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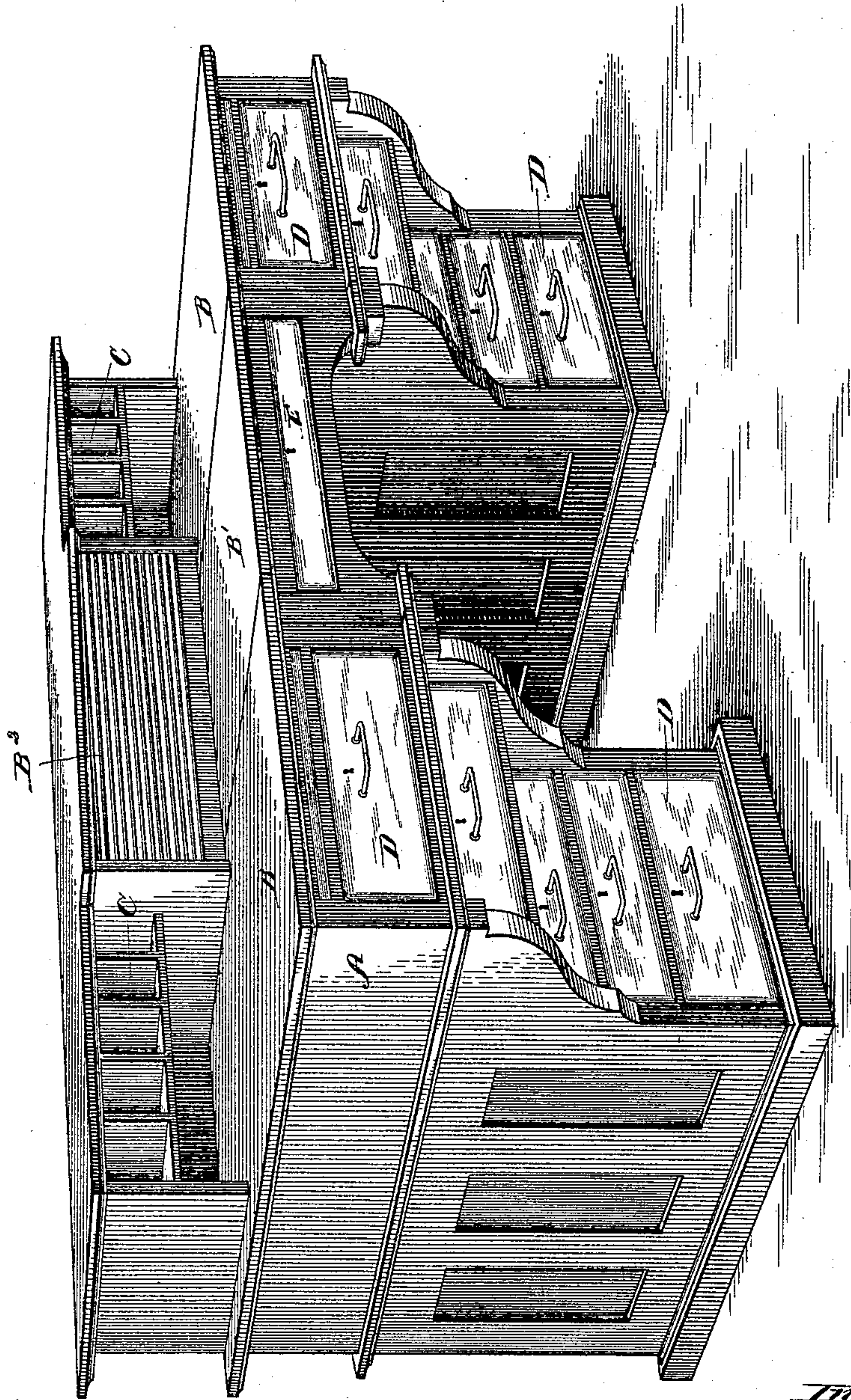
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C. T. BROWN & F. R. WOLFINGER.
DESK AND WRITING MACHINE TABLE.

No. 437,477.

Patented Sept. 30, 1890.

Fig 1.



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(No Model.)

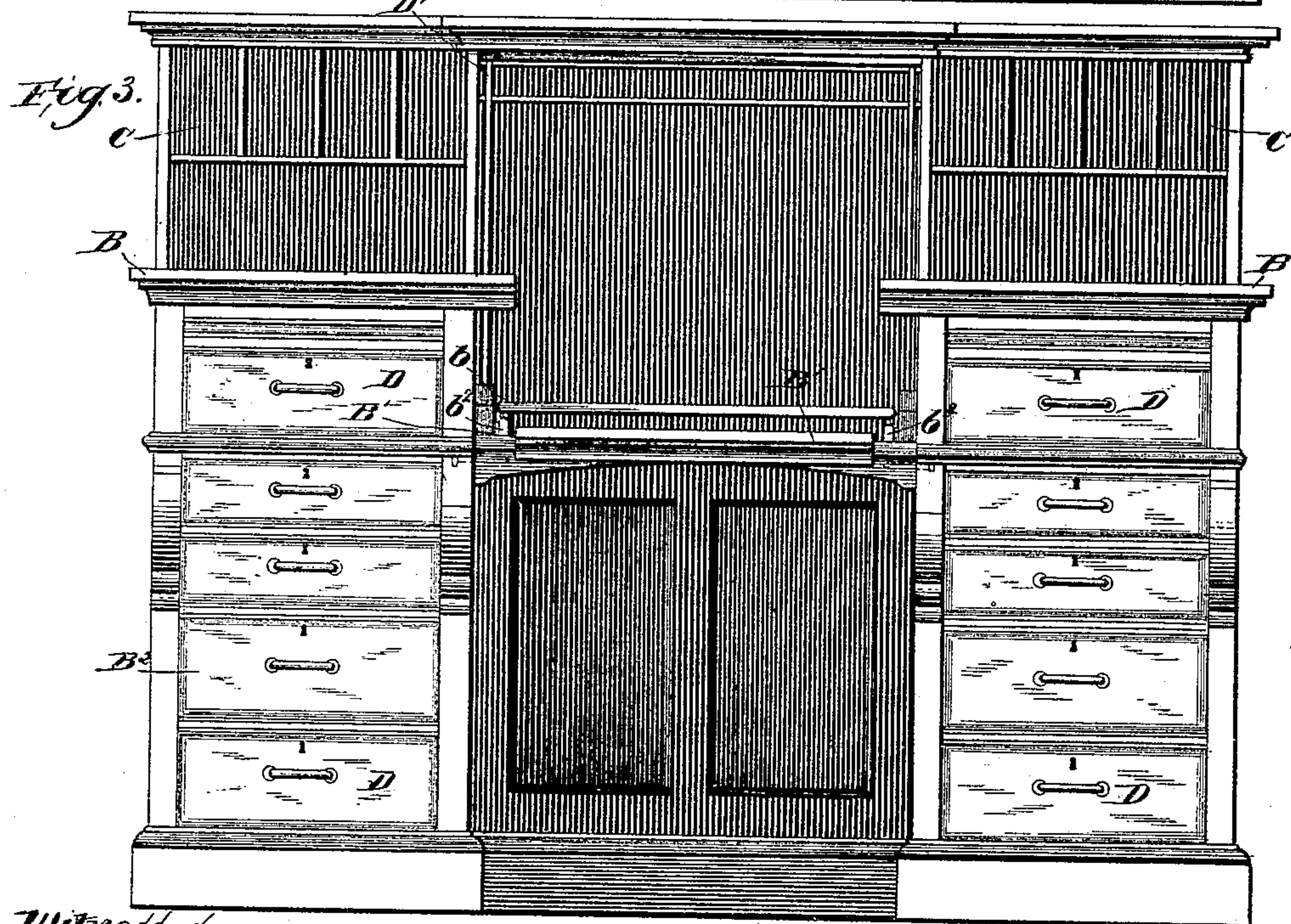
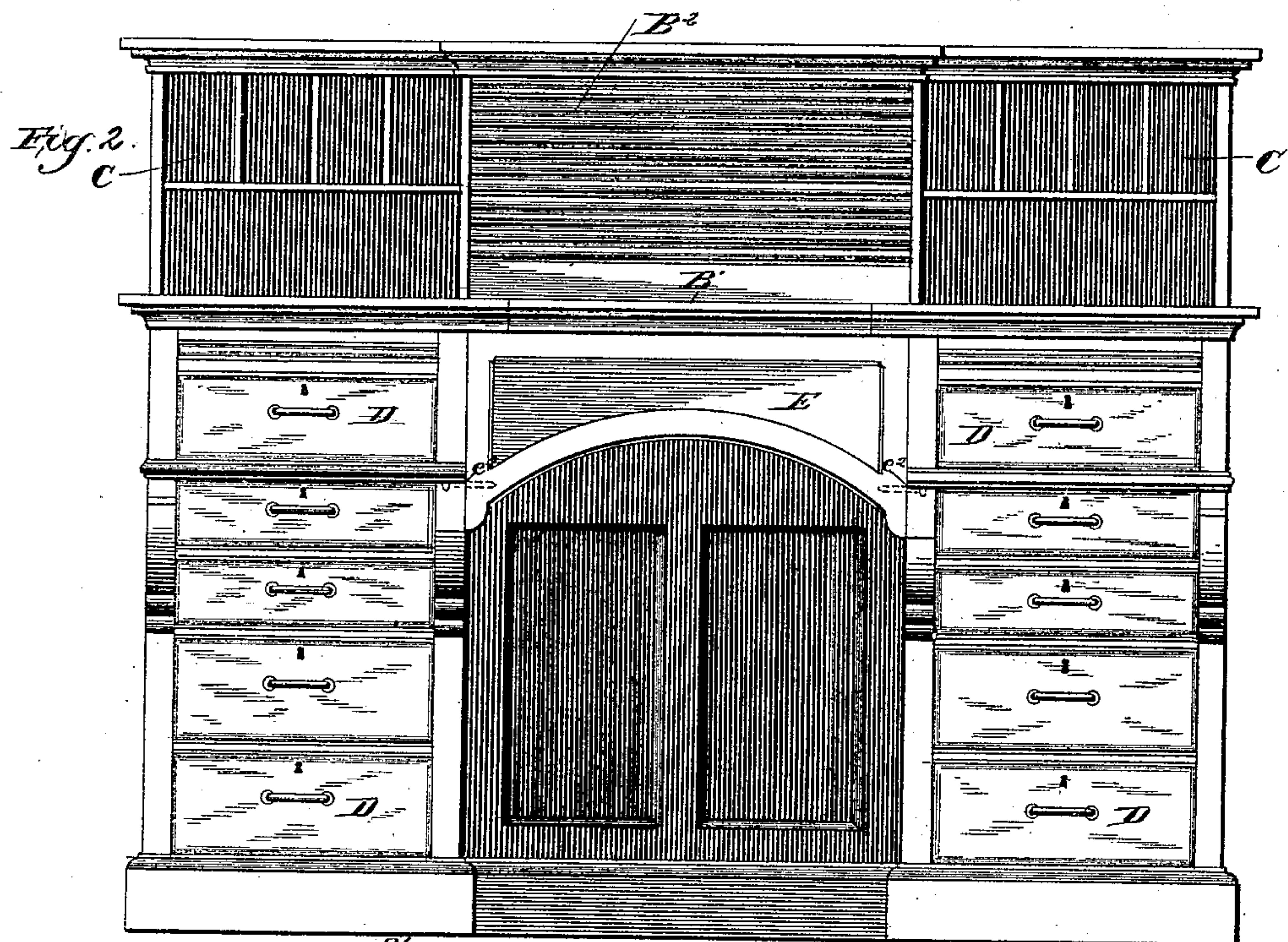
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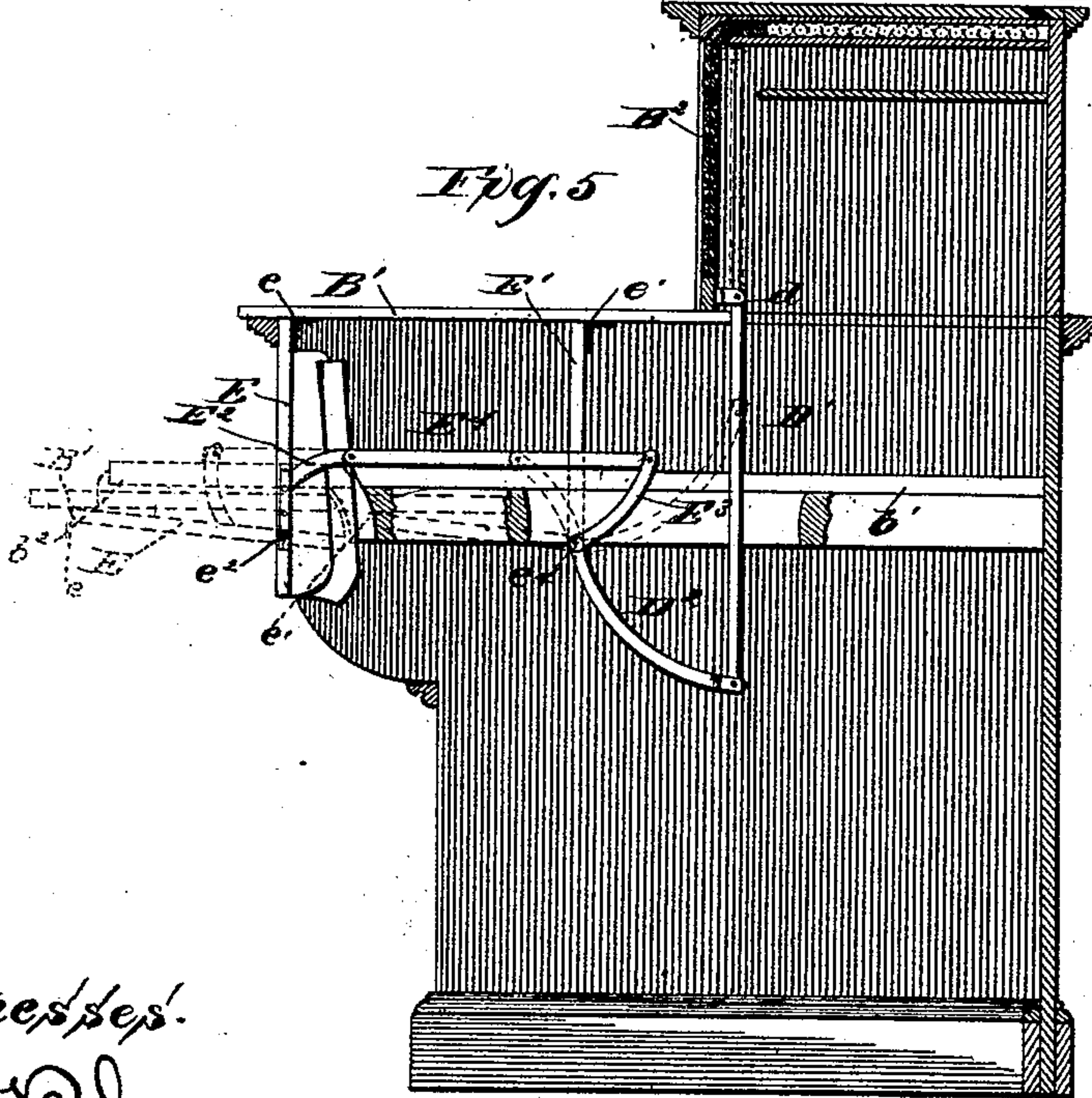
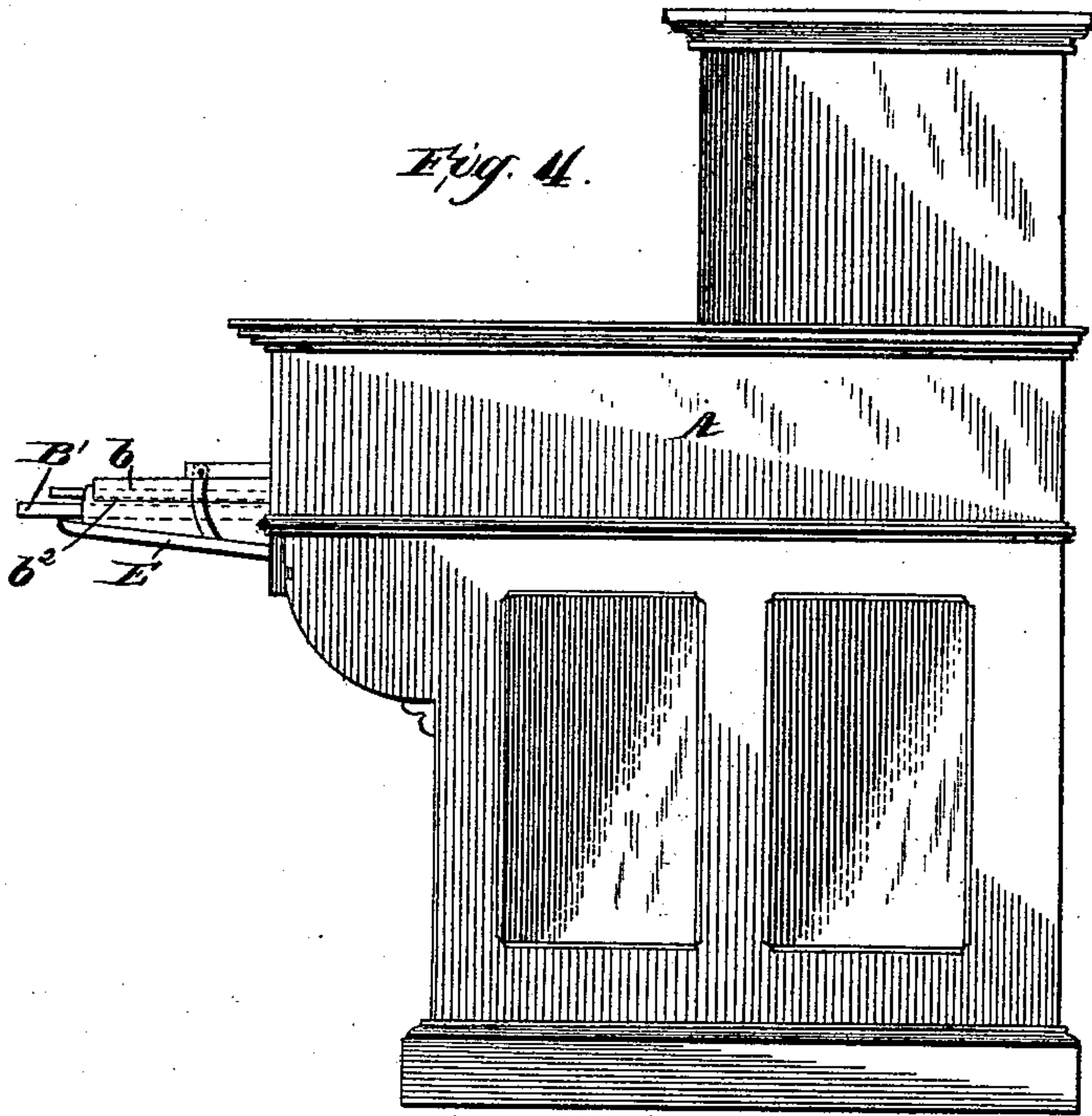
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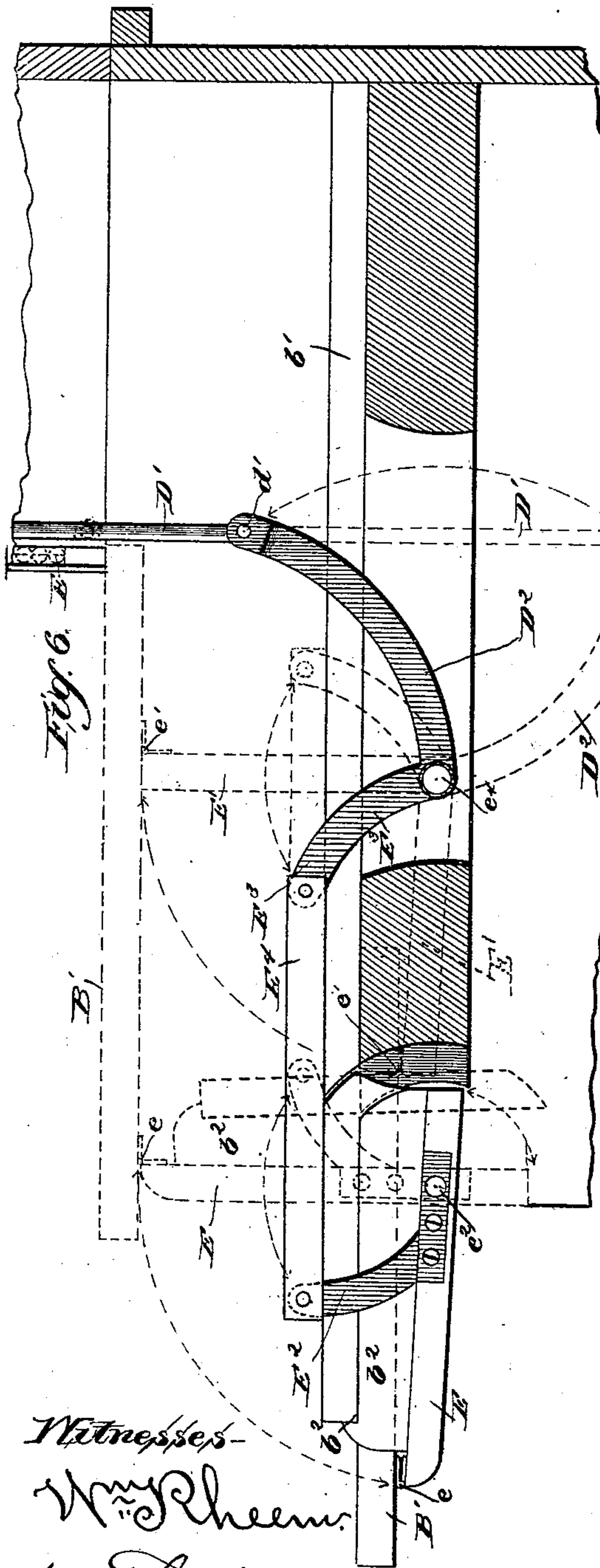
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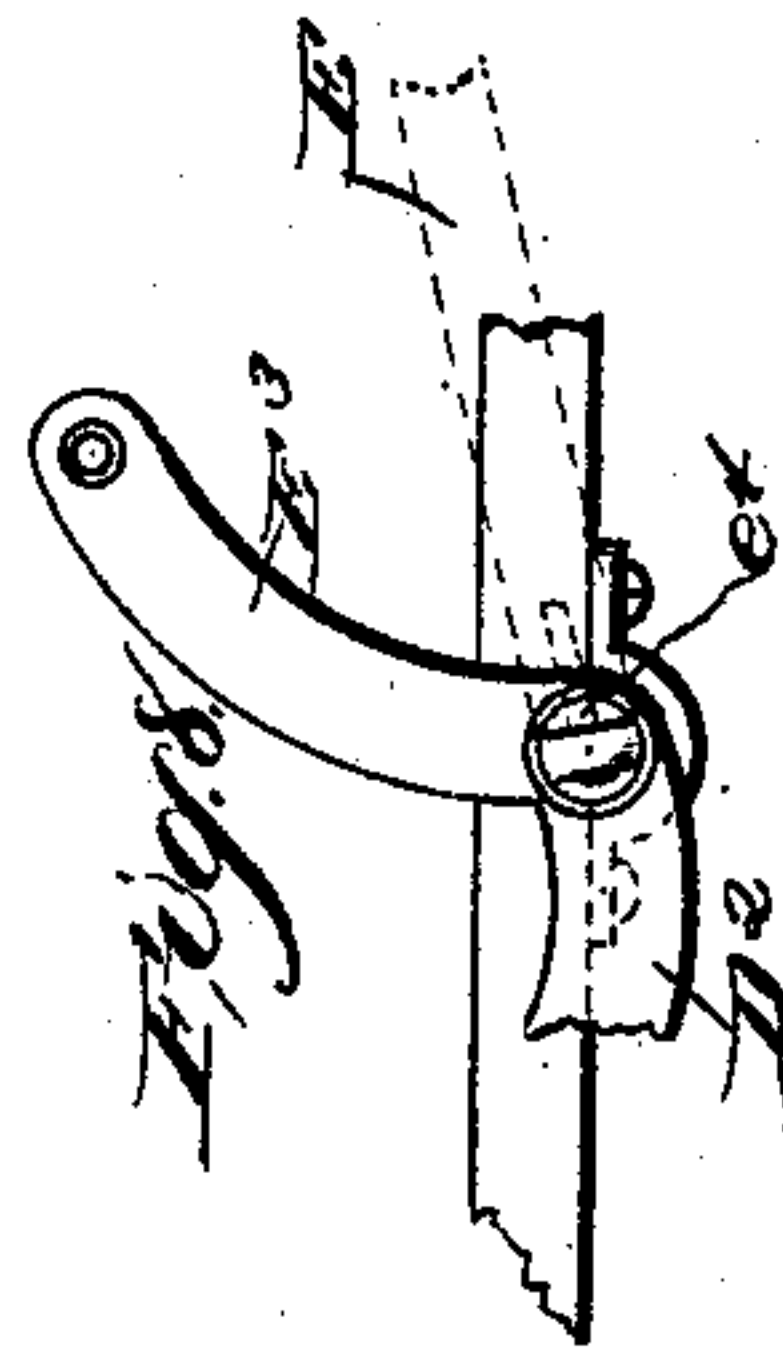
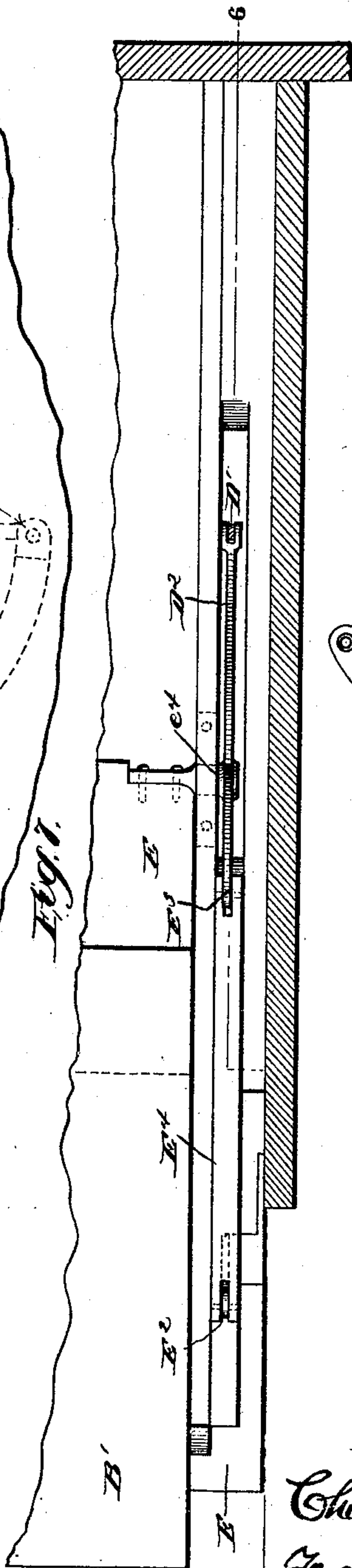
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES T. BROWN AND FRANCIS R. WOLFINGER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

DESK AND WRITING-MACHINE TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 437,477, dated September 30, 1890.

Application filed December 21, 1889. Serial No. 334,479. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES T. BROWN and FRANCIS R. WOLFINGER, citizens of the United States, and residents of the city of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented a certain new and useful combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table or writing-machine cabinet, adapted to be easily converted from a desk and writing-machine receptacle, wherein the writing-machine is concealed from view and protected from injury and dust into a writing-machine table and support whereon the writing-machine may rest in an advantageous position for operation, of which the following is a specification.

We are aware that combined desks and writing-machine receptacles convertible into writing-machine tables and supports have been heretofore constructed and are now in common use wherein the writing-machine is firmly secured to a base-board suitably hinged or pivoted, and such base-board has been attached to a hinged lid forming, when the device is to be used as a writing-desk, a part of the top of such desk, and that when the hinged part of the desk-top is turned upon its said hinges, either to stand upon one of its edges or completely over upon its face, the writing-machine is brought up from below the level of the desk into position where it may be used.

The purpose of our invention is to obtain a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle convertible into a writing-machine table and support, wherein the writing-machine need not be secured to the base-board upon which it rests, requiring merely to be placed thereon in like manner as upon an ordinary table. To obtain an article of furniture of the character named wherein when it is in the form of a desk, the top of such desk being constructed of two or more parts or divisions, in the ordinary way of constructing the combined desks and writing-machine receptacles or writing-machine cabinets, hereinbefore referred to as having been heretofore in use, that part of the top of the desk which is made movable may be drawn from its position and depressed into suitable place for permitting the writing-machine to be placed thereover, but not there-

on, so that it may be readily and easily manipulated without fatigue to the operator and with little noise.

As is well known to those skilled in the use of writing-machines, it is necessary for convenient operation thereof that the base-board upon which they are set be placed at a considerably less elevation from the floor than that best adapted for the top of a desk upon which writing or other like vocations are pursued, and in order to secure sufficient depression, as also to retain in the movable part of the top of the desk an upright position, deemed by us very desirable, we have found it necessary to construct our device in such manner that the movable part of the top of the desk is adapted to be moved in a peculiar manner, hereinafter more fully described, which constitutes the main feature of our invention.

We have illustrated our invention by the drawings accompanying this specification and forming a part hereof, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device embodying our invention in position for use as a desk. Fig. 2 is a front elevation in the same position as in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the device, with the central portion of the top forming the desk thrown forward and lowered, thereby permitting a base-board, on which may be placed a writing-machine to be drawn forward, so that the writing-machine may be operated. Fig. 4 is an end elevation of the device in the position illustrated in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a cross-section of the device with the several parts thereof in the position illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, showing the mechanism whereby the movable parts are actuated, and also showing by dotted lines the position of the several movable parts when in the position illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. Fig. 6 is an enlarged sectional elevation of the movable parts of the device. Fig. 7 is a plan view of the same, and Fig. 8 is an elevation of a portion of the movable parts viewed in the opposite direction to that from which such parts are seen in Fig. 6.

Like parts are designated by like letters of reference throughout the several views.

A is the desk.

B B' B is the top of the desk. The central

portion B' of the top of the desk is movable. The parts B B thereof are rigidly attached to the frame-work of the desk.

B² is a door or curtain. We prefer to have
5 B² a curtain, constructed of slats secured together in the ordinary manner of making what is known in the art as a "desk-curtain."

C C are pigeon-holes.

D D are drawers of the desk.

10 E is a pivotal support, attached at its upper edges by hinges lettered *e* to movable part B' of the desk-top. Pivotal support E turns freely on pivots placed at the lower edge thereof and turning in the rigid frame-work
15 of the desk, and lettered *e*². E' is a pivotal support, secured by hinge *e'* to movable part B' and pivoted at *e*⁴ to the rigid frame-work of the desk.

By inspection of the drawings it will be
20 seen that B' may be drawn forward and downward toward a person in front thereof, and thus lowered into the position illustrated in Figs. 3, 6, and 7, and by the dotted lines in Fig. 5. In this movement of movable part B'
25 pivotal supports E E' will rotate freely around pivots *e*² *e*⁴ at the lower edges thereof, and thereby closing the hinges *e e'*, by which such pivotal supports are secured at their upper
30 edges to the movable part B'. In this movement of movable part B' of the top of the desk it is maintained in a substantially horizontal position upon its upper surface by the pivotal supports E E'.

The writing-machine is placed on a base-
35 board, which is lettered *b* in Fig. 3 of the drawings, and this base-board has, ordinarily, rollers which run on a track secured partially to the rigid frame of the desk and partially to the back side of the pivotal support E, and
40 the movable part B' descends between these tracks. That part of the track which is secured to the rigid frame-work of the desk is lettered *b'*, and that part secured to the back of pivotal support E is lettered *b*². The purpose of attaching that part of the tracks let-
45 tered *b*² to the back of pivotal support E is to obtain a track nearly to the front edge of such pivotal support when the movable part B' of the top of the desk is down in position for the base-board *b* to run over it, but not in
50 contact with it, with the machine thereon in position for use.

The curtain B² is constructed to close the upper part of the receptacle wherein the machine is placed when the device is used as a
55 desk, and for convenience of operating our device we have connected such curtain B² with the pivotal supports E E' by the rod D' and lever D², so that it is automatically actuated in the pulling forward and downward or
60 pushing upward and backward of movable portion B' of the top of the desk. Curtain B² is thus alternately raised from or thrown in front of the writing-machine receptacle referred to. The several devices whereby this
65 automatic movement of the door or curtain B² is secured consist simply of the rod D', at-

tached by pivot *d* to the door or curtain and by pivot *d'* to lever D², lever D² being rigidly
70 attached to pivot *e*⁴, so that the movement of said lever D² corresponds with the movement of pivotal support E'.

When the device is in use as a desk, the position of the lever D² and the connecting-rod D' is well illustrated by the dotted lines in
75 Fig. 6, and the position of said lever D² and connecting-rod D', when the device is in position so that the writing-machine can be used thereon, is plainly indicated by the full lines in said Fig. 6.
80

When the movable part B' of the top of the desk is in the position illustrated in Figs. 3 and 7, if the front edge of such movable part be raised, we have found that in practice there is a tendency in such movable part B' to rotate
85 around pivot *e*⁴, particularly where the curtain is actuated in the manner described, and in order to insure ease and proper working of pivotal supports E E' and movable part B' of the top of the desk, we have employed levers
90 E² E³, which are rigidly secured to pivots *e*² *e*⁴, respectively. These levers E² and E³ will, it is evident, move in unison with movable parts E E'. Arms E² E³ are joined together by connecting-rod E⁴. We do not consider the le-
95 vers E² E³ and connecting-rod E⁴ absolutely essential in the construction of our device; but the addition of these levers E² E³ and the connecting-rod E⁴ renders it possible that the several movable parts of the device may be
100 made with much less accuracy than when such levers and connecting-rod are not employed.

The operation of our device has been sufficiently explained in the descriptions of the
105 construction of the movable parts thereof, but may be briefly stated to consist in the drawing forward and downward of the movable part B' of the top of the desk and the automatic raising of the curtain B² into posi-
110 tion, whereby the machine contained in the receptacle back of said curtain may be drawn forward, together with the base-board supporting the machine, upon the tracks *b'* over the movable part B' of the desk and into con-
115 venient position for use, thereby converting the desk from an ordinary desk of substantially the form illustrated in Fig. 1 into a writing-machine support.

The machine may at any time be slid, with
120 the base supporting it, backward into the receptacle therefor and the movable part B' of the desk raised upward and backward into the position illustrated in Fig. 1, the curtain B² being at the same time automatically
125 drawn downward in front of the receptacle wherein the machine is contained.

If a smaller desk than the one illustrated in the drawings herewith attached be desired, one end of the desk and one end of the top
130 thereof may be dispensed with in the ordinary way of shortening desks. The several drawers in the desk forming no material part of our invention, any one or more of them

may be dispensed with and legs substituted in their place, at the will of the maker of the device.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. In a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table, the combination of the movable part of the top of the desk, pivotal supports hinged to such movable part and pivoted to the rigid frame-work of the desk, tracks between which such movable part of the top of the desk descends when brought forward and downward with the top surface thereof substantially horizontal, and a base-board on which a writing-machine may be placed, resting upon and adapted to slide on such tracks and over the movable part of the desk, but not in contact therewith, all substantially as described.

2. In a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table, the combination of the movable part of the top of the desk, pivotal supports hinged to such movable part and pivoted to the rigid frame-work of the desk, tracks between which such movable part of the top of the desk descends when brought forward and downward with the top surface thereof substantially horizontal, each of such tracks formed of two rails, one of the rails secured to the rigid frame-work of the desk and the other secured to the rear side of the front pivotal support, and a base-board on which a writing-machine may be placed, resting upon and adapted to slide on such tracks over the movable part of the top of the desk, but not in contact therewith, all substantially as described.

3. In a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table, the combination of the movable part of the top of the desk, pivotal supports hinged to such movable part and pivoted to the rigid frame-work of the desk, tracks, each of such tracks formed of two rails, one secured to the rigid frame-work of the desk and the other to the rear side of the front pivotal support, a lever rigidly secured to each pivot of the back pivotal support, and a connecting-rod pivoted to the free end of each of such levers and extending therefrom to a pivotal point on the rear side of the front pivotal support, whereby when the movable part of the top of the desk is brought forward and downward between the tracks formed by the rails such connecting-rod will rest upon such track and the further movement of the several movable parts be thereby determined, substantially as described.

4. In a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table, the

combination of the movable part of the top of the desk, pivotal supports therefor hinged to such movable part and pivoted to the rigid frame-work of the desk, tracks, each of such tracks formed of two rails, one secured to the rigid frame-work of the desk and the other to the rear side of the front pivotal support, a movable platform on which the writing-machine is placed adapted to slide on the tracks, a lever rigidly secured to each pivot of the back pivotal support, a curtain adapted to be slid from in front of the writing-machine receptacle, and connecting-links extending from the pivoted levers to the sliding curtain, whereby when the movable part of the top of the desk is brought forward and downward between the track formed by the rails the curtain is slid away from before the writing-machine receptacle, so that the movable platform may be drawn forward over the movable part of the top of the desk, but not in contact therewith, substantially as described.

5. In a combined desk and writing-machine receptacle and writing-machine table, the combination of the movable part of the top of the desk, pivotal supports therefor hinged to such movable part and pivoted to the rigid frame-work of the desk, tracks, each of such tracks formed of two rails, one secured to the rigid frame-work of the desk and the other to the rear side of the front pivotal support, a lever rigidly secured to each pivot of the back pivotal support, a connecting-rod pivoted to the free end of each of such levers and extending therefrom to a pivotal point on the rear side of the front pivotal support, a movable platform on which the writing-machine is placed adapted to slide on the tracks, a second lever, also rigidly secured to each pivot of the back pivotal support, a curtain adapted to be slid from in front of the writing-machine receptacle, and connecting-links extending from the last-named pivoted levers to the sliding curtain, whereby when the movable part of the top of the desk is brought forward and downward between the track formed by the rails and into the position determined by the connecting-rod resting on such track the curtain is slid away from before the writing-machine receptacle, so that the movable platform may be drawn forward over the movable part of the top of the desk, but not in contact therewith, substantially as described.

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