

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. D. MERRIMAN & F. W. TILDEN.
BOOK HOLDER.

No. 480,410.

Patented Aug. 9, 1892.

FIG. 1.

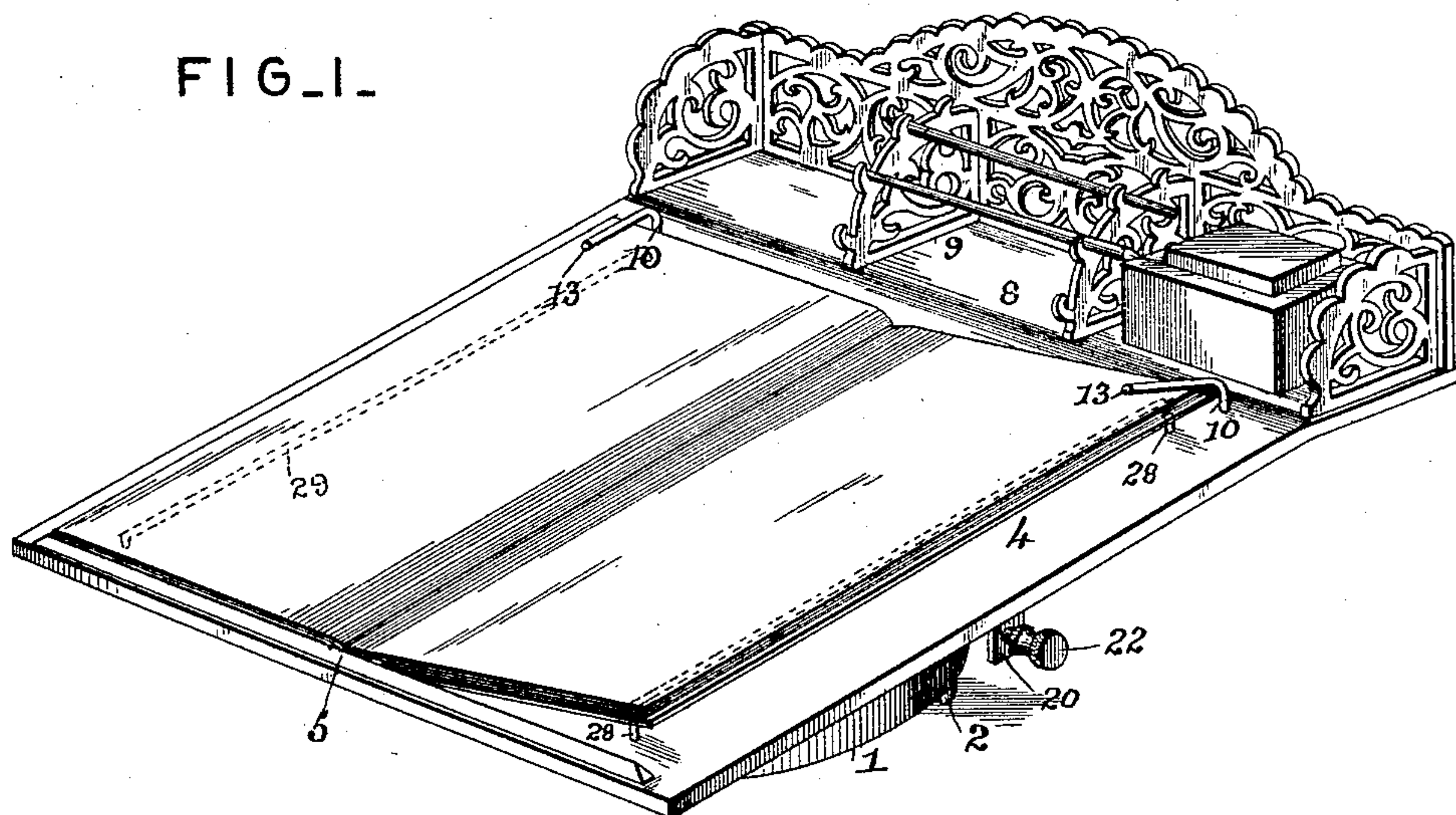
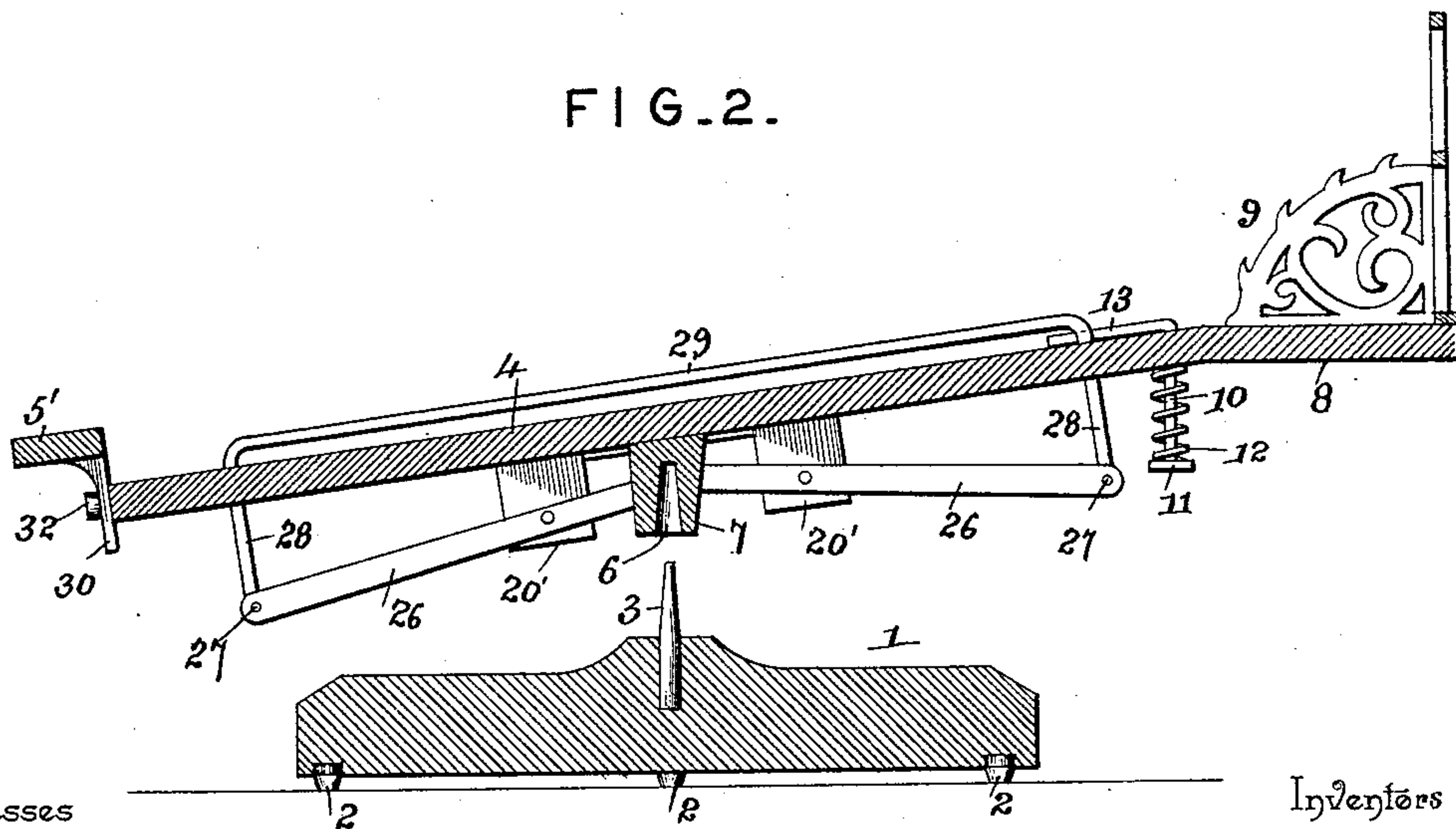


FIG. 2.



Witnesses

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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FIG. 3.

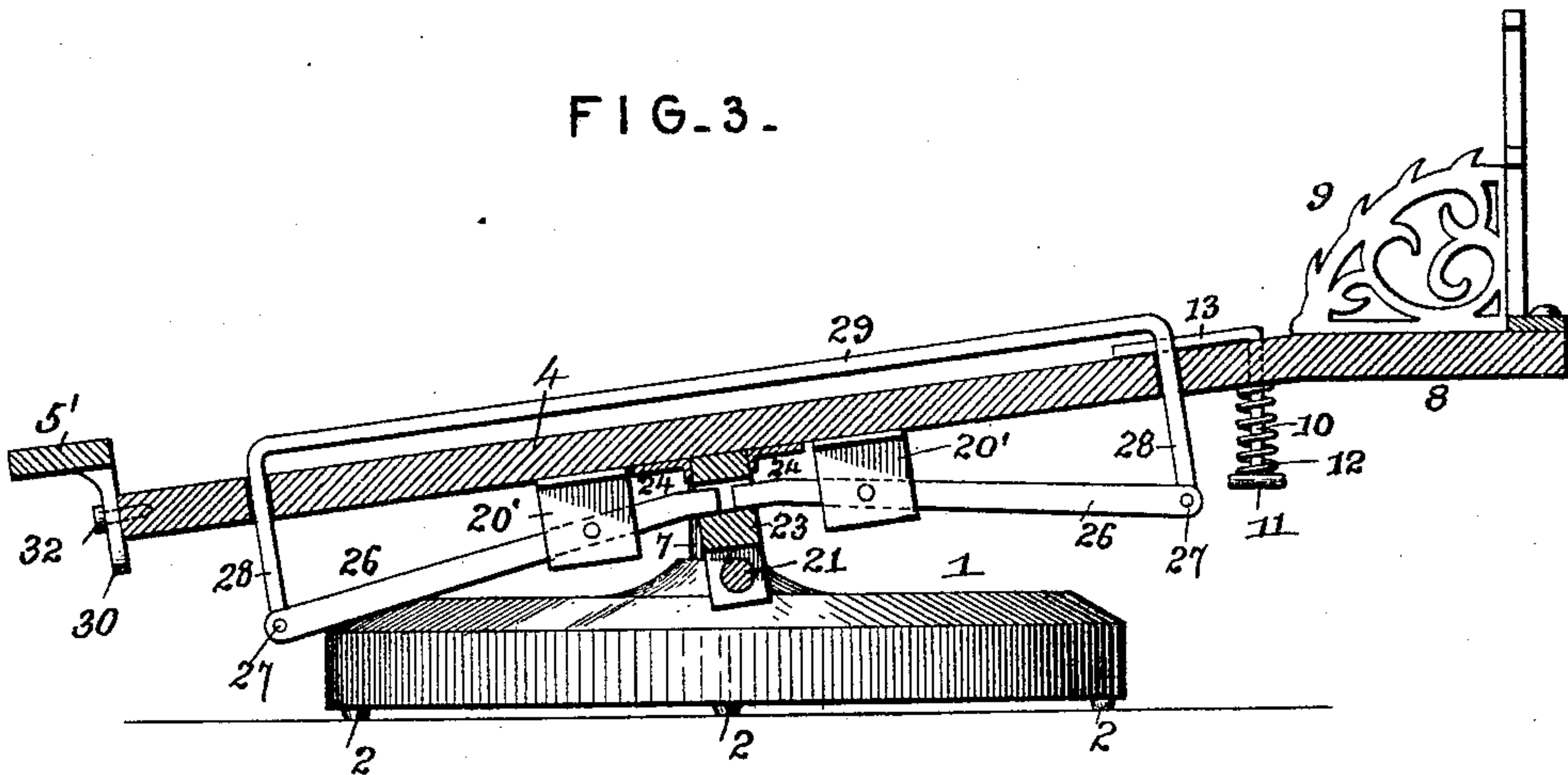


FIG. 4.

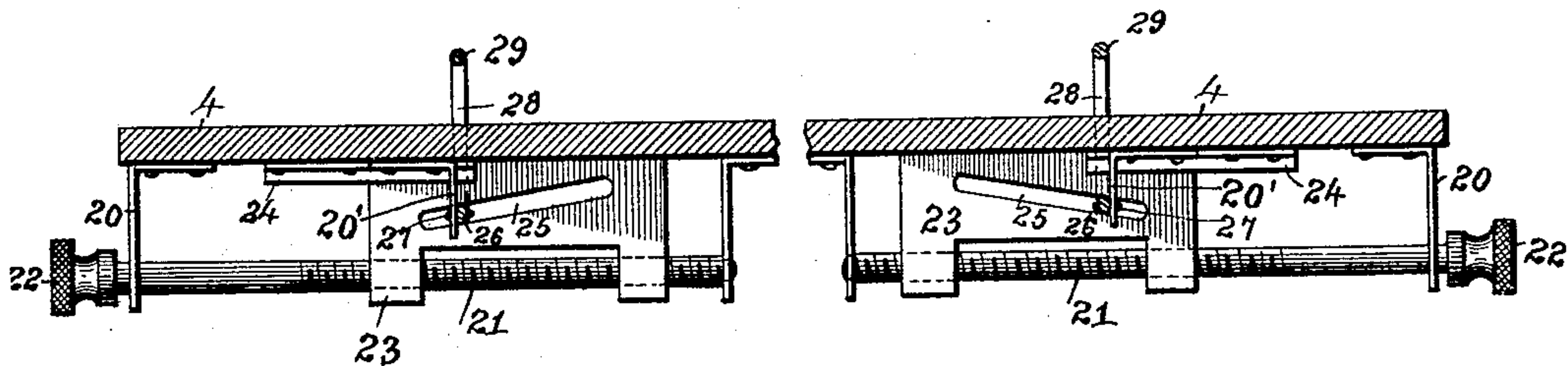
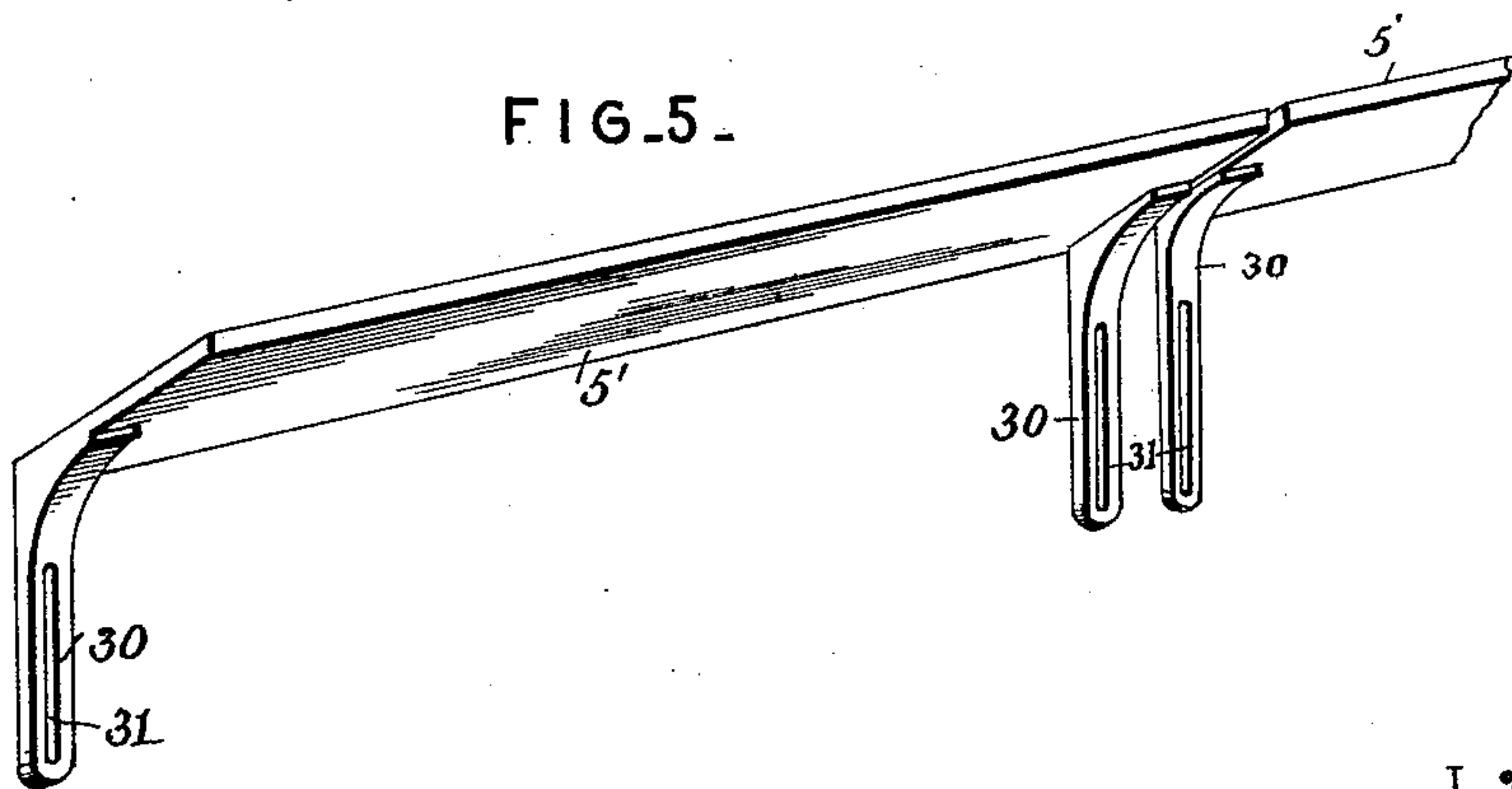


FIG. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES DWIGHT MERRIMAN AND FRANK WEBBER TILDEN, OF HINSDALE,
NEW HAMPSHIRE.

BOOK-HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 480,410, dated August 9, 1892.

Application filed November 14, 1891. Serial No. 411,899. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES DWIGHT MERRIMAN and FRANK WEBBER TILDEN, citizens of the United States, residing at Hinsdale, in the county of Cheshire and State of New Hampshire, have invented a new and useful Book-Holder, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to desk-furniture, and more especially to that class of devices known as "book-holders;" and the object of the same is to produce an improved device for holding hotel-registers and the like.

To this end the invention consists in a book-holder embodying the improved details of construction hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and as illustrated on the accompanying two sheets of drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of this device complete. Fig. 2 is a central longitudinal section thereof, with the stand slightly raised from the base. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal, and Fig. 4 a cross, section showing the book-raising devices. Fig. 5 is an enlarged perspective detail showing the adjustable heads.

Referring to the said drawings, 1 is the base, which is preferably a circular piece of wood having rubber balls or blocks 2 set into its lower face so as to form feet, which will rest on the top of a desk or counter to sustain the base without permitting its slipping or making scratches thereon. Rising from the center of the base is a pin 3, which may be cylindrical, but is preferably slightly tapered, as shown.

4 is the stand, which is preferably slightly inclined from its rear to its lower or front edge, where it carries a bead 5 to prevent the books slipping off the same, and depending from the center of this stand is a boss 7, having a central aperture 6, which loosely fits the pin, the aperture standing vertical when the face of the stand is slightly inclined, as described. At the upper end of the stand is a horizontal portion 8, having a pen-rack 9 and a place for an inkstand, pen-wiper, check-pockets, &c., as shown.

The hotel-register or other book is laid upon the stand and opened, as shown in Fig. 1, and for the purpose of holding the book open at the proper point we provide the following de-

vices, the illustration of which is best seen in Fig. 3.

10 is a rod passing vertically and loosely through a hole in the stand near its outer edge, and preferably near the horizontal portion 8, the lower end of this rod having a head 11, and 12 is an expansive spring coiled on the body of the rod between its head and the lower face of the stand. The upper end of the rod is bent at a right angle, (or less,) as shown at 13. There are two of these leaf-clamping devices, one near each edge of the stand, and when the book is opened the lateral arms 13 are raised against the force of the springs 12 and then turned and passed over the corners of the leaves and released. The springs draw the rods down through the stand and bear the arms 13 onto the leaves near their upper outer corners, and when it is desired to turn a page these leaf-clamping devices can be easily adjusted, as will be clear.

It is well known that with large books when the same are just opened or nearly finished the covers and the leaves adjacent thereto stand at an angle to a horizontal, being raised at their inner edges by the binding and resting at their outer edges on the desk, and in order to avoid this we make use of the book-raising devices best seen in Figs. 3 and 4, and preferably constructed as follows: In brackets or bearings 20 on the lower side of the stand is journaled a threaded shaft 21, having a milled knob 22, standing beyond the side edge of the stand, and moving on this shaft is a long nut 23, traveling between guides 24, and having in its body an oblique slot 25.

26 26 are two levers pivoted between their ends in brackets 20', their inner ends loosely entering said oblique slot and their outer ends being pivotally connected at 27 with the depending ends or feet 28 of a bar 29, the said bar standing above the face of the stand and its feet passing downward through holes therein, as shown. There is one of such book-raising devices near each side edge of the stand, and obviously by turning the knobs 22 in the proper directions these devices can be raised or lowered to cause the covers of the book to stand exactly parallel with the face of the stand.

We have said that we provided the lower edge of the stand with a bead 5, and this is illustrated in Fig. 1; but the preferable construction of this bead is as follows, and as best seen in Fig. 6:

5' is the body of the bead, which has near its ends depending brackets 30, provided with longitudinal slots 31, and through each of said slots passes a set-screw 32, which takes into the lower edge of the stand 4.

This device forms an arm-rest and is applied to the edge of the stand, and two of the same are employed and have their inner ends meeting at the transverse center of the said stand. By means of their set-screws they can be adjusted to accurately correspond in height with the pages which are to be written upon.

This entire device is of wood, metal, or other suitable material, suitably finished and ornamented, and considerable change in the specific details of construction above described may be made without departing from the spirit of our invention.

What is claimed as new is —

1. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand and spring-actuated leaf-clamping devices, substantially as described, near the upper corners thereof, of book-raising devices located near the side edges of the stand and each comprising a bar having downturned ends passing loosely through the stand and means for positively adjusting such ends through the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand, spring-actuated leaf-clamping devices near the upper corners thereof, and an adjustable bead, substantially as described, across each half of the lower edge of the stand, of book-raising devices located near the side edges of the stand and each comprising a bar having downturned ends passing loosely through the stand and means for positively adjusting such ends through the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand, spring-actuated leaf-clamping devices near the upper corners thereof, and positively-actuated book-raising devices near the side edges of the stand, of an adjustable bead in two sections across the lower edge of the stand, each section comprising a body having depending and longitudinally-slotted brackets, and set-screws passing through said brackets into the lower edge of the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand, positively-actuated book-raising devices near the side edges thereof, and an adjustable bead, substantially as described, across the lower edge of the stand, of leaf-clamping devices located near the upper corners of said stand, each of said devices consisting of a rod passing loosely through the hole in the stand, with its upper end bent at a right angle, a head at the lower end of the rod, and an expansive spring coiled on the

rod between its head and the lower face of the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand and positively-actuated book-raising devices near the side edges thereof, of an adjustable bead in two sections across the lower edge of the stand, each section comprising a body having depending and longitudinally-slotted brackets, and set-screws passing through said brackets into the lower edge of the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

6. In a book-holder, the combination, with the stand and a bead in two sections across the lower edge of the stand, each section being vertically adjustable, of book-raising devices located near the side edges of the stand, and each comprising a bar having downturned ends passing loosely through the stand, and means for positively adjusting such ends through the stand, as and for the purpose set forth.

7. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand and a bead in two sections across the lower edge of the stand, each section being adjustable at right angles to the face of the stand, of book-raising devices, substantially as described, located near the side edges of the stand, and positive means for adjusting them independently, as and for the purpose set forth.

8. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand having holes through its body near its side edges and a support for said stand, of book-raising devices located near the side edges of the stand and each comprising a bar standing over the face of the stand and having downturned ends passing loosely through said holes, levers pivoted to said ends, brackets carried by the stand and pivotally supporting the levers between their ends, and means, substantially as described, for moving the inner ends of the levers in unison, as and for the purpose set forth.

9. In a book-holder, the combination, with a stand having holes through its body near its side edges and a support for said stand, of book-raising devices located near the side edges of the stand and each comprising a bar standing over the face of the stand and having downturned ends passing loosely through said holes, levers pivoted to said ends, brackets carried by the stand and pivotally supporting the levers between their ends, a nut having an oblique slot loosely embracing the inner ends of said levers, and a threaded shaft journaled in bearings passing through said nut and having a milled knob on one end, as and for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signature in presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES DWIGHT MERRIMAN.
FRANK WEBBER TILDEN.

Witnesses:

FRANK DICKERMAN,
GEO. S. WILDER.