, and a spring having its free ends arranged to engage with the adjacent ends of said sliding bolts or rods, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination, with the adjustable 80 cross-bar having a guide secured thereto, of adjustable rack bars or plates located in said guide, stops provided with pawls supported in said rack-bars, and devices for moving the rack bars or plates toward or from each other, 85 substantially as set forth.

3. In a hearse and coffin barrow, the combination, with the rack bars or plates and adjustable stops provided with pawls, of a bell-crank 90 lever, links connecting same with the rack bars or plates, and a notched plate for retaining the lever in any desired position, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with the adjustable rack bars or plates, of stops having pawls pivoted 95 thereto at one end, and provided with upwardly-projecting flanges at their opposite ends, substantially as set forth.

5. The combination, with the supporting-frame of a hearse and coffin barrow, of the two 100 sliding bolts and a lever for moving said bolts inwardly or outwardly, as desired, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of 105 April, 1881.

JOHN E. STOETZEL.

Witnesses:

GEO. PERRY,

W. W. DINGEL.