

(No Model.)

E. B. STEBBINS.  
COMBINED STEP LADDER AND BENCH.

No. 500,439.

Patented June 27, 1893.

Fig 1.

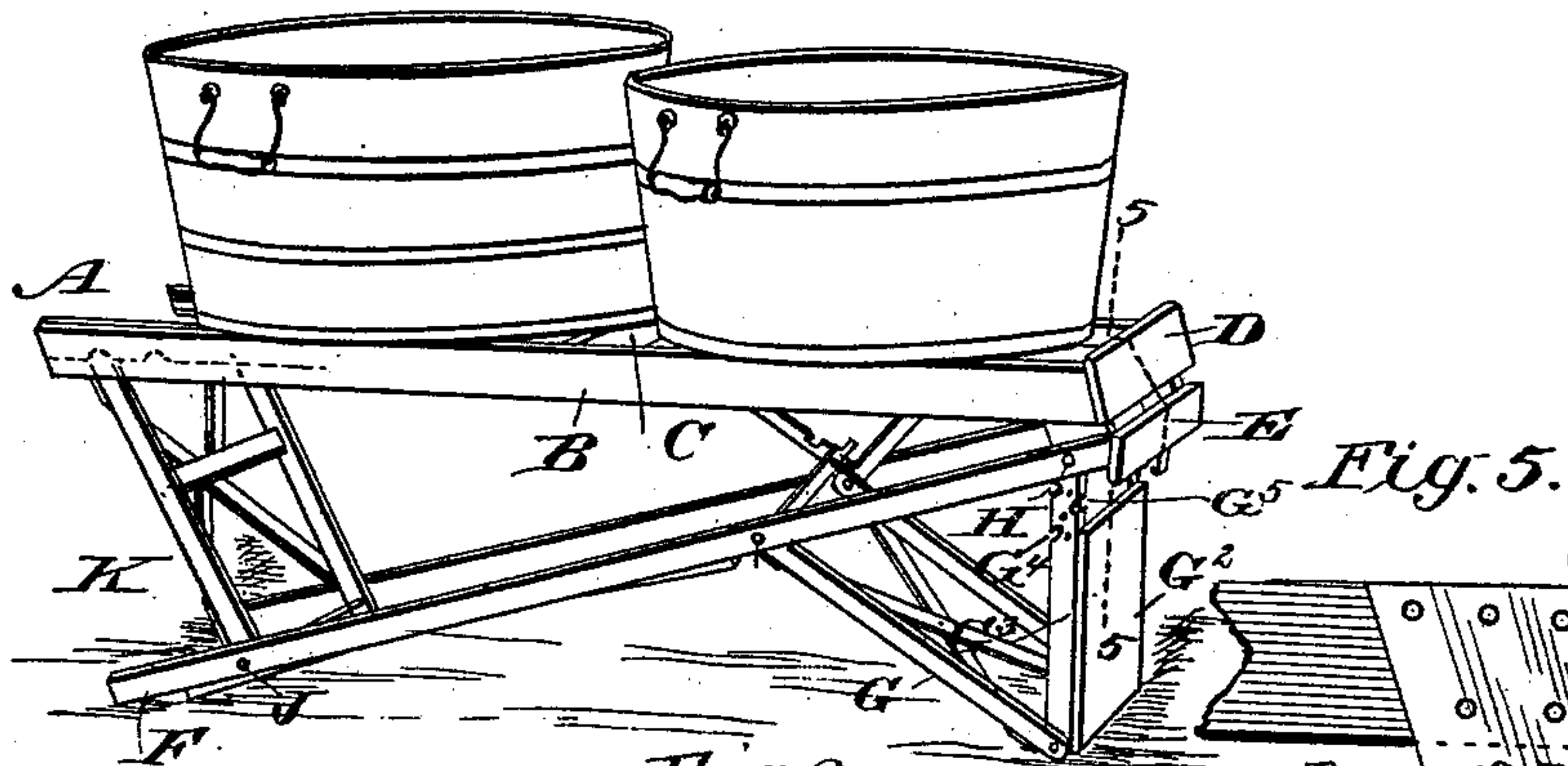


Fig 2.

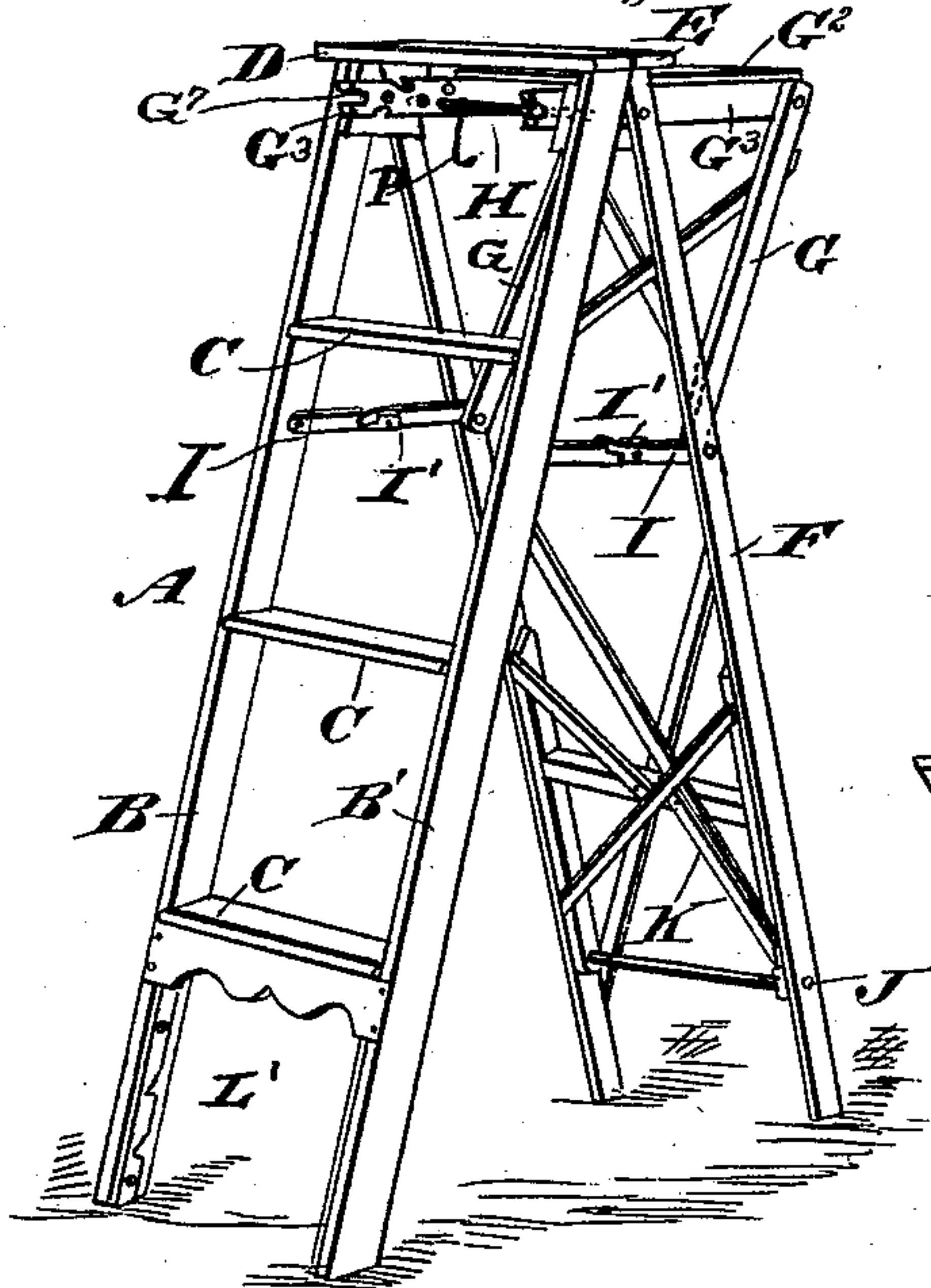


Fig 3.

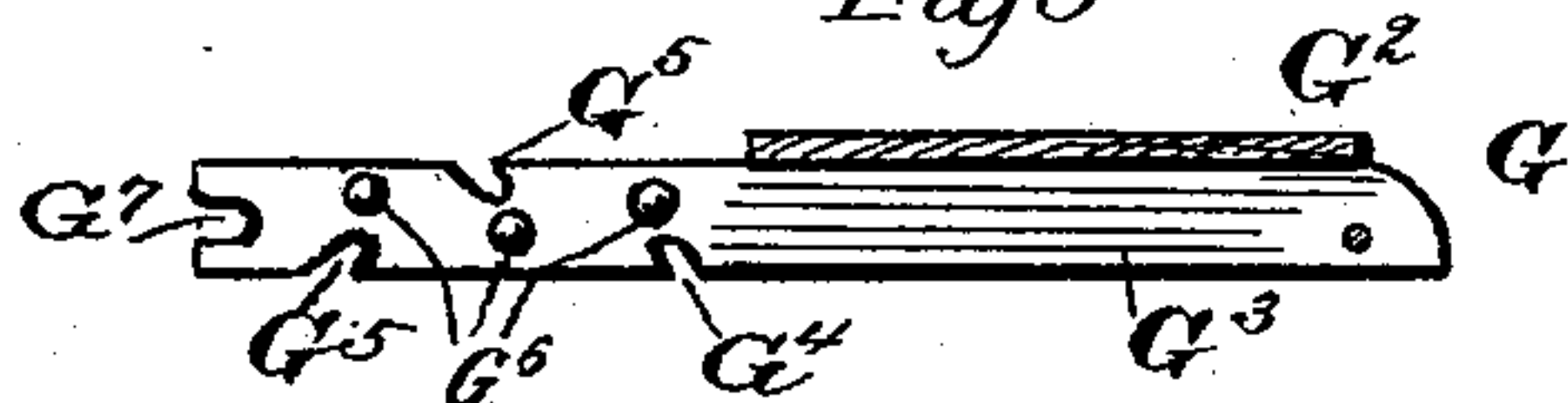


Fig 4.

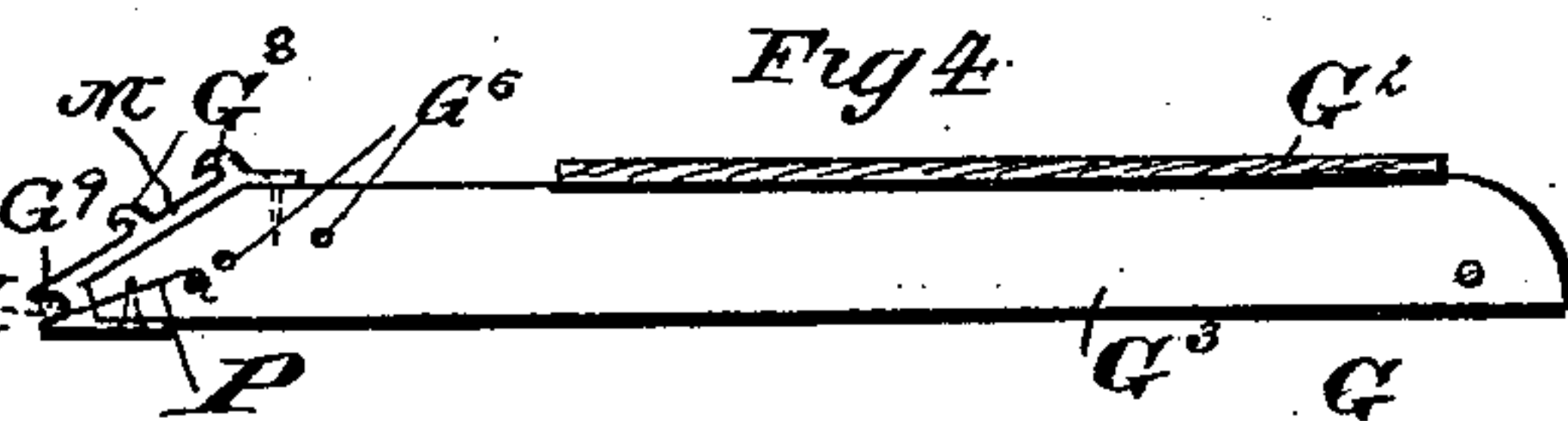


Fig 5.

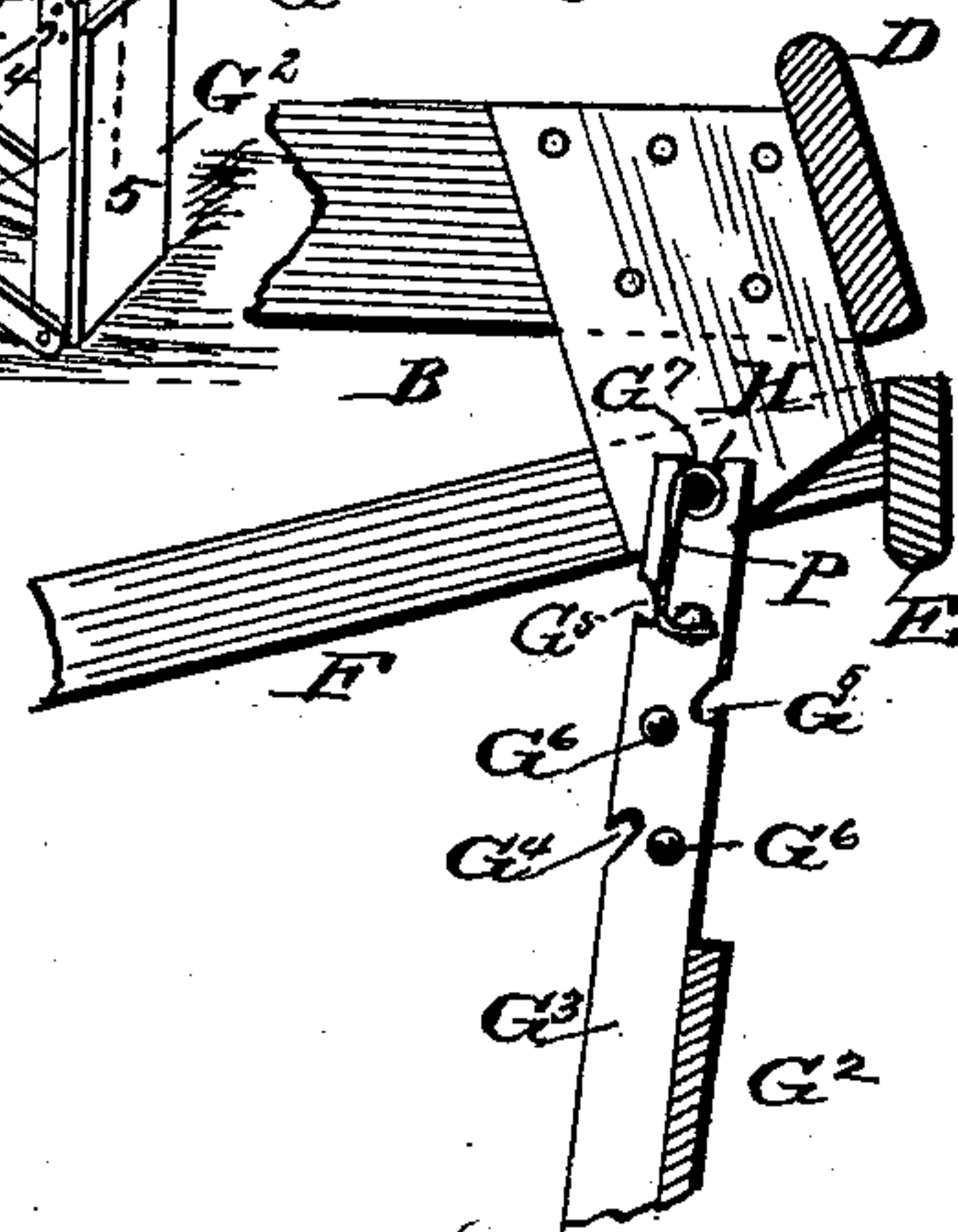
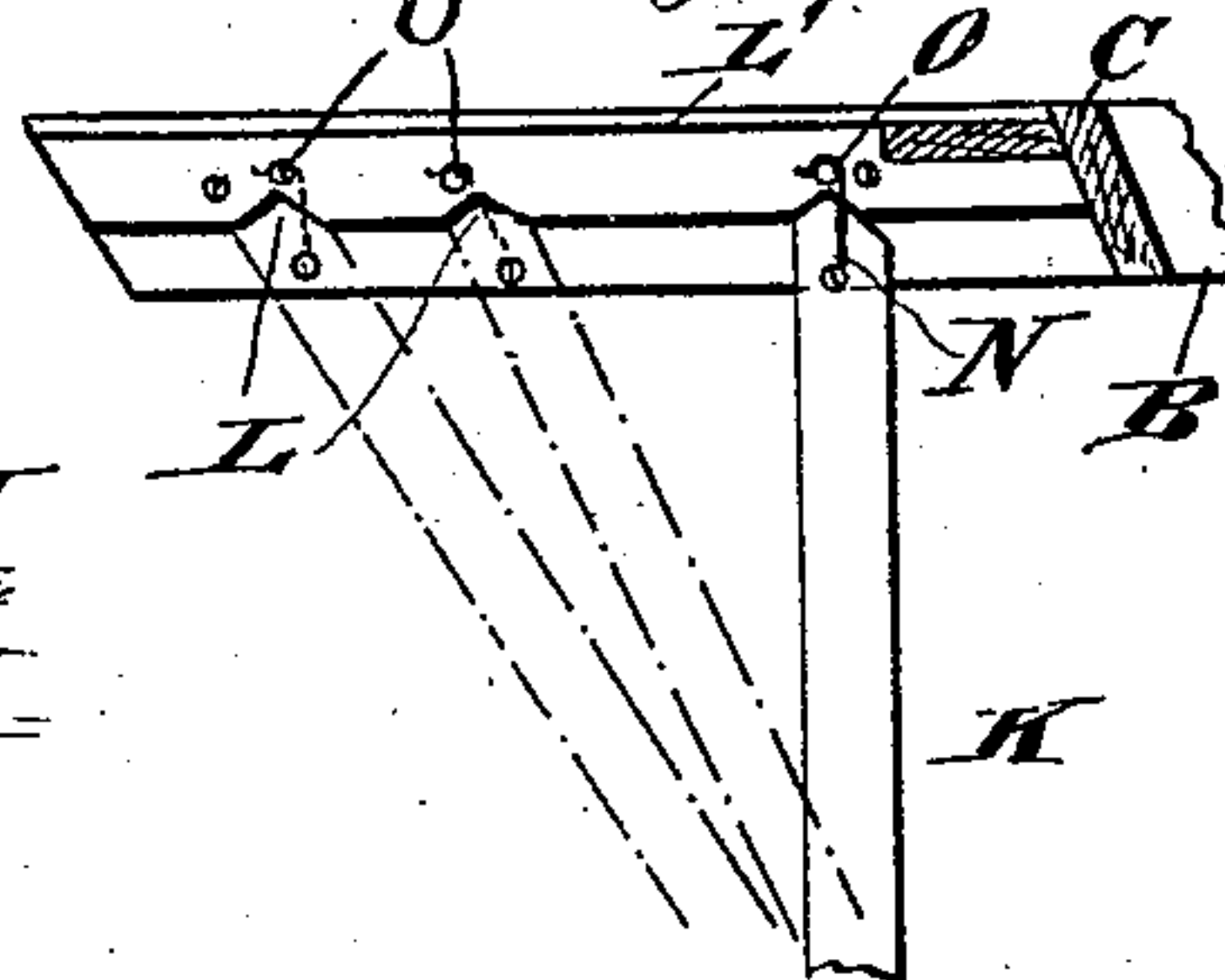


Fig 6.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ENSIGN B. STEBBINS, OF LAKEVIEW, MICHIGAN.

## COMBINED STEP-LADDER AND BENCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 500,439, dated June 27, 1893.

Application filed September 27, 1892. Serial No. 447,012. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ENSIGN B. STEBBINS, of Lakeview, in the county of Montcalm and State of Michigan, have invented a new and Improved Combined Step-Ladder and Bench, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The invention relates to household articles, and its object is to provide a new and improved combined ladder and bench, which is simple and durable in construction and arranged for use either as a step ladder or as a bench for supporting wash tubs and other articles.

The invention consists of certain parts and details and combinations of the same, as will be hereinafter described and then pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement arranged as a bench. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same arranged as a step-ladder. Fig. 3 is a sectional side elevation of the shelf. Fig. 4 is a like view of a modified form of the same. Fig. 5 is an enlarged cross section of the head of the step-ladder, showing the parts in the same position as in Fig. 1. Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the lower leg engaging the step ladder part, said part being shown in section.

The combined step ladder and bench is provided with a ladder A formed of the usual stringers B, B', and the rungs or steps C, connecting the stringers with each other. The upper ends of the stringers are connected with each other by a platform D, and a second platform E is rigidly secured on the upper end of the brace F, so that when the ladder is erected, as shown in Fig. 2, the platform E abuts against the platform D, thus holding the brace in a spread position, thereby supporting the ladder A in an inclined position.

A shelf, G<sup>2</sup>, is attached to parallel bars, G<sup>3</sup>, and, when the step-ladder is erected as shown in Fig. 2, the said shelf is horizontal, but in a slightly lower plane than the platforms, D and E. The means for supporting the bars, G<sup>3</sup>, are, in part, the frame G, which stands in an oblique

position, being pivoted to the brace, F, at its lower end, and to the shelf carrying bars, G<sup>3</sup>, at its upper end. The inner ends of the bars, G<sup>3</sup>, are detachably engaged with and supported by the transverse rod, H, on which the upper ends of the brace, F, are pivoted as shown best in Fig. 2 and 5. The upper and under sides of the bars, G<sup>3</sup>, are provided with notches, G<sup>4</sup>, (see Figs. 3 and 5,) which incline one way, and with notches, G<sup>5</sup>, that incline the other way. The ends of the bars also have notches G<sup>7</sup>. Studs, or headed pins, G<sup>6</sup>, are fixed in the inner sides of the bars for a purpose that will be presently stated. When the step-ladder is used as such—as shown in Fig. 2—the bars, G<sup>3</sup>, rest on the cross-rod, H, being held engaged or locked with said rod by the notches, G<sup>4</sup>. In such case the shelf, E, may serve as a support for a basket used as a fruit-receptacle. But when the step-ladder is used as a bench—as shown in Figs. 1 and 5—either the notches G<sup>5</sup> or G<sup>7</sup> must engage the rod, H, and, to hold the parts locked together, a hook P, which is pivoted on said rod, is engaged with one of the pins, G<sup>6</sup>, as shown in Fig. 5. It is apparent, that the height at which the bench is required to support the tubs will determine which of the notches G<sup>5</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, shall be engaged with the rod, H. In some cases, I propose to dispense with notches G<sup>4</sup>, G<sup>5</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, in the bars, G<sup>3</sup>, and employ a metal casting, M, which is applied to the ends of said bars, G<sup>3</sup>, and provided with hooks, G<sup>8</sup>, and an end notch, G<sup>9</sup>, which has the same function as the notches G<sup>5</sup> and G<sup>7</sup> in the bars G<sup>3</sup>.

A frame, K, is pivoted on a transverse rod J—Fig. 2—and adapted to fold upward between the bars of brace, F, so that it may be out of the way when the step-ladder is used as such. The free ends of the side bars of frame, K, are beveled and thus adapted to fit in notches, L—see Fig. 6—formed in strips, L', attached to the lower ends of the stringers B, B', on their inner sides. In order to hold the frame, K, engaged with said strips L', a hook N, and pins O, may be employed, the same being arranged as shown in Fig. 6. It is obvious that the notches L' might be formed in the stringers B, B', instead of the strips, L.

The spreading of the lower ends of brace F, is prevented by links I, which pivotally con-

nect stringers B B' with the bars composing the brace. Each link, I, is provided at the middle with a rule or lock-joint, I', in order to permit the brace, F, to fold parallel to the stringers.

What I claim is—

1. The combination, with the ladder, the folding brace, F, and the transverse pivot rod, H, of the frame, G, pivoted to the brace, the shelf-carrying bars, G<sup>3</sup>, pivoted to said frame, and having notches as described, which adapt it for engagement with the rod, H, all arranged as shown and described.

2. The combination, with the step-ladder

proper, having the transverse pivot rod, H, and the notches, L', in its lower portion, of the adjustable head-support composed of the frame G, and shelf carrying bars, G<sup>3</sup>, having notches as specified, and the adjustable pivoted foot supporting frame, K, adapted to engage said notches, L', whereby the step-ladder may be adjusted at different heights when used as a bench, as specified.

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Witnesses:

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