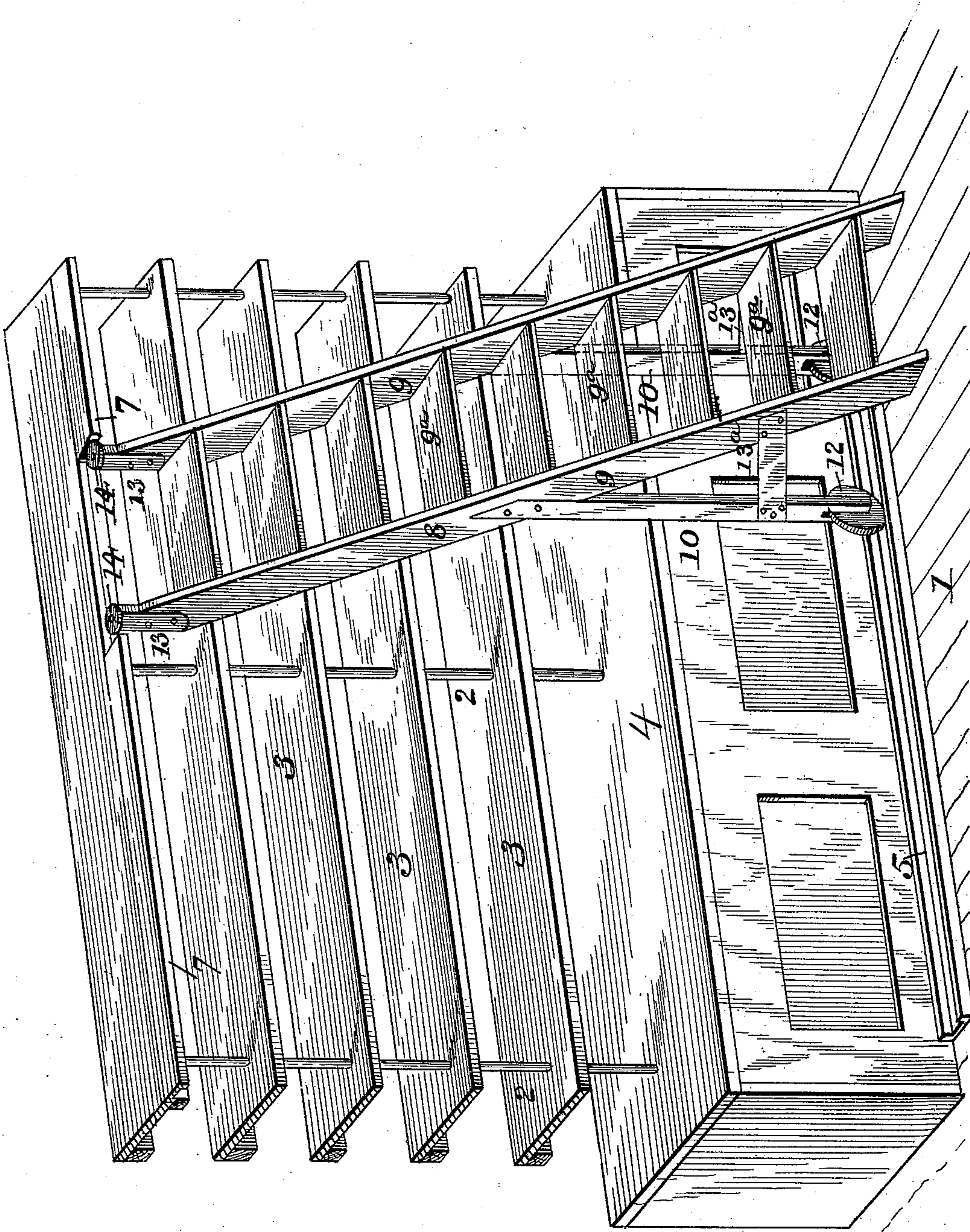


(No Model.)

J. E. GORDON.
TRAVELING STEP LADDER.

No. 464,433.

Patented Dec. 1, 1891.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. GORDON, OF LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY.

TRAVELING STEP-LADDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 464,433, dated December 1, 1891.

Application filed July 11, 1891. Serial No. 399,122. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. GORDON, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Lexington, in the county of Fayette and State of Kentucky, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Traveling Step-Ladders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in traveling step-ladders designed to be used in stores and other similar places. As is well known, in stores the shelving upon which is placed the goods or articles for sale usually consists of a series of boards of proper length and width arranged in parallel rows from the ceiling to a point about the height of the counter. From this point to the floor there is generally arranged a series of bins or compartments provided with doors and covers. As thus constructed it is very difficult to employ an ordinary ladder for the purpose of handling articles upon the upper shelves, owing to the contracted space between the counter and the shelving.

The object of my invention is to provide an improved construction of step-ladder which may be readily and easily pulled or pushed along in front of the shelves without requiring the operator to lift the same.

The invention consists in the improved construction hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing the figure represents a perspective view of ordinary store-shelving, showing my improved ladder in use therewith.

In the said drawing, the reference-numeral 1 designates the floor; 2, a series of uprights; 3, the horizontal shelves, and 4 the lower portion, which may be constructed with bins or compartments or be provided with drawers in the ordinary manner.

Secured to the floor and abutting against the lower portion of the shelving and extending horizontally from end to end thereof is a grooved track 5, which may be made of wood, metal, or other suitable material, and the upper shelves are provided with a

downwardly-depending flange 7, forming a way for the upper end of the ladder, hereinafter described.

The numeral 8 designates an ordinary ladder comprising the sides 9 and steps 9^a, having secured to said sides downwardly-extending arms 10, so arranged with respect to the ladder that when the latter is inclined at the proper angle to enable persons to climb the same they will occupy an upright position. The lower portions of these arms are bifurcated, in which bifurcations are journaled vertical wheels or rollers 12, which are adapted to engage with and run in the groove in the track 5. Braces 13^a may be provided for strengthening and stiffening the arms. The upper ends of the ladder are provided with arms 13, in which are journaled horizontal wheels or rollers 14, adapted to run in the way formed by the cover of the shelves and the depending flange.

The operation will be readily understood. The ladder when in use will occupy the position shown in the drawing, and to move it along in front of the shelves to change its position it is simply necessary to push or pull the same, which can be done with very little effort by reason of the wheels or rollers which support the same.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A ladder consisting of the sides, the steps, the horizontal wheels or rollers connected with said sides, and the downwardly-depending arms secured to the sides and having vertical wheels or rollers journaled in their lower ends, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with the ladder consisting of the sides, the steps, and the wheels at the upper end thereof, and the depending arms having rollers at their lower ends, of the shelving having a projecting cover and a downwardly-depending flange, and the grooved track at the lower end of said shelving, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN E. GORDON.

Witnesses:

DAN BRYAN,
F. T. JUSTICE.