

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. T. BON.  
FOLDING TABLE.

No. 367,589.

Patented Aug. 2, 1887.

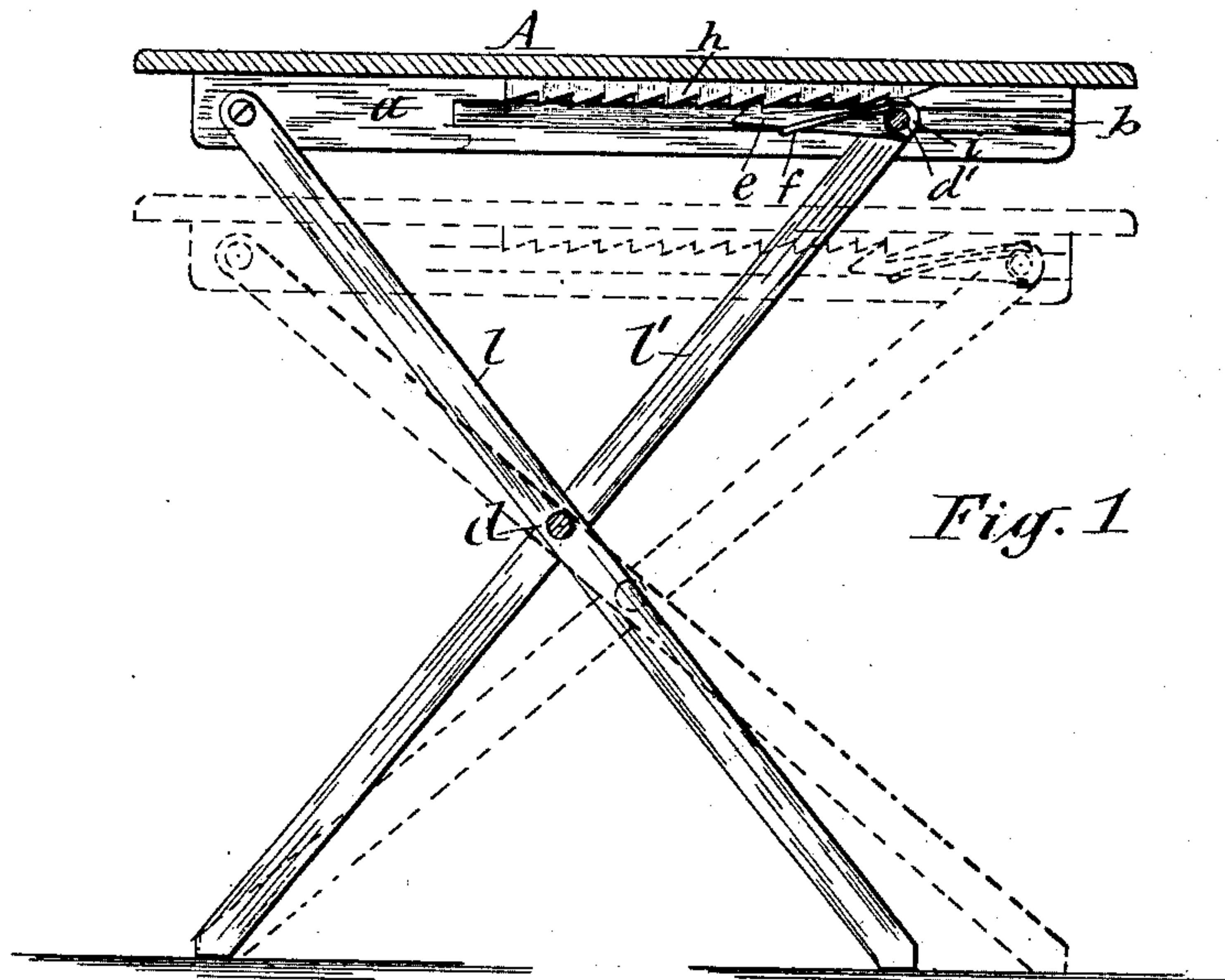


Fig. 1

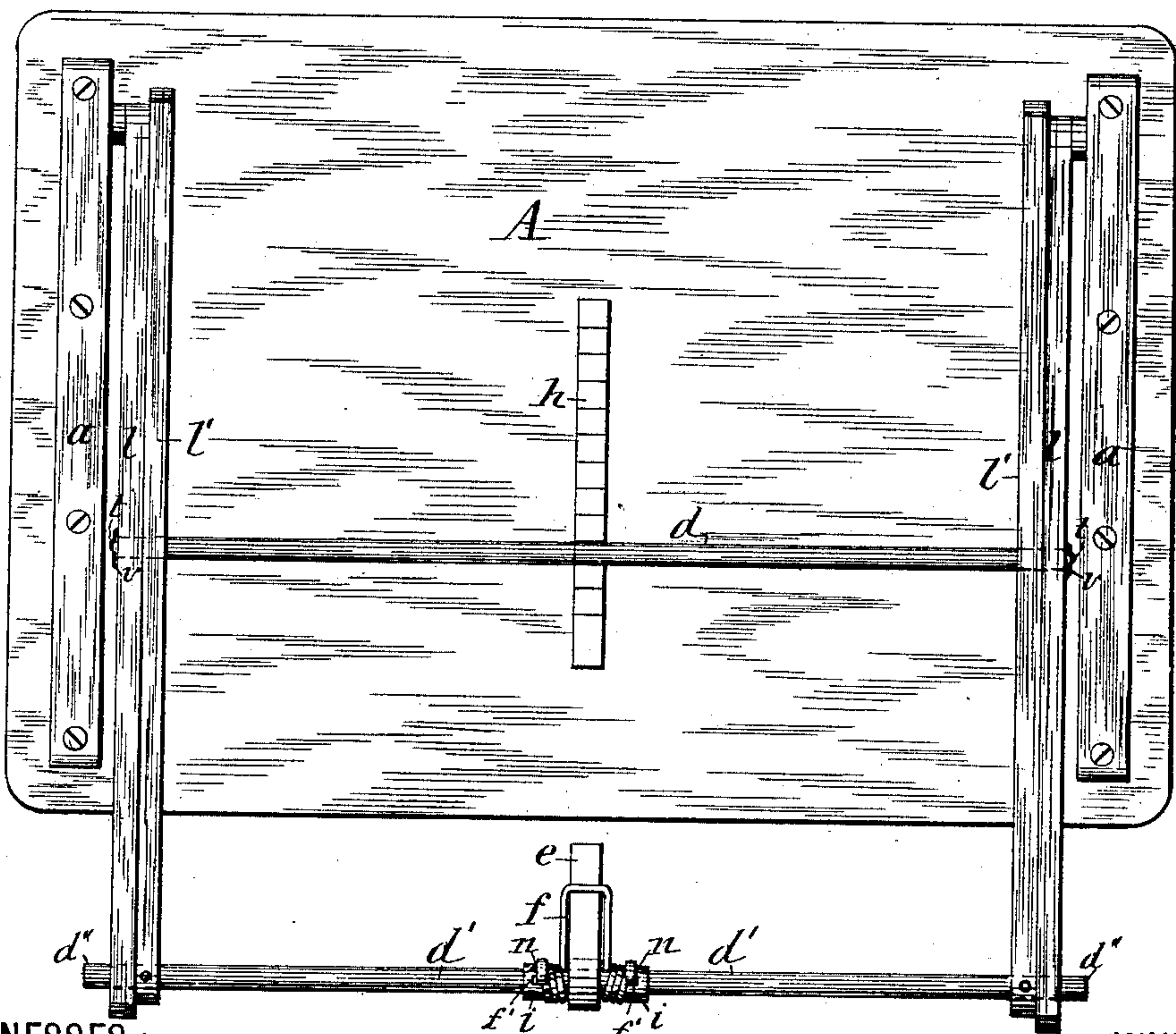


Fig. 2

WITNESSES:

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*H. P. Demislow*

INVENTOR

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BY  
*Anders Laass & Knell*  
ATTORNEYS

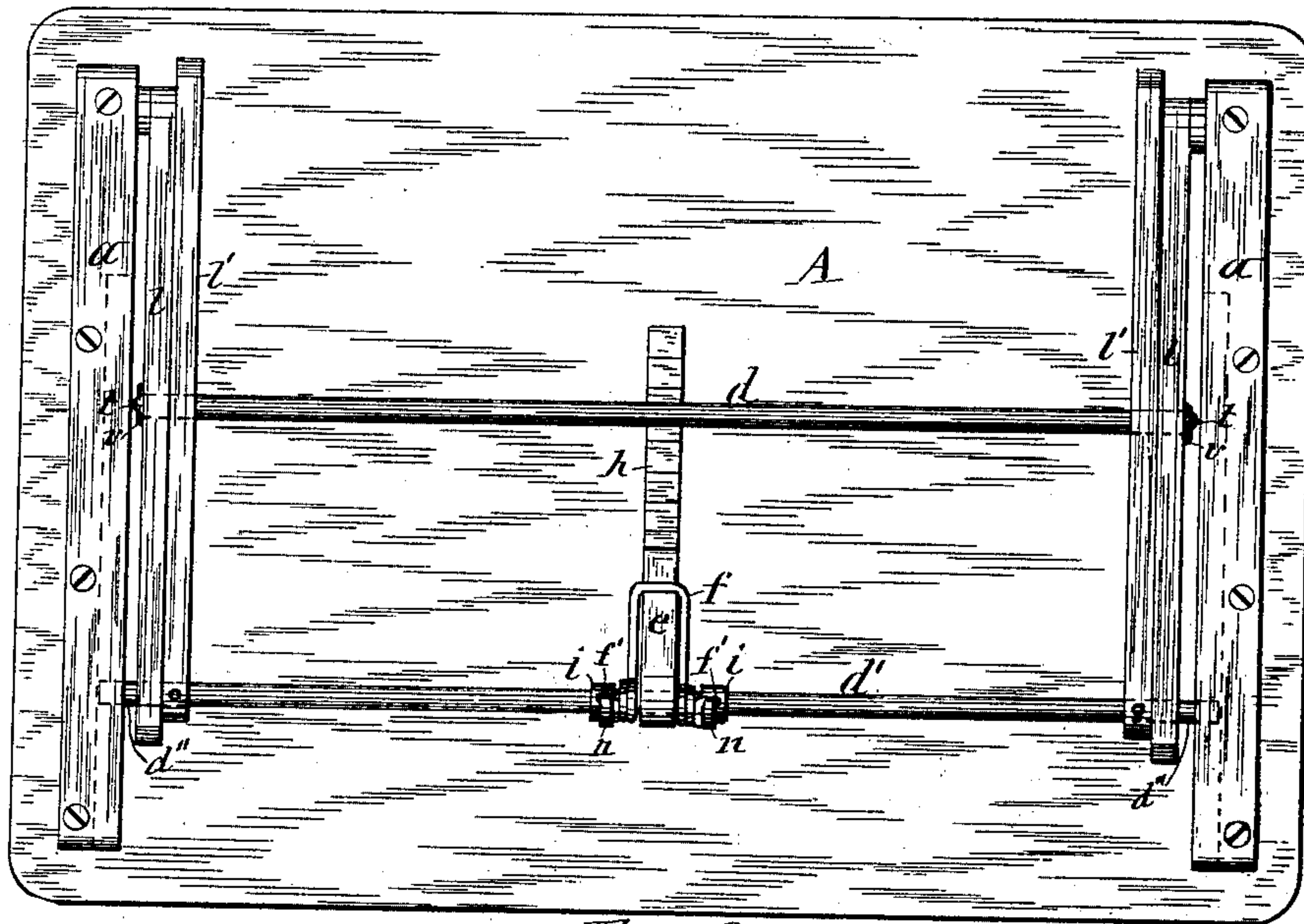
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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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*Fig. 3*

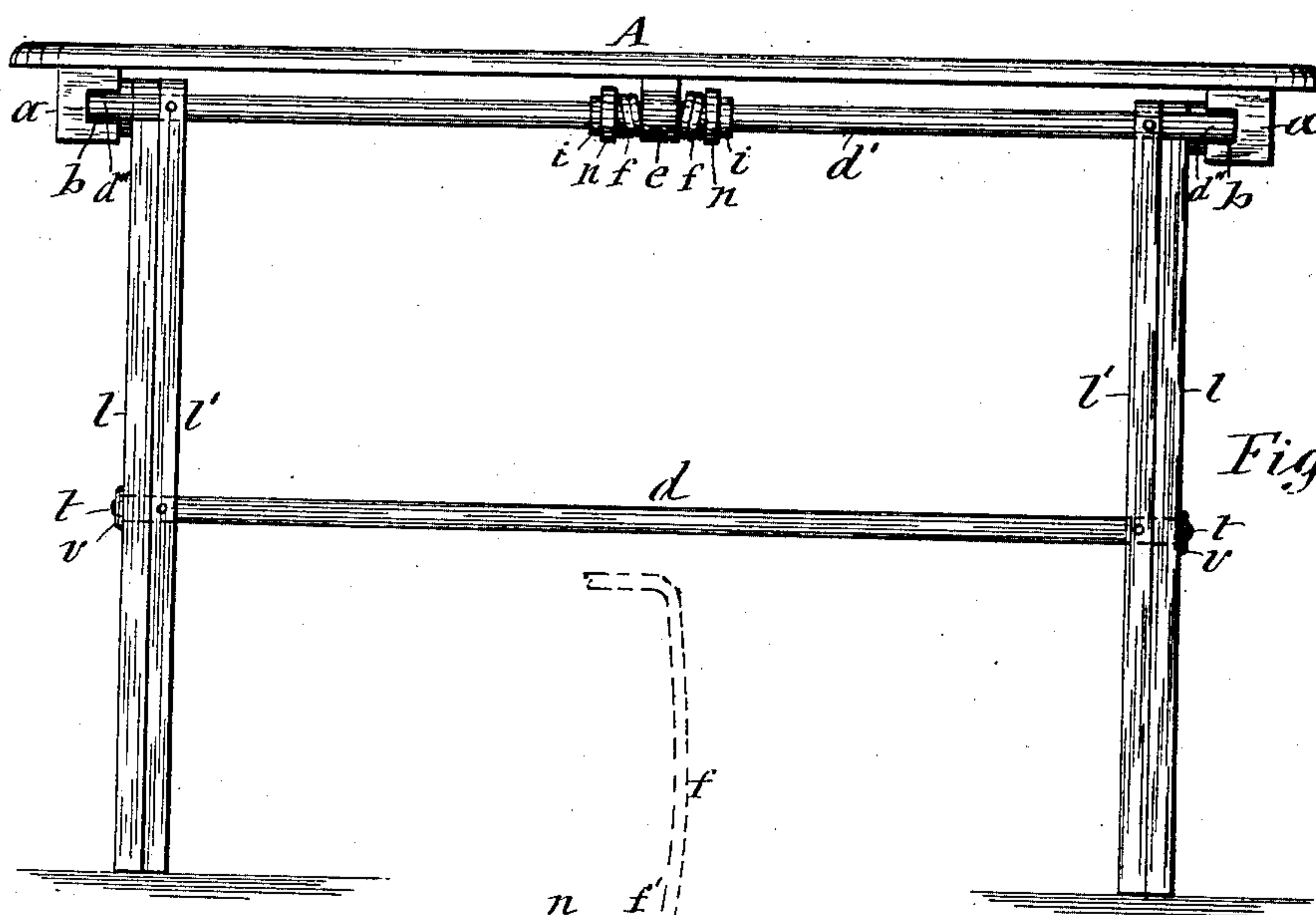
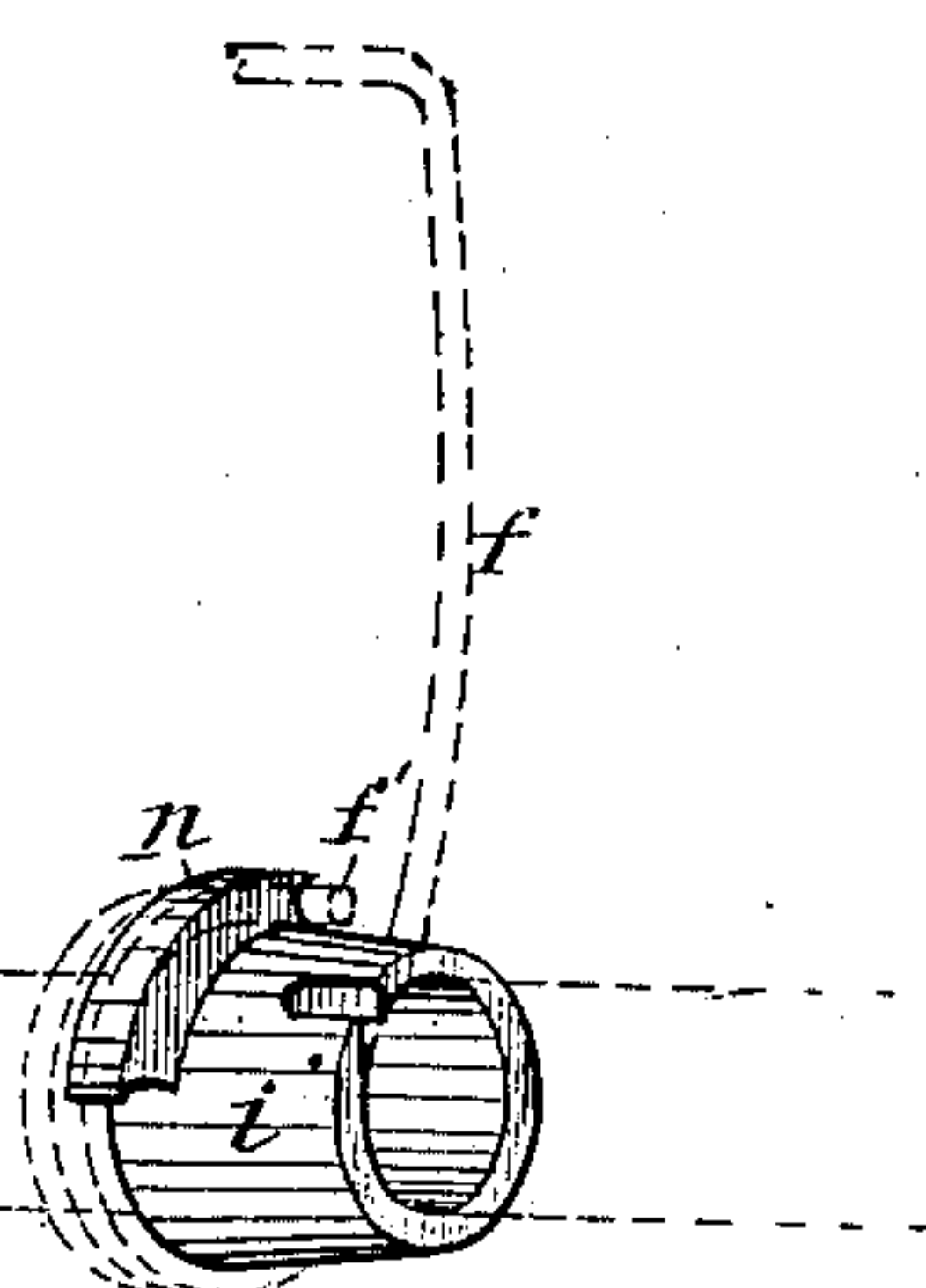


Fig. 4



*Fig. 5*

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN T. BON, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

## FOLDING TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 367,589, dated August 2, 1887.

Application filed April 27, 1887. Serial No. 236,286. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN T. BON, of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful  
5 Improvements in Folding Tables, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to the class of folding  
10 tables which have one set of legs pivoted to the under side of the table, near one edge thereof, and the other set of legs detachable from the table-top and crossing the aforesaid legs and pivoted thereto at the points of crossing, and  
15 a catch for adjustably retaining the detachable legs in their erect position.

The invention consists in an improved construction and combination of the constituent members of the table, whereby said table is  
20 more effectually braced and rendered more durable and capable of being folded more compactly for storing or transporting.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section of a folding table embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is an inverted plan view of the table in its folded condition. Fig. 3 is an inverted plan view of the table in its erect position. Fig. 4 is a front view of the table, and Fig. 5 is an enlarged  
30 detached perspective view of one of the collars to which the latch-actuating spring is connected.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

35 A represents the top plate of the table, to the under side of which are rigidly secured transverse bars or so-called "bed-pieces" *a a*, which are provided on their inner sides with longitudinal guide-grooves *b b*, extending completely through one and the same end of the  
40 respective bed-pieces, for the purposes hereinafter explained, said grooves being sunken only part way the thickness of the bed-pieces, thereby obviating unduly weakening of the  
45 same.

*l l* and *l' l'* represent the legs of the table, arranged in pairs or sets of two each. The set of legs *l l* are pivoted to the under side table near one edge thereof, and preferably to the  
50 bed-pieces *a a* at the ends opposite the grooved ends thereof. The other set of legs, *l' l'*, cross

the legs *l l* at or near the center of their lengths, and are pivoted thereto by a cross-bar, *d*, extending through the legs and rigidly secured to the inner legs, *l' l'*. By means of  
55 washers *v v* applied to the outer legs, *l l*, and screws *t t*, passing through the washers and into the ends of the pivot-bar *d*, the legs are retained on said bar. This central connection of the two sets of legs braces the same and imparts  
60 considerable stiffness to the table when set up for use.

The upper ends of the legs *l' l'* are connected with each other by a tie-rail, *d'*, which is rigidly secured to said legs and projects through  
65 the same a sufficient distance to allow the projecting ends of said rail to be introduced into the grooves *b b* from the ends of the bed-pieces *a a*. To the rail *d'* is hinged a latch or hook, *e*, adapted to engage with a ratchet-bar or catch-  
70 plate, *h*, which is firmly attached to the under side of the top plate, A, and is provided at different points of its length with a series of notches or shoulders for the engagement of the aforesaid latch. The latch is held in said  
75 engagement by means of a spring-bail, *f*, which lies astride the latch and has its ends coiled around the rail *d'* and terminated with lateral projections or offsets *f'*, which engage shoulders or lugs *n n* on collars *i i*, rigidly secured to  
80 the rail *d'* at opposite sides of the latch. Said rail being rigid affords the necessary hold for the spring *f* to exert pressure on the latch *e*. The aforesaid offsets *f' f'* of the spring-bail *f* simply bear against one side of the lugs *n n* and  
85 are adapted to slide away from said lugs and around the collars, thus allowing the spring *f* and pivoted latch *e* to be swung around on the rail *d'*, so as to project inward or toward the table when folded, as represented in Fig. 90  
2 of the drawings, thus allowing the latch and its spring to be folded compactly with the table.

In erecting the table for use the end portions, *d'' d''*, of the rail *d'* are introduced into  
95 the ends of the guide-grooves *a a*. Then by lifting the top plate, A, to the desired elevation the end portions, *d'' d''*, of the aforesaid rail slide along in the grooves *a a*, and the legs conform to their positions accordingly, as represented in Fig. 1 of the drawings, which shows  
100 the table raised to different elevations. Dur-



ing the aforesaid operation the latch *e* and spring *f* are to be turned over on the rail *d'* to bring the latch to bear against the under side of the table-top *A* and receive the pressure of the spring *f*, the latch sliding over the catch-plate *h* until the operator releases the top plate, *A*, when the latch *e* automatically engages the catch-plate *h* and retains the table in its erected position, and when in this position it is braced by the pivot-bar *d* and by the engagement of the bar *d'* with the grooves *b b* of the bed-pieces *a a*.

The folding of the table is accomplished with equal facility, it merely requiring the latch *e* to be depressed, so as to cause it to release the catch-plate *h*. Then the end portions of the rail *d'* are allowed to slide out through the ends of the grooves *b b* of the bed-pieces *a a*, and the legs *l' l'* swing with their upper ends toward the feet of the legs *l l* and fold closely against the under side of the top plate, *A*. The latch *e* and spring *f* are then to be turned over on the bar *d'*, so as to project inward, as illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawings.

I do not claim, broadly, a folding table having two sets of legs pivoted to each other at or near the center of the lengths of the legs, and one set pivoted to the under side of the table-top and the other set adapted to slide on the table-top, and a catch adapted to confine the sliding set of legs in their position for supporting the table top, as I am aware the same is not new.

My improved folding table possesses several important advantages over prior tables of this class. It will be observed that by my improvement both sets of legs are thoroughly braced, not only at their upper ends and their centers, by the cross-rails *d d'*, connecting the two sets of legs, but also by the ends of the rail *d'*, projecting into the grooves in the inner side of the bed-pieces, the outer portions of which are maintained intact, and thus said bed-pieces possess great rigidity. The grooves, extending completely through one end of the bed-pieces, allow the rail *d'* to slip out of said grooves and the upper ends of the legs *l' l'* to fold directly toward the feet of the legs *l l*

7. The described construction and combination of parts constitute a folding table which is comparatively simple and inexpensive in construction, very convenient in its operation, and possesses superior stability.

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

1. The combination, with a table-top, *A*, of the bed-pieces *a a*, provided on their inner sides with the longitudinal grooves *b b*, extending part way the thicknesses of the bed-pieces and completely through one and the same end of the same, the legs *l l*, pivoted to the opposite ends of said bed-pieces at the inner sides thereof, the legs *l' l'*, pivoted intermediate their lengths to the inner sides of the legs *l l* by the cross-rail *d*, the tie-rail *d'*, rigidly attached to the upper ends of the legs *l' l'* and projecting at the outer sides of said legs, and adapted to enter the grooves *b b* through the open ends thereof, the ratchet-bar *h*, secured stationary to the under side of the table-top, the hook *e*, pivoted on the rail *d'* and adapted to engage the ratchet-bar, and the spring *f*, connected to said rail and pressing the pivoted hook toward the ratchet-bar, all constructed and combined substantially in the manner specified and shown.

2. In combination with the top plate, *A*, catch-plate *h*, legs *l' l'*, and rail *d'*, rigidly attached to said legs, the catch *e*, hinged to said rail, the collars *i i*, rigidly secured to the rail *d'*, and each provided with the shoulders *n n*, and the spring-bail *f*, placed astride the latch and coiled at its ends around the rail *d'* and terminating with offsets *f'*, adapted to engage the shoulders *n*, substantially as described and shown.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal, in the presence of two attesting witnesses, at Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, this 25th day of April, 1887.

JOHN T. BON. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

C. BENDIXON,  
H. P. DENISON.