

(No Model.)

J. A. MEAHER.
TOY BASE BALL GAME.

No. 491,247.

Patented Feb. 7, 1893.

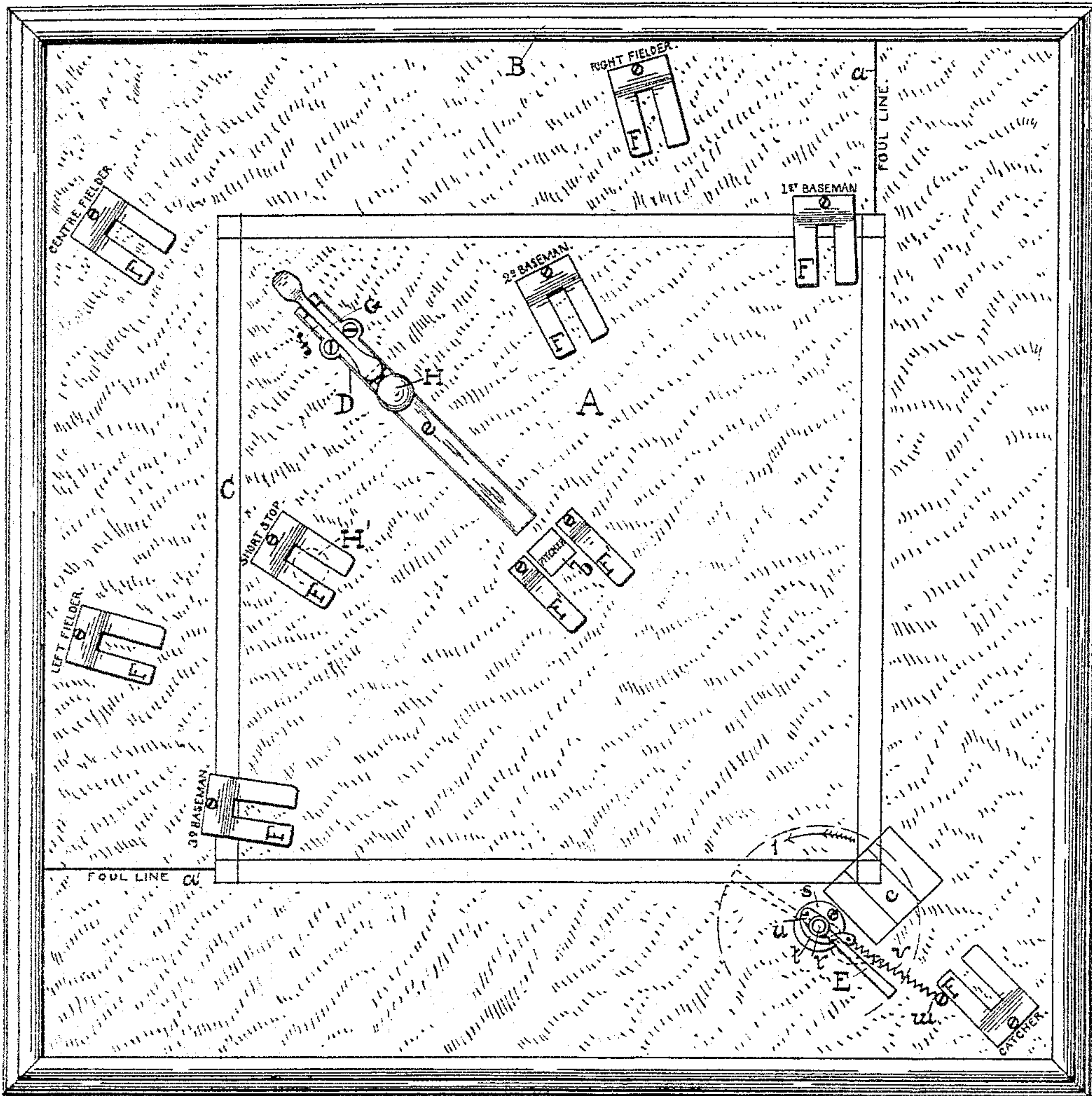


FIG. 1.

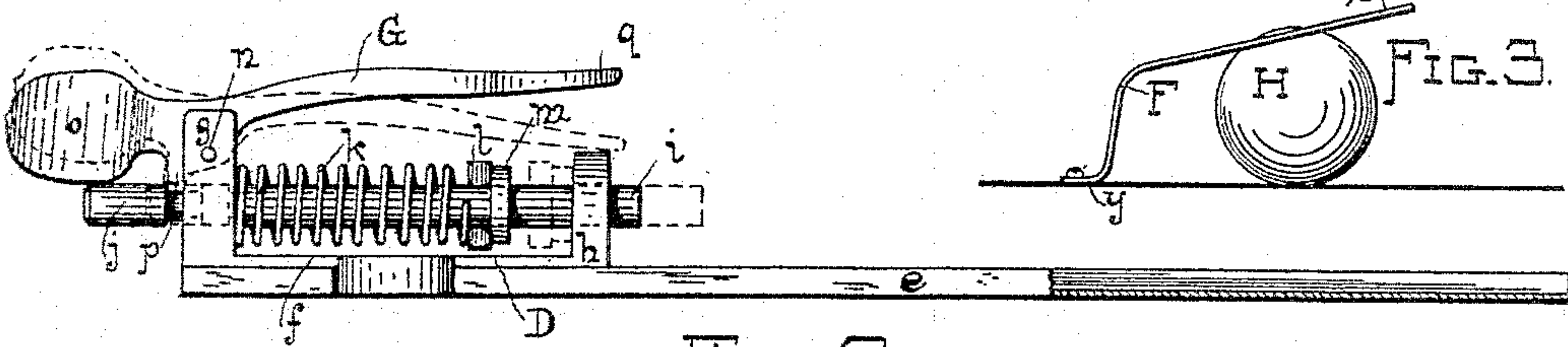


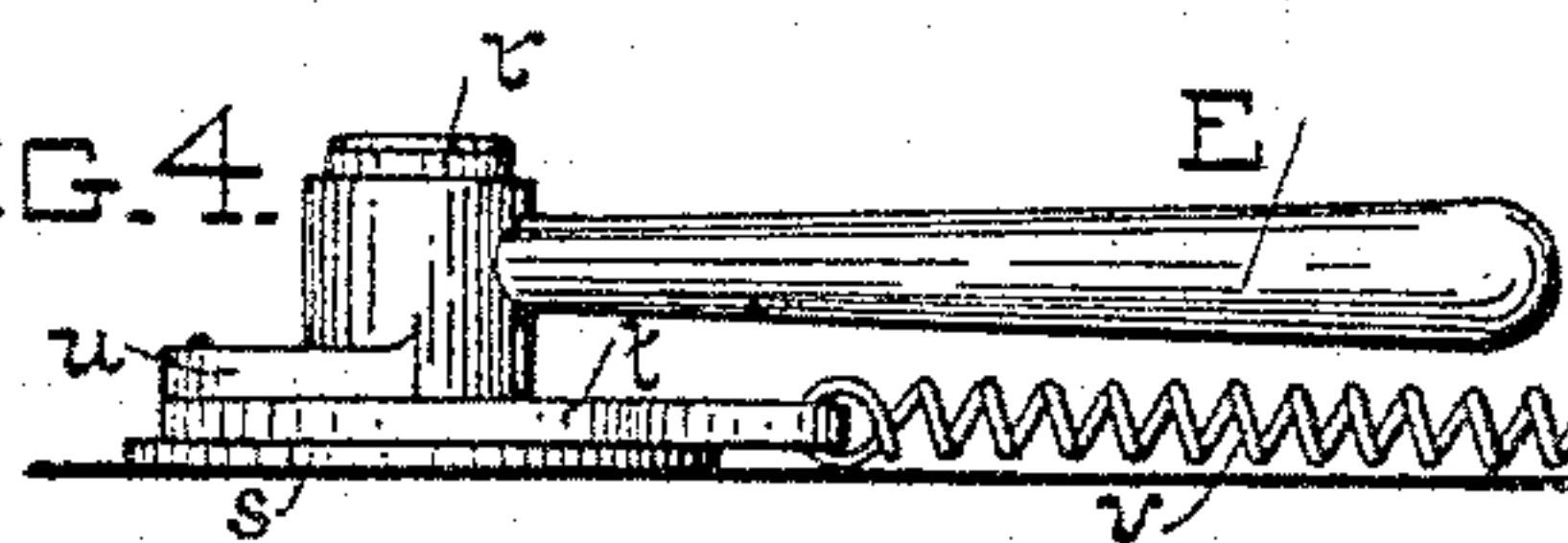
FIG. 2.

WITNESSES:

A. A. Cutter.

W. A. Biddle.

FIG. 4.



INVENTOR:

J. A. Meagher

By W. H. Burridge
att.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH A. MEAHER, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO.

TOY BASE-BALL GAME.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 491,247, dated February 7, 1893.

Application filed January 30, 1892. Serial No. 419,853. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH A. MEAHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cleveland, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Toy Base-Ball Game, of which the following is a description.

My invention relates to devices in which a pitcher or an apparatus for propelling a ball, a bat, and ten metal receivers or catchers are placed in the same relative positions as those occupied by men in the well known game of base ball and are secured to a flat board or field having a raised guard.

The object of my invention is to provide devices for playing the toy game of base ball, by one or more persons, in miniature. I attain this object by the means illustrated in the accompanying drawings and described in the following specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my devices; Fig. 2, an enlarged, side view of the pitcher or propelling apparatus; Fig. 3, an enlarged side view of one of the spring receivers or catchers, with the ball caught beneath it, and Fig. 4, an enlarged side view of the bat.

Similar letters refer to similar parts in the drawings and specification.

The square, flat field or board A, has the raised guard B, on its four sides, of sufficient height to prevent a ball from rolling off the field and has marked upon it the large square C, the two foul lines *a*, the pitcher's box *b*, and the batsman's station *c*, or home plate.

To the board A, are secured the propelling apparatus or pitcher D, the bat E, and the spring receivers or catchers F, and F'. The propelling or pitching apparatus D, is at one end of a guide *e*, and consists of a horizontal bed or plate *f*, at either end of which are the uprights *g* and *h*, Fig. 2. The rod *i*, being turned down so as to form the collar *j*, at one extremity, is made to slide easily through openings in the uprights *g* and *h*. The spring *k*, bearing at one end against the upright *g*, and at the other end against pin *l*, passing through the rod *i*, has a constant tendency to force the rod *i*, forward until the washer *m*, alone separates the rod *i*, from the upright *h*. The lever G, turns upon the pin *n*, which connects said lever to the forked head of the upright *g*, and the head *o*, being much heavier than the rest

of the lever G, forces the latch *p*, down in front of the collar *j*, when the rod *i*, is pushed back, and securely holds it in the position indicated by the full lines in Fig. 2, when the forward end *q*, of the lever G, is pushed down, the latch *p*, releases the rod *i*, which is projected forward with considerable force by the spring *k*, until the washer *m*, strikes the upright *h* as indicated by the dotted lines Fig. 2, and if a ball be placed before the forward end of the rod *i*, when said rod is drawn back, upon the release of the same the ball will be propelled to a considerable distance and in a straight line, (owing to the influence of the guide *e*, through which it passes,) over the home plate.

To the post *r*, which is fastened to the disk *s*, and that in turn fastened to the board A, is pivoted the bat E, at a point sufficiently high to strike the ball, driven toward it by the pitcher D if the bat is released at the right time. The link *t*, is pivoted at one end to the flattened prolongation *u*, of the bat E, and at the other end to the unattached extremity of the spring *v*. When the bat E, is in the position indicated by the full lines in Fig. 1, it will be readily seen that the end at *u*, of the link *t*, is beyond the center, hence the force of the spring *v*, exerted along a line extending from the fixed end *w*, of the spring *v*, to the center of the post *r*, will not affect the position of the bat E, but when the bat E, is moved so as to bring the prolongation *u*, back of the center, the force of the spring *v*, will swing the bat E, around in the direction indicated by the arrow 1, until the bat E, and the link *t*, assume the position of the dotted lines.

The spring receivers or catchers F and F', are of sufficiently flexible metal to hold the ball when driven beneath their projecting prongs and are secured at the base *y*, to the board A in the position relatively occupied by a base ball nine. The receiver F', is necessarily in two parts for the purpose of leaving an unobstructed passage for the ball on its way toward the bat. As the ball H, is projected forward by the pitcher D, the bat E, is pushed by the center until brought under the influence of the spring *v*, when it swings forcibly around striking the ball H, as it passes over the home plate *c*, (provided the bat is sprung at the proper time,) and the ball H, is

then driven over the board, when it may be caught and held by one of the receivers or catchers F, or F', as at H', which is an out for the batter. In case the ball is driven between 5 the receivers or catchers F, F', or if the said catchers fail to hold the ball it then counts for a base hit, four of such base hits score a run. When the said catchers have received and held three balls, then the side which is at 10 the bat E, takes the field and the game is again repeated as herein before described.

This toy game is to be played under the rules, as nearly as possible, as those recognized in the national game.

15 What I claim as my invention and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a toy base ball game, a ball catching and holding device comprising a strip of resilient material firmly secured at one end only, 20 and having its free end bent vertically upward,

and then at a slight angle to the horizontal, and directed toward the point from which the ball will come, substantially as described.

2. In a toy base ball game, a ball catching device consisting of a strip of resilient metal 25 firmly secured at one end and inclining upwardly toward the point from which the ball will come, substantially as described.

3. In a toy base ball game, a ball catching device consisting of a strip of resilient mate- 30 rial firmly secured at one end, and having its other end bifurcated and inclined upwardly toward the point from which the ball is to come, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in 35 presence of two witnesses.

JOSEPH A. MEAHER.

Witnesses:

L. F. GRISWOLD,
JULIUS MUELLER.