

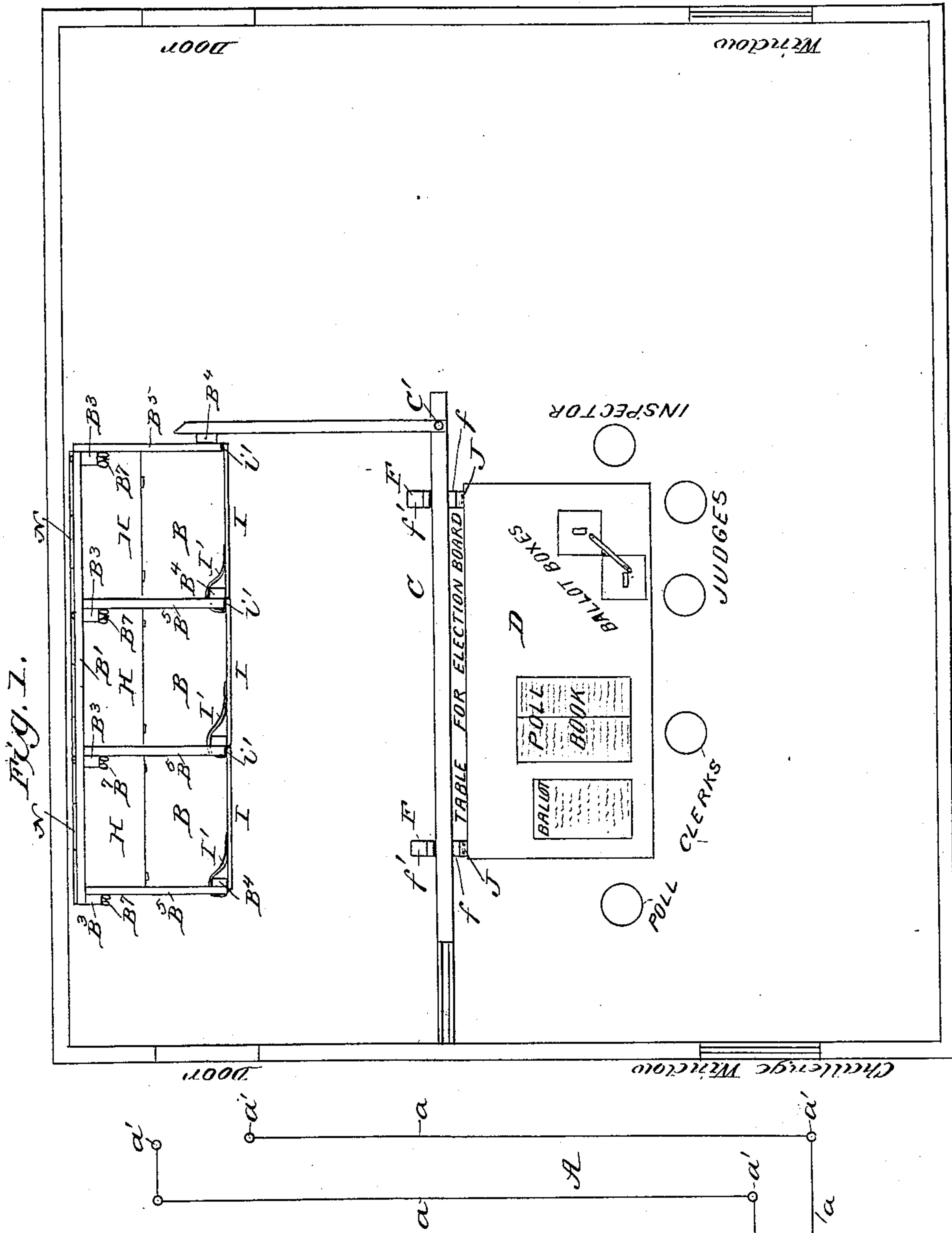
(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

P. HOFFMAN.
VOTING APPARATUS.

No. 435,225.

Patented Aug. 26, 1890.



WITNESSES:

Fred G. Dietrich
P. B. Turpin.

INVENTOR:

Peter Hoffman
BY *Munn & Co*
ATTORNEYS

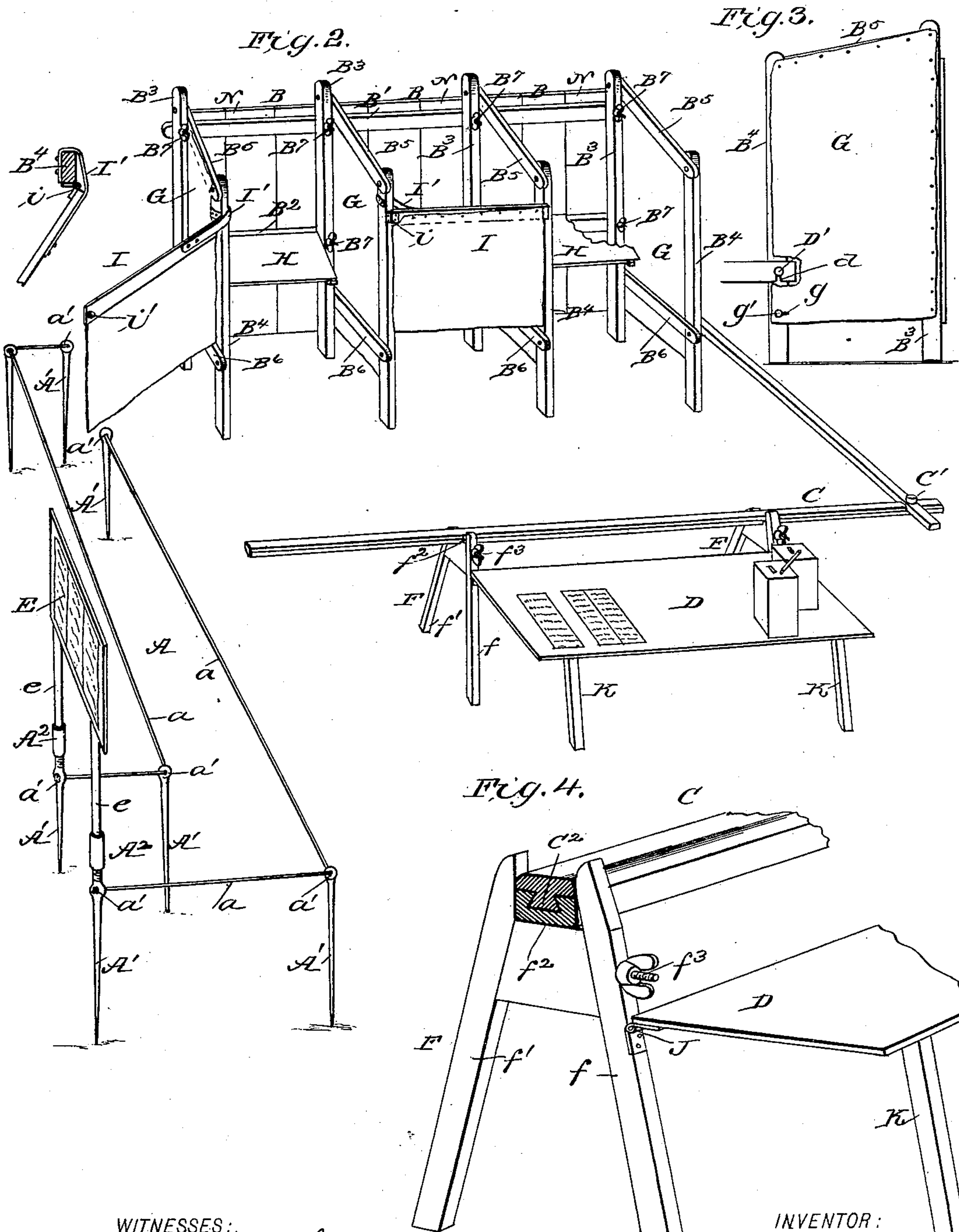
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Fig. 5.

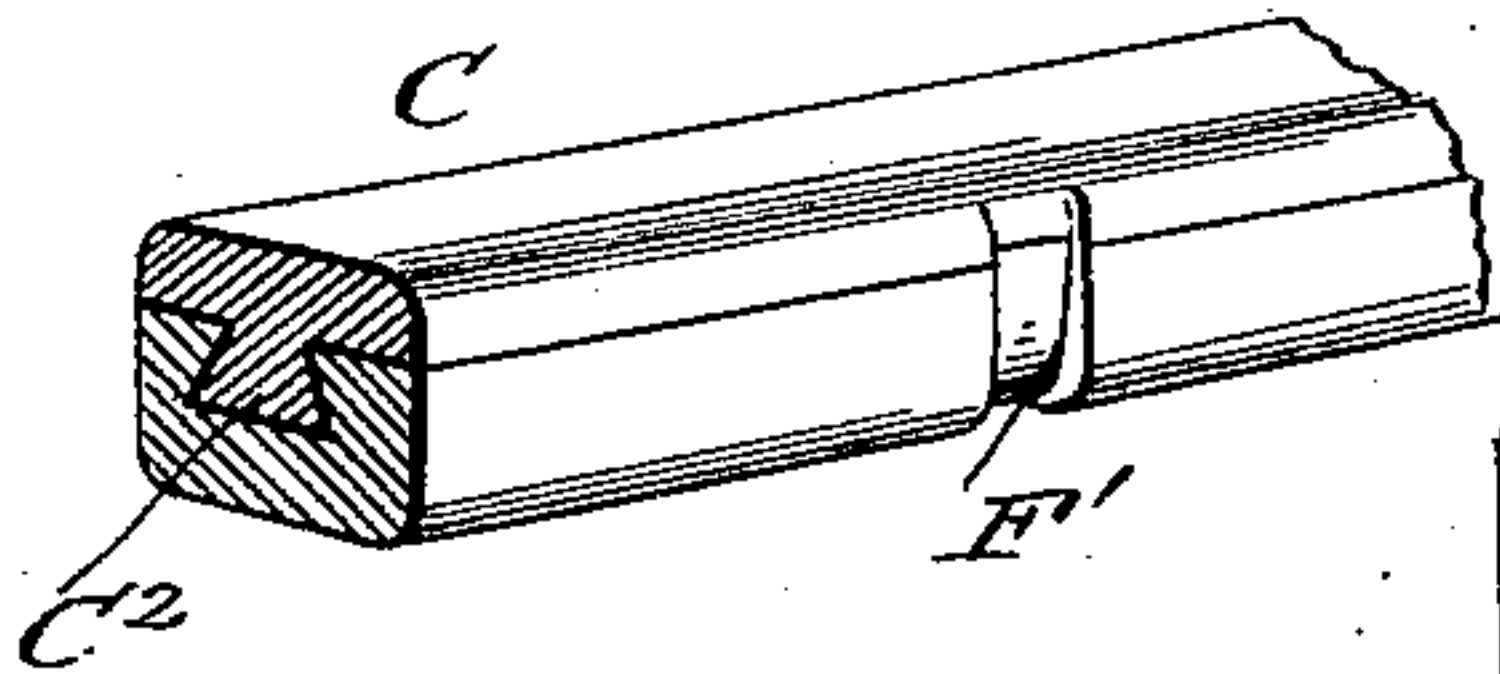


Fig. 6.

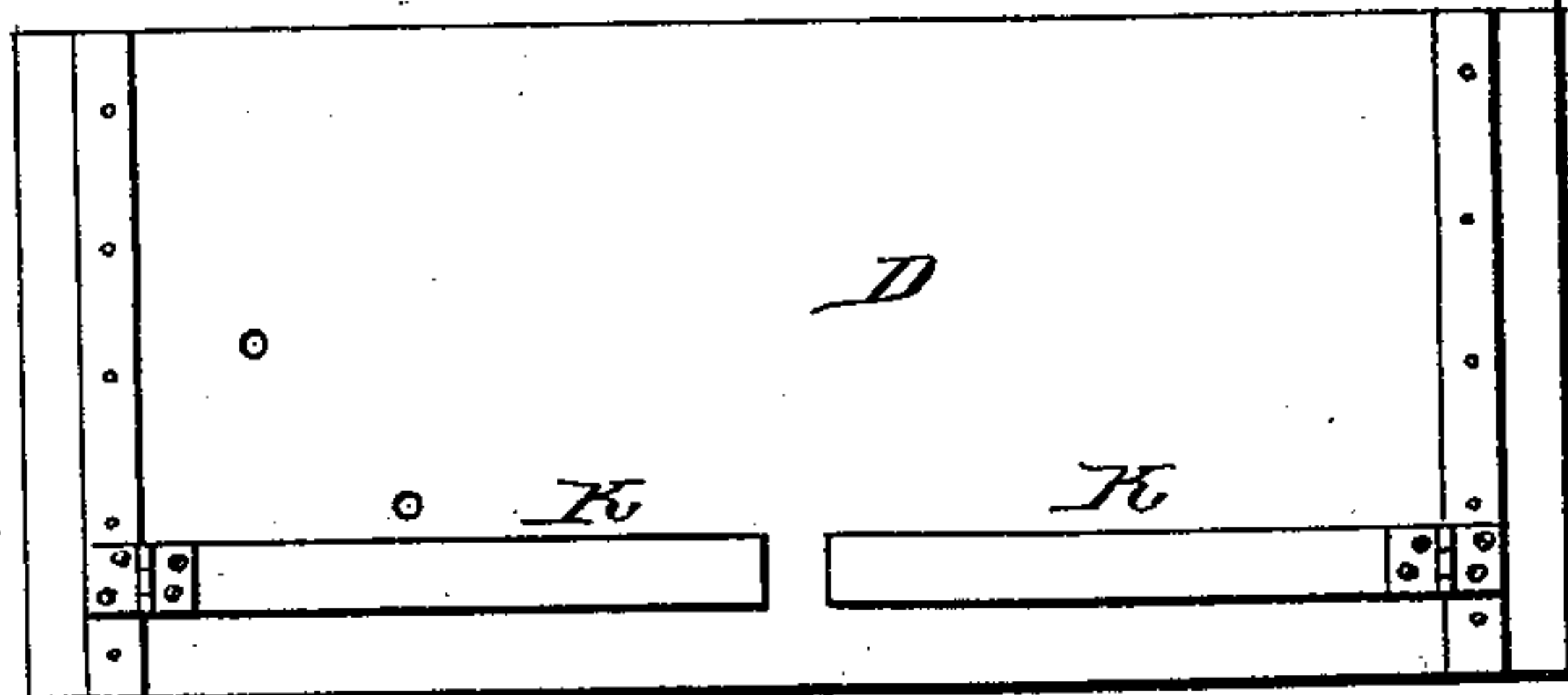


Fig. 7.

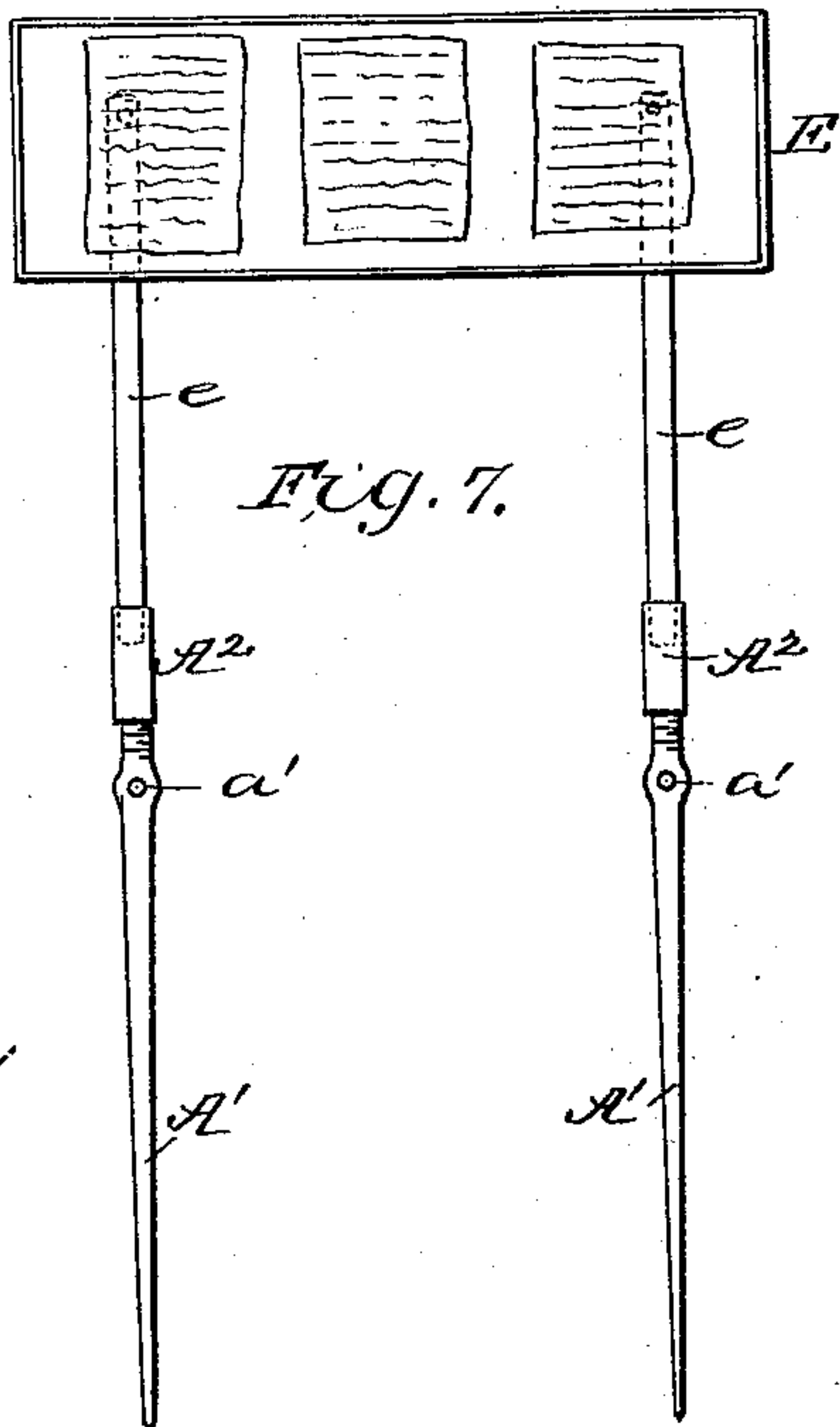


Fig. 8.

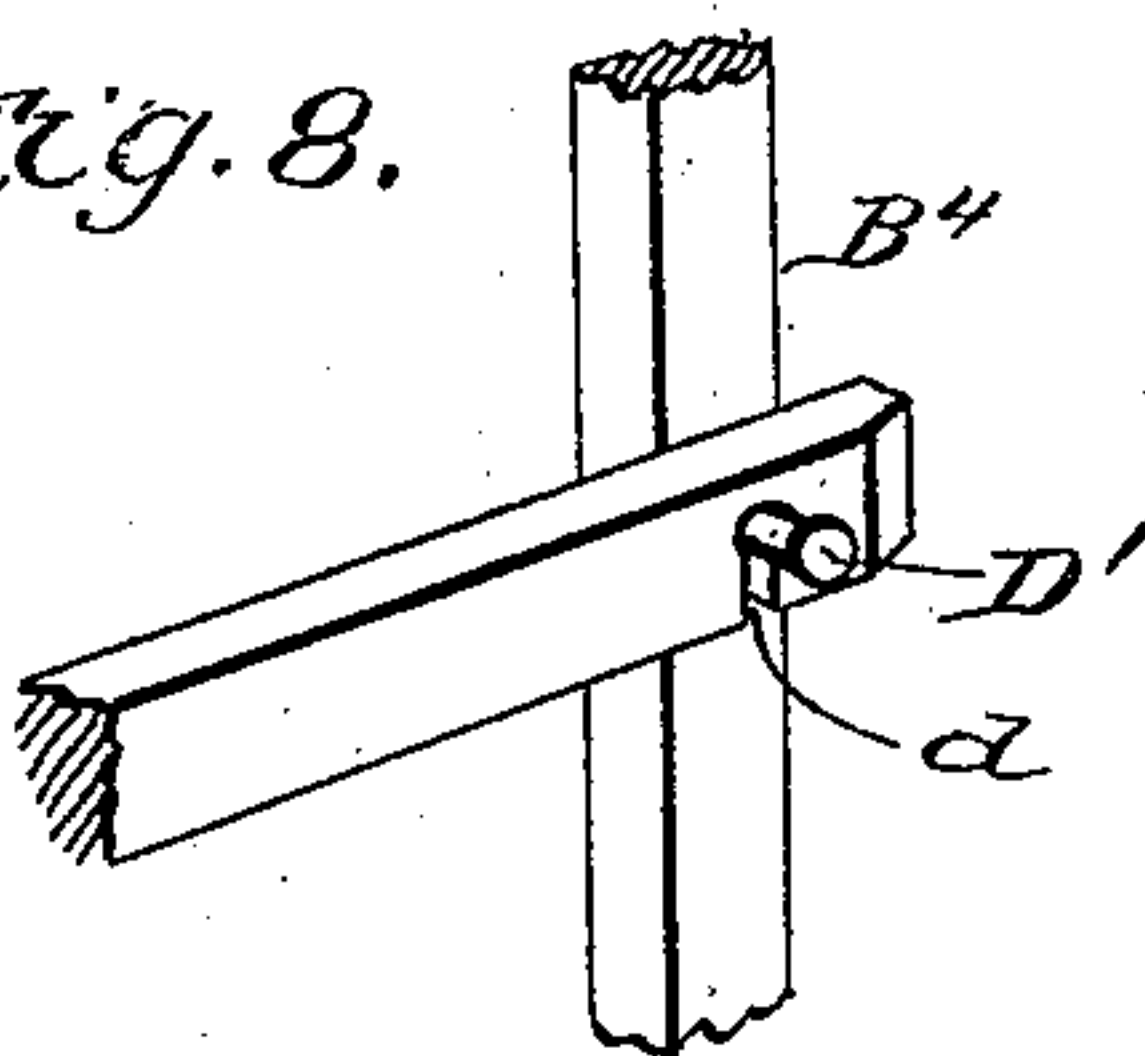
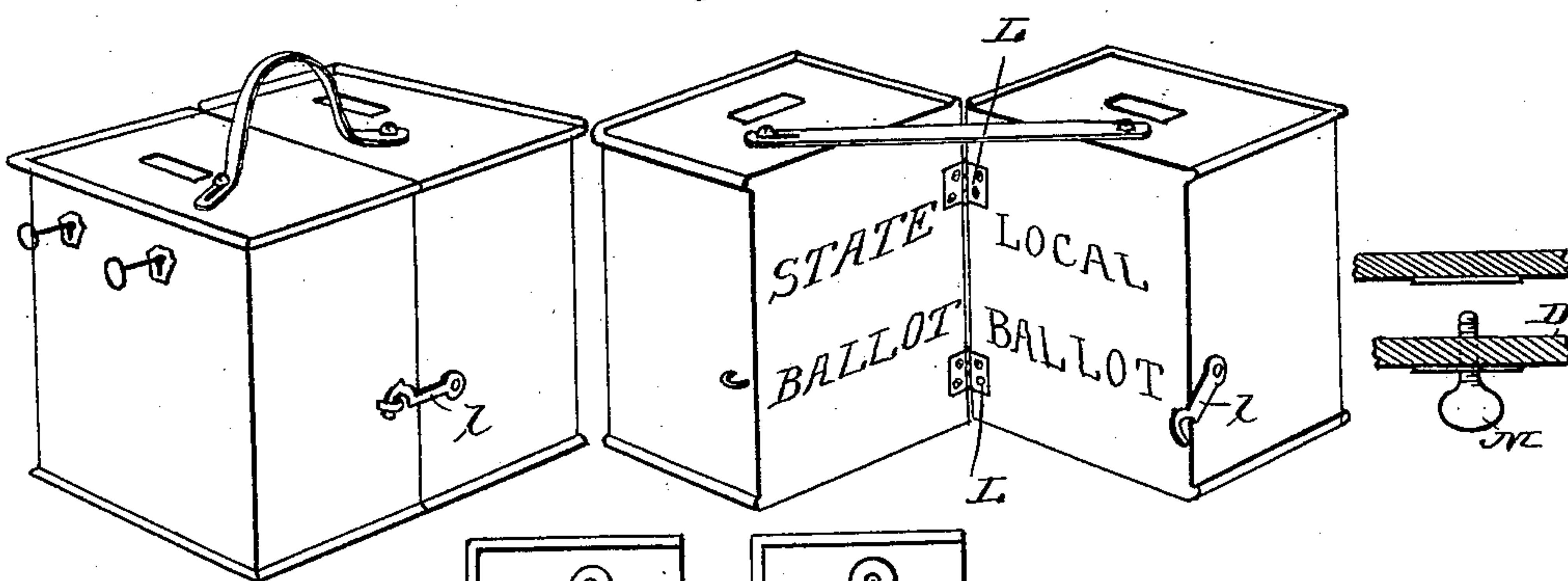
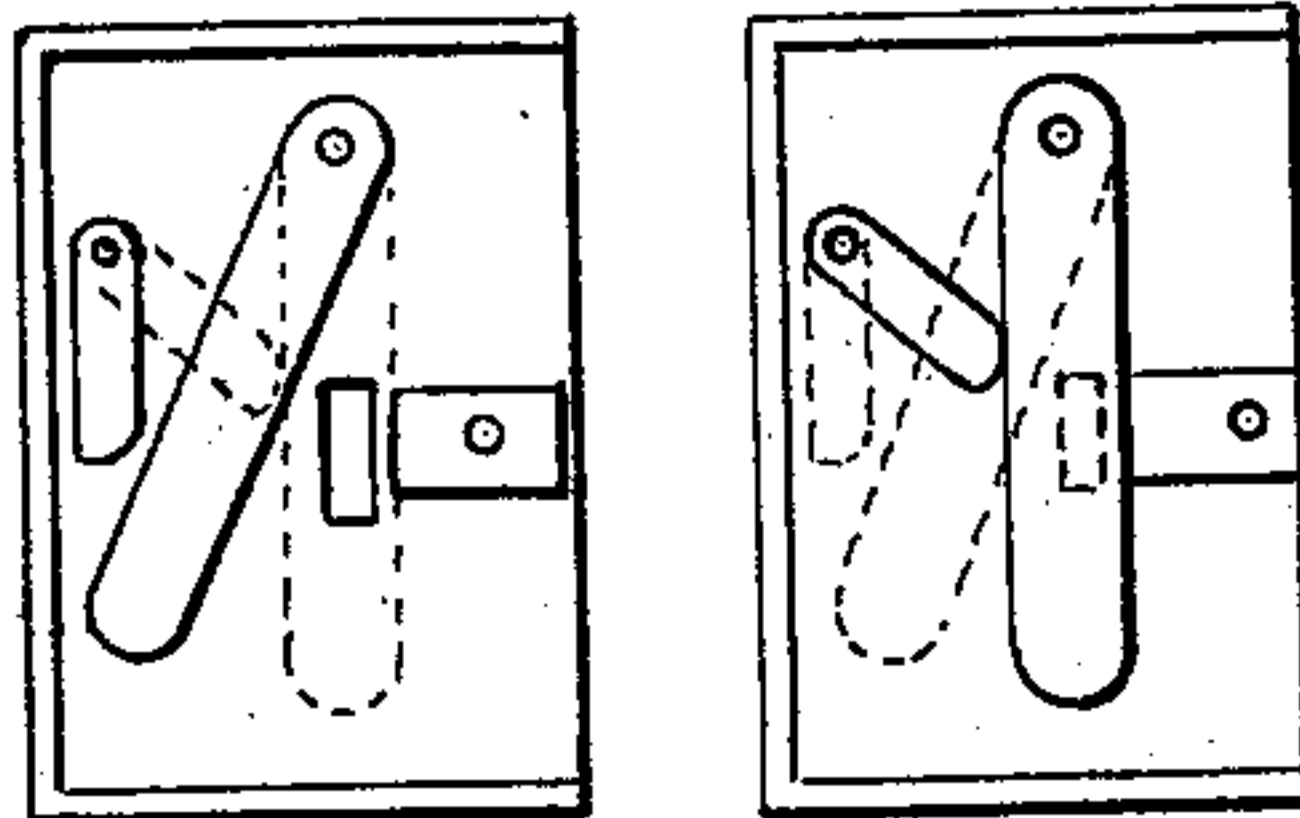


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER HOFFMAN, OF FORT BRANCH, INDIANA.

VOTING APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 435,225, dated August 26, 1890.

Application filed March 17, 1890. Serial No. 344,240. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER HOFFMAN, of Fort Branch, in the county of Gibson and State of Indiana, have invented a new and
5 useful Improvement in Voting Apparatus, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an improvement in voting apparatus; and it consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts which may be easily secured together and taken down and folded, which when properly erected will afford means for keeping the voters in line and for
10 secluding them while marking their ballots, and will afford suitable desks for the judges, inspector, and clerks, and a support for the ballot-boxes, poll-book, &c., and which may be compactly folded for convenience in transportation and storage.

20 In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan view of my apparatus as in use. Fig. 2 is a perspective view thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail side view of a part of one of the booths. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one of the trestles. Fig. 5 is a
25 detail view of the rail. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the table. Fig. 7 is a detail view of the bulletin-board and its legs. Fig. 8 is a detail view of the hooked end of the rail, and Fig. 9 is a detail view of the ballot-box.

30 As elections are held at considerable intervals apart, it is hardly practicable to construct, arrange, or keep permanently furnished apartments adapted for such purpose. It becomes, therefore, quite an object
35 to provide means by which any ordinary room may be quickly fitted for the holding of an election and to make such fixtures so that they can be easily erected for use and can then be compactly disposed for transportation or
40 storage, to enable their reuse when desired.

In carrying out my invention I provide a guideway A, through which the voters may be directed to the entrance to the polling-room, the booths B in said room, in which the
45 tickets are marked by the voters, the rail C, excluding the voters from the quarters occupied by the judges, poll-clerks, &c., and the table or desk D. The guideway is preferably formed, as shown, of standards or uprights A' and ropes a, the uprights having openings or
50 eyes a' for the passage of the rope. The

standards A' at the outer end of the guideway are preferably threaded at their upper ends to receive threaded coupling-sleeves A², which couple to said standards leg-like supports e, 55 which are pivoted at their upper ends to the bulletin-board E, so that they may be folded flat along side the same when taken apart. This bulletin-board serves to receive the various tickets or ballots, so that the voters may supply themselves as they pass into the guideway. 60 As the standards or uprights A' are simply stakes driven into the ground, it is obvious that they may be quickly set in position and removed, and also that they may be set in 65 any suitable arrangement to effect a guidance of the voters between any two points not too far separated. As stated, the guideway leads to the entrance of the voting-room. In this room I arrange the rail C, within which is 70 arranged the table, &c., while outside of such rail I arrange the booths, such booths being located between the guideway and the ballot-box support or table, so that the voter, after passing out of the guideway, can enter 75 one of the inclosures or booths and mark his ticket, so securing a secret ballot. The rail is preferably formed in two or more pieces pivoted at C', one or both of such pieces being extensible, preferably by making them 80 in sections to slide one along the other, one of such sections having a longitudinal dovetail rib C² and the other a groove to receive such rib, so that the said sections may be adjusted longitudinally to shorten or lengthen 85 the rail, as may be desired. At one end the rail is adjusted against the side wall of the room, while at its opposite end it hooks over a bolt D' on the side post of the innermost booth B, such rail having a slot d in its under side 90 near such end to receive said bolt D'. The rail is supported on adjustable trestles F, such trestles being formed of legs f and f', the leg f' having a shoulder f² to support the rails, and the leg f being adjustable toward 95 the leg f' by means of screw f³, so that the rail which is grooved at F' to fit in the trestle may be clamped securely therein.

The booths B, of which I preferably use several, as shown, are alike, and comprise 100 back bars B' B², back uprights B³, front uprights B⁴, and connecting-bars B⁵ B⁶, extended

between the back and front uprights, and are pivotally connected with each of such uprights, so that the uprights and connecting-bars of each side frame may be folded compactly together. The back uprights are secured to the cross back bars B' B² by bolts and thumb-nuts B⁷, as shown. The sides of the booths are inclosed by curtains G, secured at their rear and top edges, respectively, to the bars B³ and B⁵, and having their front lower corner detachably secured by providing at such corner a button-hole *g* to fit over a button *g'*, as will be understood from Fig. 3.

Within each booth I arrange a writing-desk H, preferably supported on the lower back bar B².

Each booth has a door I, formed of a suitable frame, and a curtain or closure, such door being hinged at one edge at *i*, provided at such edge with a spring I', tending to hold the door closed and to close it when opened, and provided at its opposite or swinging edge with a cushion or rubber button *i''*, by which the closing of the door is cushioned and rendered noiseless.

The desk D is hinged at one edge at J to two of the trestles, and is supported at its other edge by legs K, preferably connected by hinge-joint with said table, so that they may fold up against the same.

The ballot-boxes are shown as formed of two boxes or sections hinged together at L and provided with a fastening hook and eye *l* and a leather strap, which stays them when swung apart, and forms the handle by which to lift them when closed. Such boxes are secured to the table by means of the bolt M, turned through the table into the bottom of the boxes, as shown.

Fig. 9 shows the inside lid of ballot-boxes, the opening in one being open and the other closed.

In use the judges, clerks, &c., sit within the rail.

The device when erected for use is simple and convenient, and when not in use may be compactly folded for storage or transportation.

The backs of the booths are made of thin boards N fastened together and screwed to

cross-pieces, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2. These boards N close in the backs of the booths and serve, when the booths are not placed against the wall of a room, to prevent persons in the booths showing their tickets to those in the other booths.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The improved election or voting apparatus, comprising the booths having foldable frames, the table forming the ballot-box support, and the rail extended between the booths and the table, said rail being formed in sections and adjustable longitudinally, whereby it may be extended or contracted to adapt the apparatus to different rooms, and may be contracted for convenience in transportation and storage, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. The improved election or voting apparatus herein described and shown, consisting of the booths having their frames formed of bars pivotally connected, whereby they may fold together, the longitudinally-extensible rail positively connected with said booths, the trestles arranged to support the said rail, and the table D, hinged at one edge to the said trestles and provided with hinged legs, whereby to support its opposite or free edge, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

3. In an election or voting apparatus, a booth or inclosure having its frame formed with bars pivotally jointed, whereby it may be folded, having its sides suitably closed and provided with a door, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

4. In an election or voting apparatus, the improved booth herein described, consisting of the back bars B' B², back uprights B³, front uprights B⁴, and connecting-bars B⁵ B⁶, extended between and pivotally connected with bars B³ B⁴, and the curtains G, secured at their rear and top edges, respectively, to the bars B³ and B⁵, and detachably secured at the front lower corner and the door, all substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

PETER HOFFMAN.

Witnesses:

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AUGUST RODEMANN.