

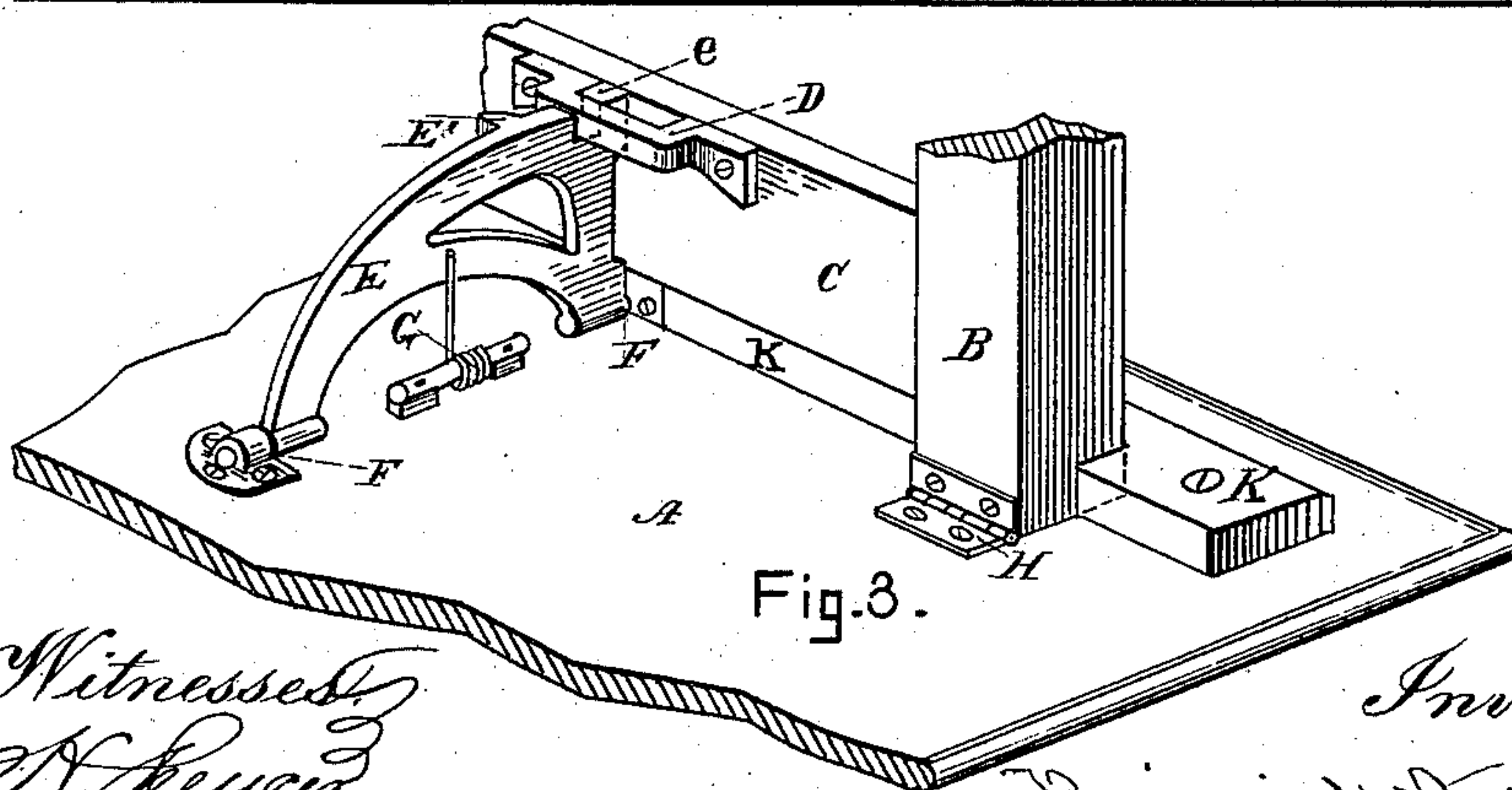
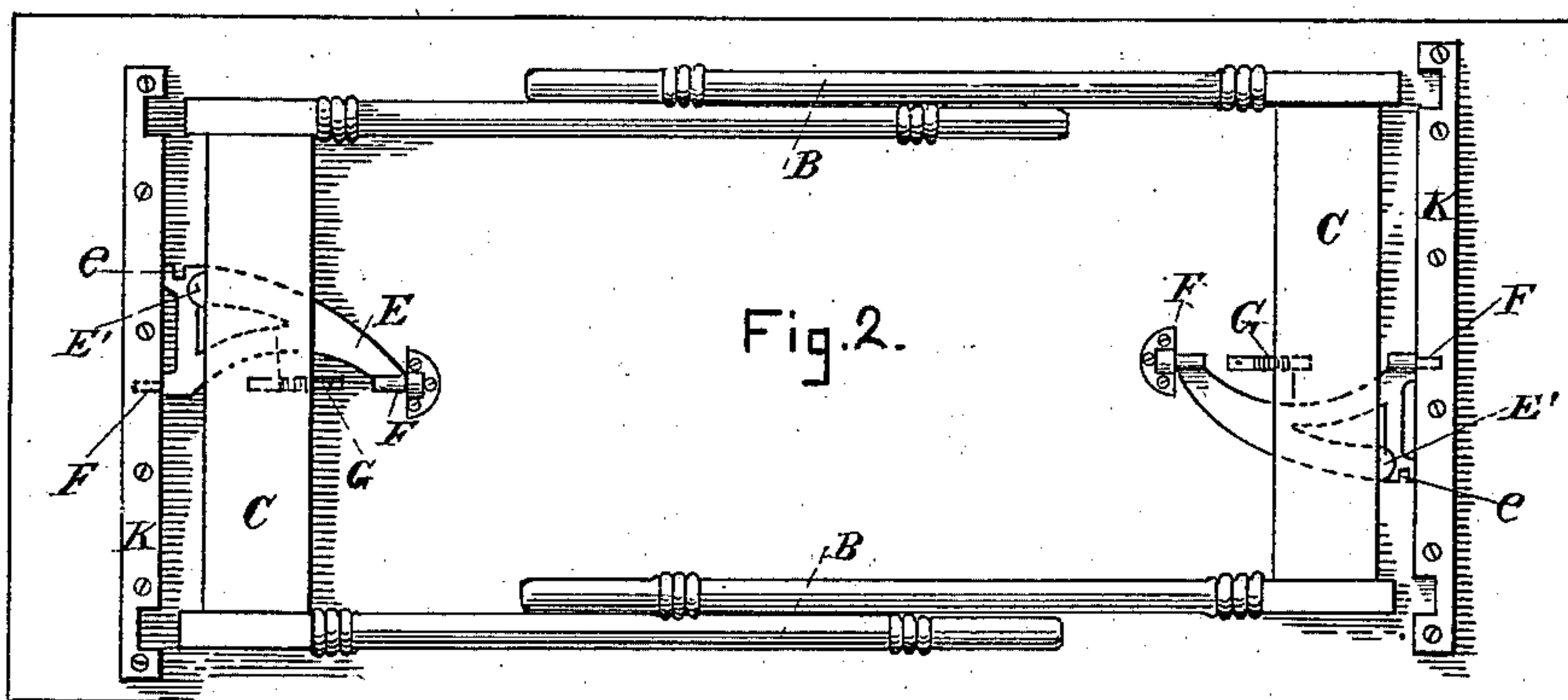
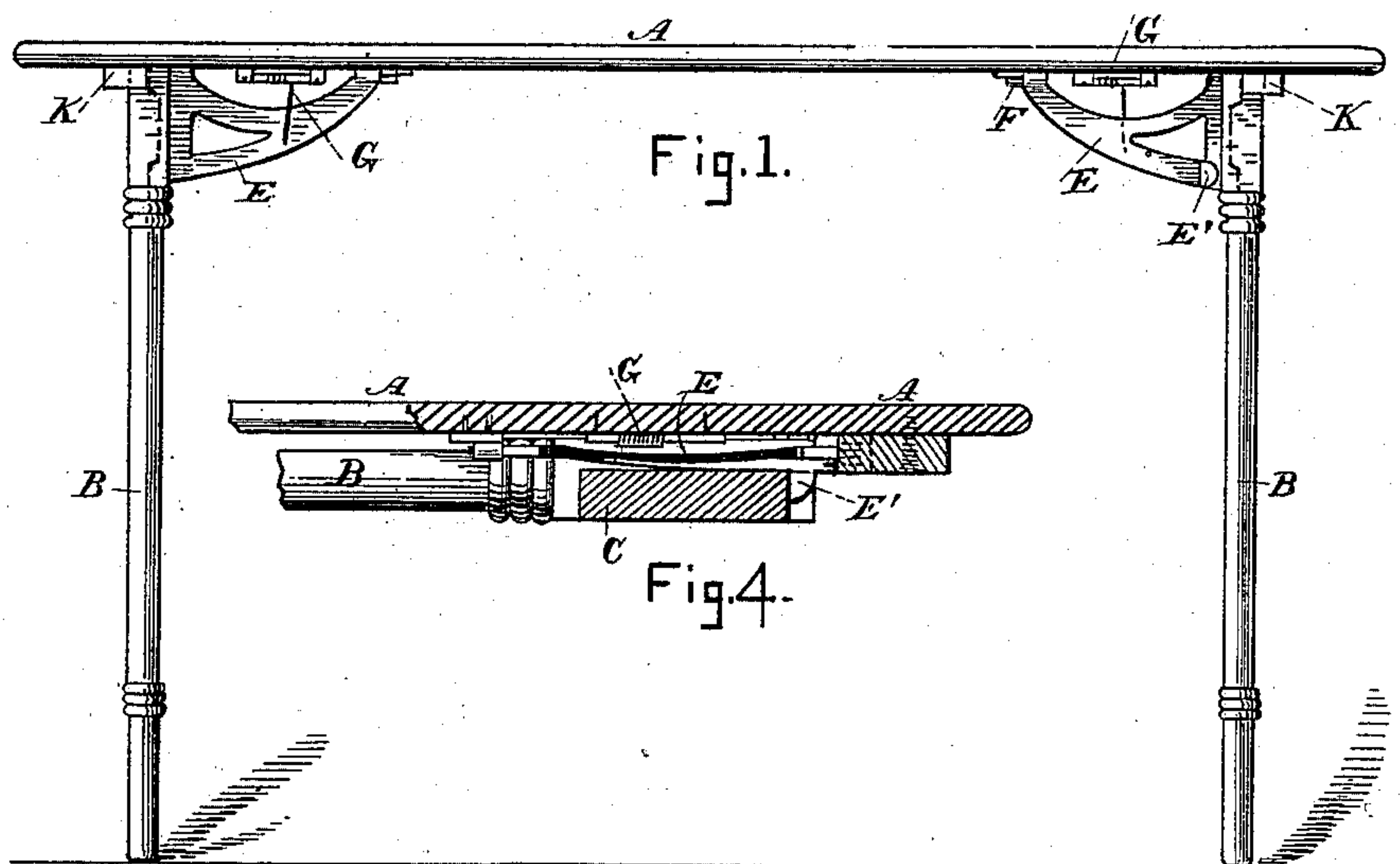
(No Model.)

B. H. & B. P. RICHARDSON.

FOLDING TABLE.

No. 290,932.

Patented Dec. 25, 1883.



Witnessed
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN H. RICHARDSON, OF MILTON, AND BENJAMIN P. RICHARDSON,
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FOLDING TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 290,932, dated December 25, 1882.

Application filed April 4, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, BENJAMIN H. RICHARDSON and BENJAMIN P. RICHARDSON, citizens of the United States, residing, respectively, at Milton, in the county of Norfolk and State of Massachusetts, and at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have jointly invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Tables; and we do hereby declare that the same are fully described in the following specification and illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

The object of this invention is to give greater firmness and stability to folding tables than have hitherto been attained.

Our improvements secure the spread legs of the table against lateral strains from either direction, automatically open the brackets when the legs are spread, and hold the legs in position when closed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of the table spread for use; Fig. 2, a plan of the under side with the legs and brackets folded; Fig. 3, an enlarged perspective view of part of the table inverted, and Fig. 4 a detail in section.

A is the table-top; B B, the legs, hinged beneath it at H, and united in pairs at each end of the table by panels C, folding with the legs, as in Fig. 2.

E E are folding brackets, preferably metallic castings, having their bearings F F in a line at right angles to the axes of the leg-hinges, so that when the legs and their connecting-panels are spread perpendicularly to the top A, the brackets may be opened out into a plane at right angles to both. The panels are in the plane of the outer faces of the legs, so as to have room beneath them, when folded, for the bracket and spring G. The inner face of each panel bears, near its lower edge, a loop or slotted plate, D, with which a terminal projection, e, on the bracket E engages when spread, so as to hold the legs firmly against strains, tending either to close them or spread them more widely. Fig. 3 clearly shows the projection e in position in the slot of the plate D, the edge of the bracket being recessed to

admit it, as seen in Fig. 2. The shape of the bracket is also peculiar, in that it is arched or hollowed out between its bearings to receive the spring G, having an arm, which extends beneath the bracket and tends to open it out as soon as the legs are spread. The panels, however, when folded, keep the brackets down, as will be clear from Fig. 2. The brackets are in their turn each formed with a vertical shoulder, E', lying close to the edge of the folded panel, as in Figs. 2 and 4, so that until the bracket is depressed against the power of the spring the legs and panels will not open, because the edge of the panel strikes the shoulder E'. A transverse cleat, K, is secured near each end of the table. It is notched near its ends, as in Figs. 2 and 3, to receive the ends of the legs and support them on three sides, while they bear squarely against the under side of the top A. The panel C also bears, along its whole length, upon this cleat when the legs are spread. The cleat also forms a bearing for the bracket E, besides supporting the top against warping.

We claim as our invention—

1. In a folding table, the top A, hinged legs B, united in pairs by the panels C, carrying the loops or slotted plates D, in combination with the brackets E, provided with the terminal projections e, adapted to enter the slots of the plates D and support the legs firmly against lateral strains from either direction, substantially as set forth.

2. The table-top A, hinged legs B, and panels C, in combination with the swinging brackets E, each having a vertical shoulder, E', and with a spring, G, tending to spread or unfold the bracket, and thereby to hold said shoulder against the upper edge of the folded panel, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof we hereto affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN H. RICHARDSON.
BENJAMIN P. RICHARDSON.

Witnesses:

A. H. SPENCER,
E. M. ASHLEY.