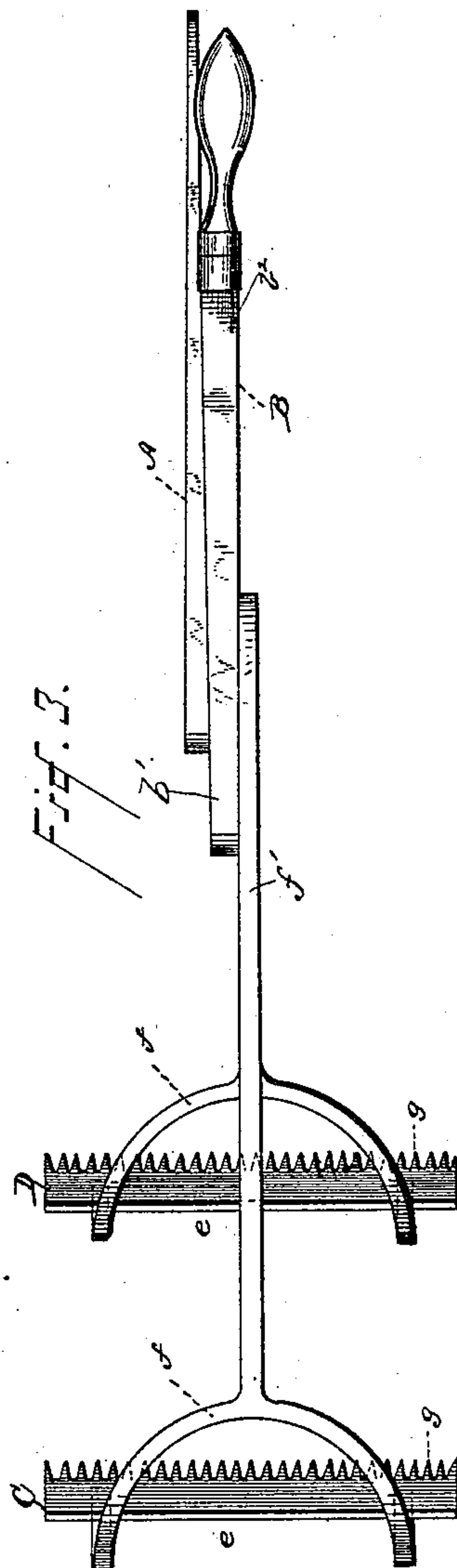
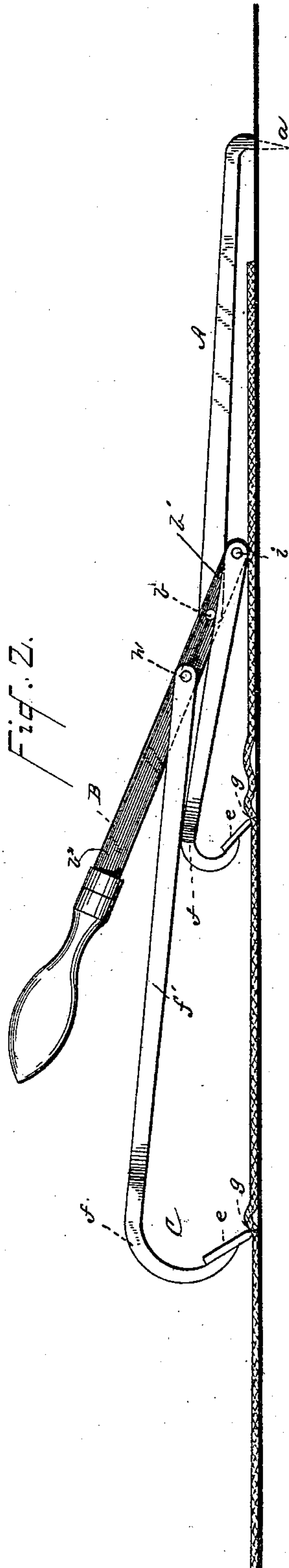
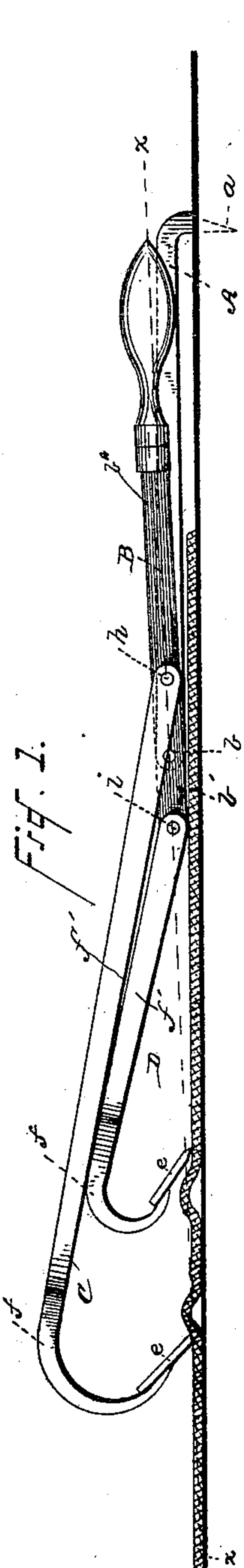


(No Model.)

B. HOLDEN.
CARPET STRETCHER.

No. 395,903.

Patented Jan. 8, 1889.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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CARPET-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 395,903, dated January 8, 1889.

Application filed January 5, 1888. Serial No. 260,012. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BURTON HOLDEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at the village of Geneva, in the county of Ashtabula and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Carpet-Stretcher, (entitled and known as Holden's Double-Action Carpet-Stretcher,) of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in carpet-stretchers; and it consists of the novel construction and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims.

The object of my invention is to provide a carpet-stretcher of extremely simple, compact, and inexpensive construction which can be easily and quickly operated with a minimum exertion for thoroughly stretching the carpet without danger or liability of injuring the same.

A further object of my invention is to so construct and arrange the parts of my improved carpet-stretcher that the strain of the carpet on the claws when in use will be in a direct line through the pivots of the jaws and lever, so as to effectually lock the lever and jaws in place when the lever is depressed in one position, whereby the operator is relieved from the labor of holding the lever to keep the carpet stretched and can proceed at leisure to properly adjust and tack the loose folds of carpet in rear of the claws, both hands of the operator being free to accomplish this operation. The lever is also locked when it is reversed, so as to advance one and withdraw the other claw, as will be hereinafter more fully pointed out.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved carpet-stretcher, showing the lever and claws locked in one position after straining the carpet. Fig. 2 is a like view of the stretcher after the lever has been turned to reverse the jaws, and showing said parts locked in the reverse of the positions indicated in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the stretcher with the parts in the position indicated in Fig. 1.

Like letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings, in which—

A designates the fulcrum-bar, adapted to be

temporarily fixed to the floor to hold the stretcher stationary when the lever is operated for moving the jaws to strain and hold a carpet. This bar is provided at one end with a downwardly-projecting tooth or spur, *a*, which is adapted to be forced into the floor at or near one of the vertical walls of the room or apartment to hold the bar against endwise displacement. An operating-lever, B, is pivoted at an intermediate point of its length to the unconfined or free end of the fulcrum-bar, as at *b*, thereby leaving a short arm, *b'*, extending below said bar and a longer arm, *b''*, extending above the bar, as clearly shown, the extreme upper end of the lever being provided with a handle, by means of which it can be conveniently grasped.

C D designate the claws of my improved stretcher, which are connected to the operating-lever in a peculiar manner, and are adapted to be operated thereby to alternately engage and strain the carpet, one claw, when free from engagement with the carpet, being moved in the reverse direction to the line of movement of the other engaging-claw, whereby as one claw draws upon and strains the carpet the other claw is adjusted simultaneously, but in the reverse direction, to engage the carpet at a point some distance beyond the point that the first-mentioned claw is engaged with the carpet, as is obvious. Each claw has a broad head, *e*, which is formed by a flat-toothed bar, which is rigidly connected to bifurcated arms or shanks *f*, that are curved downwardly upon themselves, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, and which are made integral with a flat bar, *f'*. The flat head *e* of each claw has teeth *g*, which are inclined downwardly and rearwardly from the curved shanks *f* of the claw toward the fulcrum bar to adapt said teeth to slide freely over the carpet when the claw is moved forward to engage the carpet and to firmly take into and grasp the same when drawn rearward by the lever to thereby properly stretch the carpet. The free ends of the flat bars *f'* of the claws C D are pivotally connected, as at *h i*, respectively, to the operating-lever B at points equidistant from and on opposite sides of the fulcrum of said bar, as clearly indicated in Figs. 1 and 2, whereby

when the lever is turned the jaws are moved simultaneously in opposite directions.

The lever A is arranged at one side of the front end of the fulcrum-bar, so as to fold closely to one side of the same, and the bars f' of the claws are arranged on the outer side of the lever, immediately one above the other, in the same vertical plane, so as to move back and forth in the direction of their length without interference from the lever or the fulcrum-bar.

By reference to Fig. 1 of the drawings it will be noted that when the lever is depressed to lie alongside of the fulcrum-bar the front claw, C, which is connected to the lever at a point above its fulcrum, will be drawn rearward and carry the carpet a limited distance with it, while at the same time the rear claw, D, which is connected to the lever below its fulcrum, will be forced in the reverse direction and to the rear, whereby it is adjusted in position to engage and strain the carpet when the lever is reversed. When the lever and claws are in the position indicated in Fig. 1, the pivots of the lever and the claws lie in a direct line drawn from the point of engagement of the front claw, C, with the carpet through the lever, as indicated by the dotted line x in Fig. 1 of the drawings, thus effectually locking the parts in position and preventing the lever from becoming displaced or moved by the strain or pull of the carpet on said claw C and the lever when the hand-pressure is removed from the latter. By thus locking the parts of the stretcher in position both hands of the operator are left free, and the loose folds of carpet in rear of the claws can be properly adjusted and tacked at leisure.

Should it be necessary to further strain or stretch the carpet after the lever has been depressed to the position shown in Fig. 1, the free end of the lever is raised in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2 to move the free end of the lever to a point beyond the outer end of the bar A. (See Fig. 2.) This reverse movement of the lever draws the rear claw, D, which engages the carpet, toward the fulcrum-bar, thereby further stretching the carpet, and simultaneously with this retrograde movement of the rear claw the other front claw, C, is forced forward and rides idly over the carpet. The position of the claws and lever when adjusted as described is shown in Fig. 2, and it will be noted that the lever is prevented from movement or displacement, caused by the strain of the carpet on the rear claw, D, and the lower end of said lever, by reason of the teeth of the front claw, C, engaging the carpet in position to strain the same should the lever be moved on its fulcrum when it occupies this position.

The operation of my invention is obvious from the foregoing description taken in connection with the drawings.

My improved carpet-stretcher can be used with a minimum effort to expeditiously and thoroughly strain the carpet to any desired extent, as the claws are adapted to alternately engage the carpet by simply reversing the lever, and said claws are further locked in either position when the lever is depressed one side or the other of its fulcrum, as will be readily understood.

I am aware of the device shown in Patent No. 356,417, in which a pair of jaws are pivoted together, one of the jaws having an extended vertical handle or lever secured thereto, and said jaw is pivoted at an intermediate point of its length to a horizontally-movable fulcrum-bar, which latter bar is pivoted at its rear unconfined end to a vertical bar inserted in the floor, this movable fulcrum-bar being sustained in a horizontal position by a pivoted pawl engaging notches on the vertical bar, and the two jaws being arranged to force or push the carpet toward the edge of the floor.

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

1. A carpet-stretcher consisting, essentially, of a horizontal fulcrum-bar having a depending tooth or spur for insertion into the floor to hold said bar in a fixed position, a lever pivoted at an intermediate point of its length to the horizontal fulcrum-bar, and the oppositely-movable toothed claws pivoted to the lever at equidistant points on opposite sides of the fulcrum of the lever, substantially as described, for the purpose set forth.

2. A carpet-stretcher consisting, essentially, of a fulcrum-bar provided with means for fixing the same in a stationary position to a floor, a hand-lever pivoted at an intermediate point of its length to the fulcrum-bar and adapted to fold close thereto, and the oppositely-movable claws pivoted to the lever at equidistant points on opposite sides of the fulcrum thereof, the pivots of said claws and the fulcrum of the lever being relatively located with respect to each other to all fall in a line drawn through the lever and the point of engagement with the carpet of one of the claws when said lever is depressed alongside the fulcrum-bar, substantially as described.

BURTON HOLDEN.

Witnesses:

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