(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 1.

E. H. TURNER.

PERMANENT SALVAGE DEVICE FOR PROTECTING GOODS ON DISPLAY COUNTERS, &c.

No. 544,871. Patented Aug. 20, 1895.

Fig. 1.

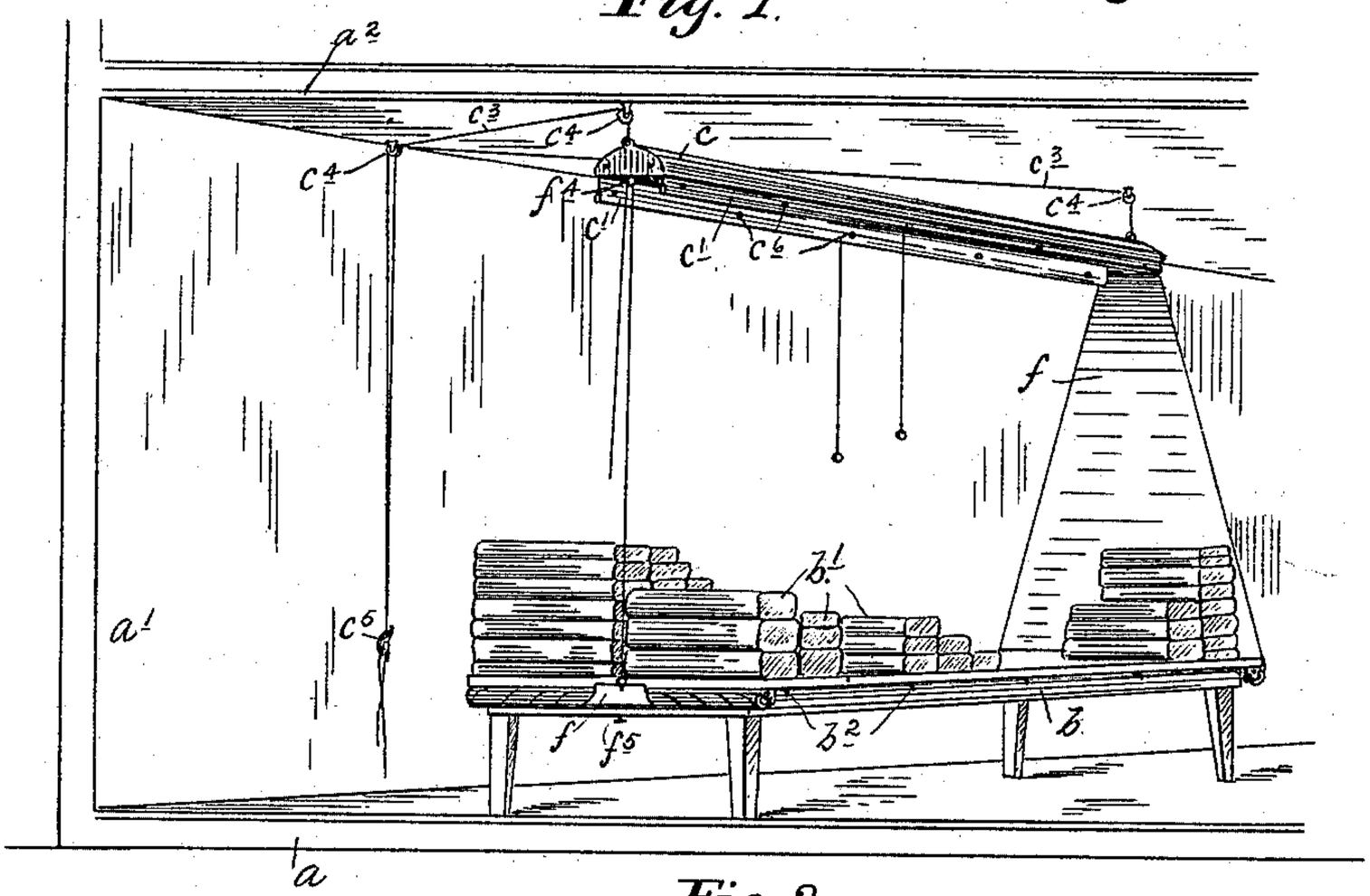


Fig. 2.

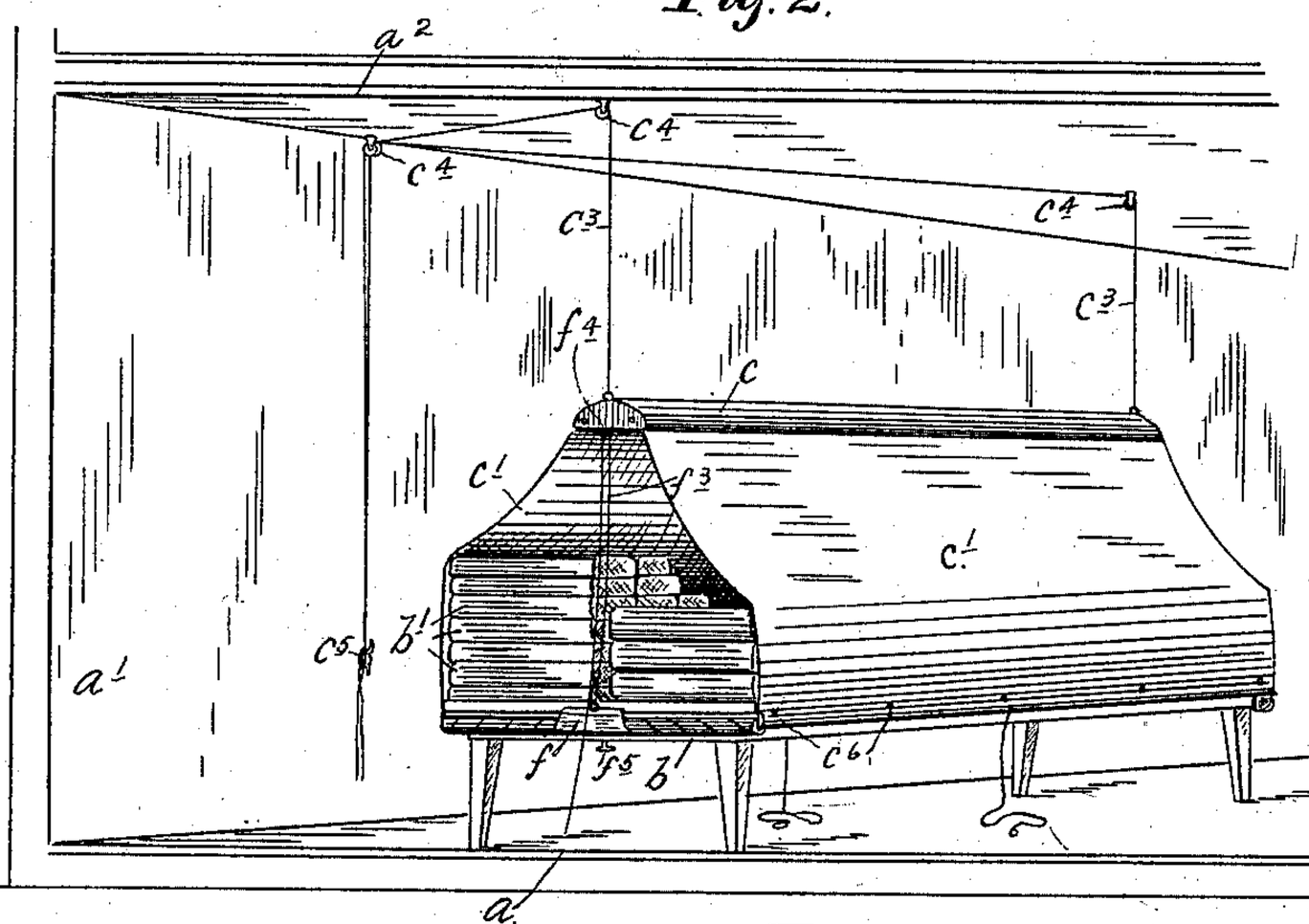
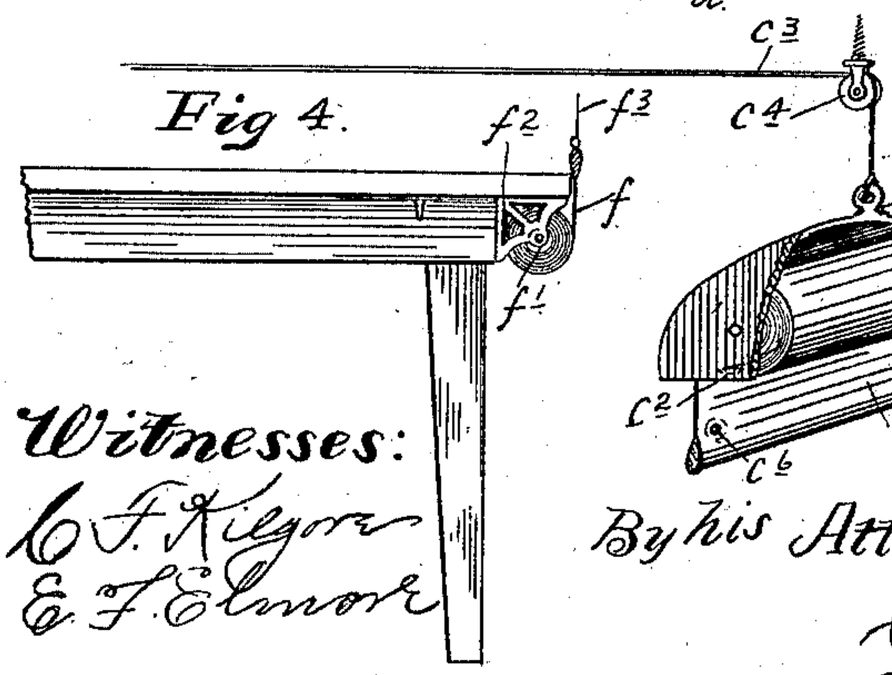


Fig. 3.



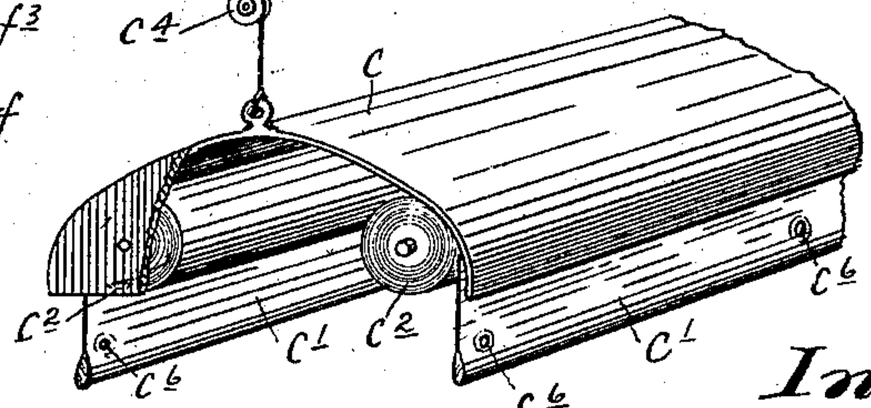


Fig. 4.

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(No Model.) 3 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig 5.

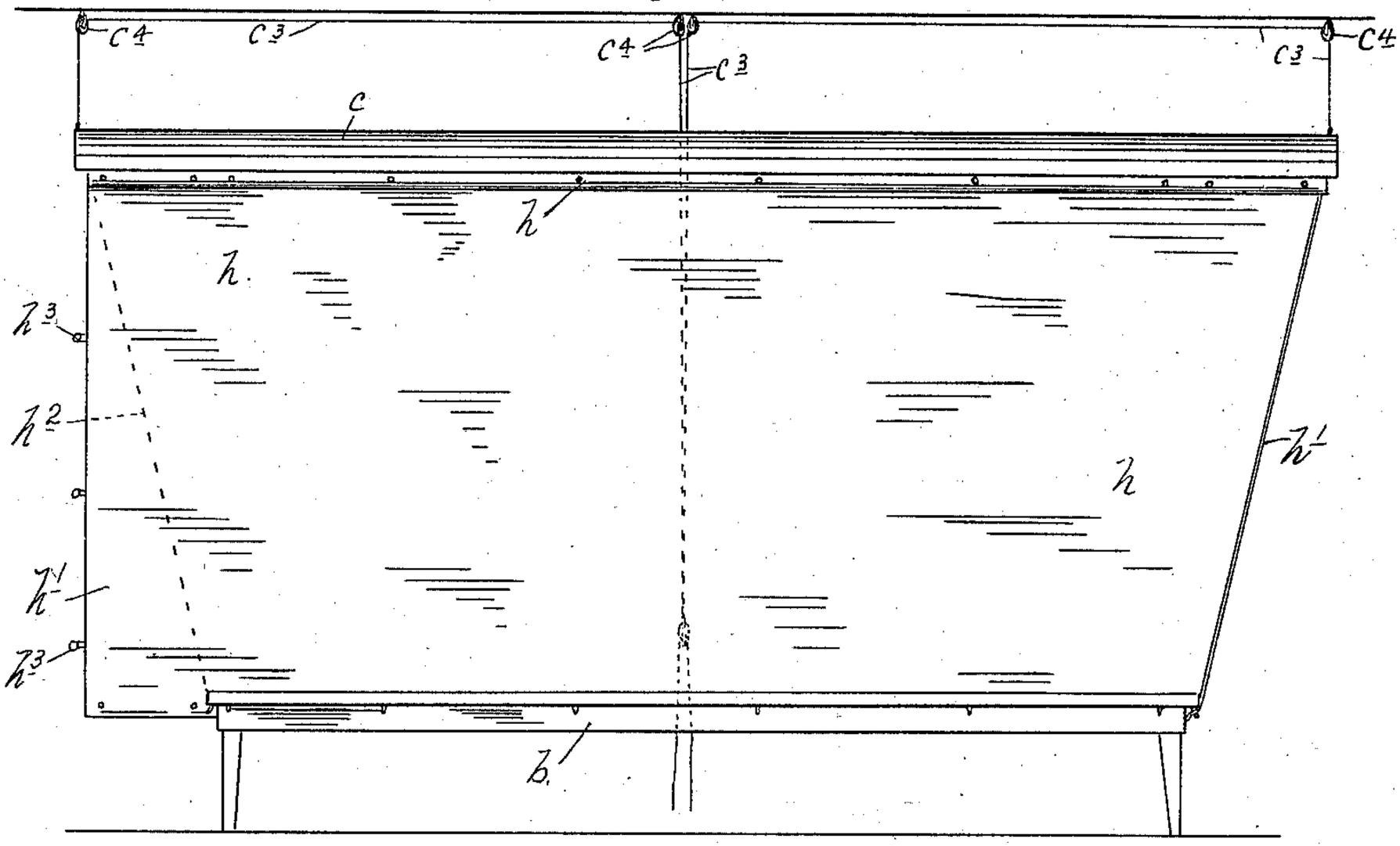

Fig. 6.

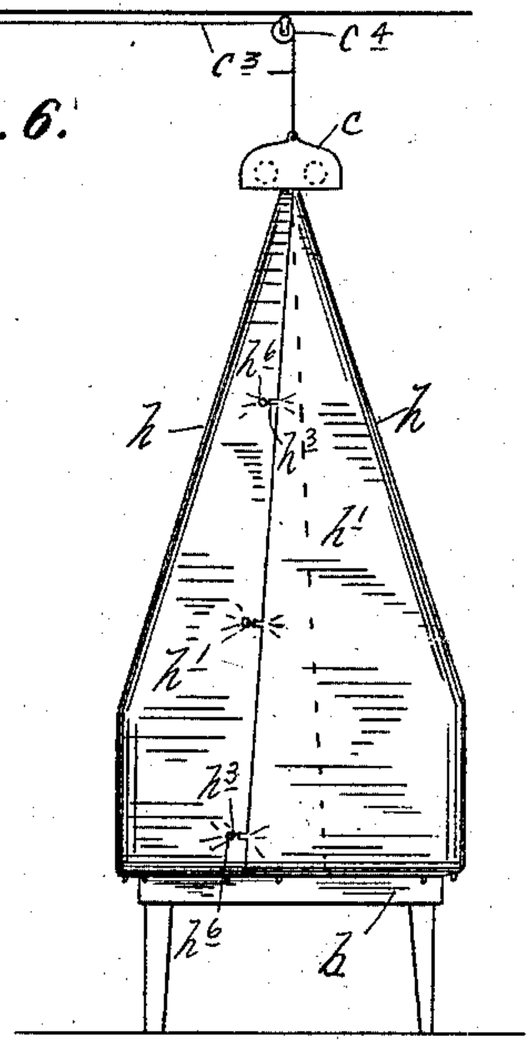

Fig. 7.

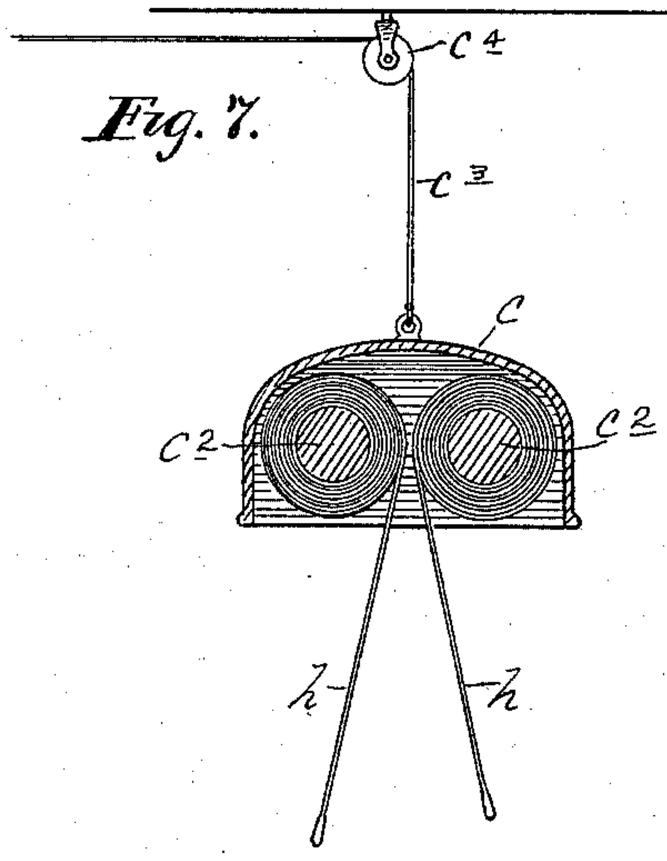

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Fig. 8.

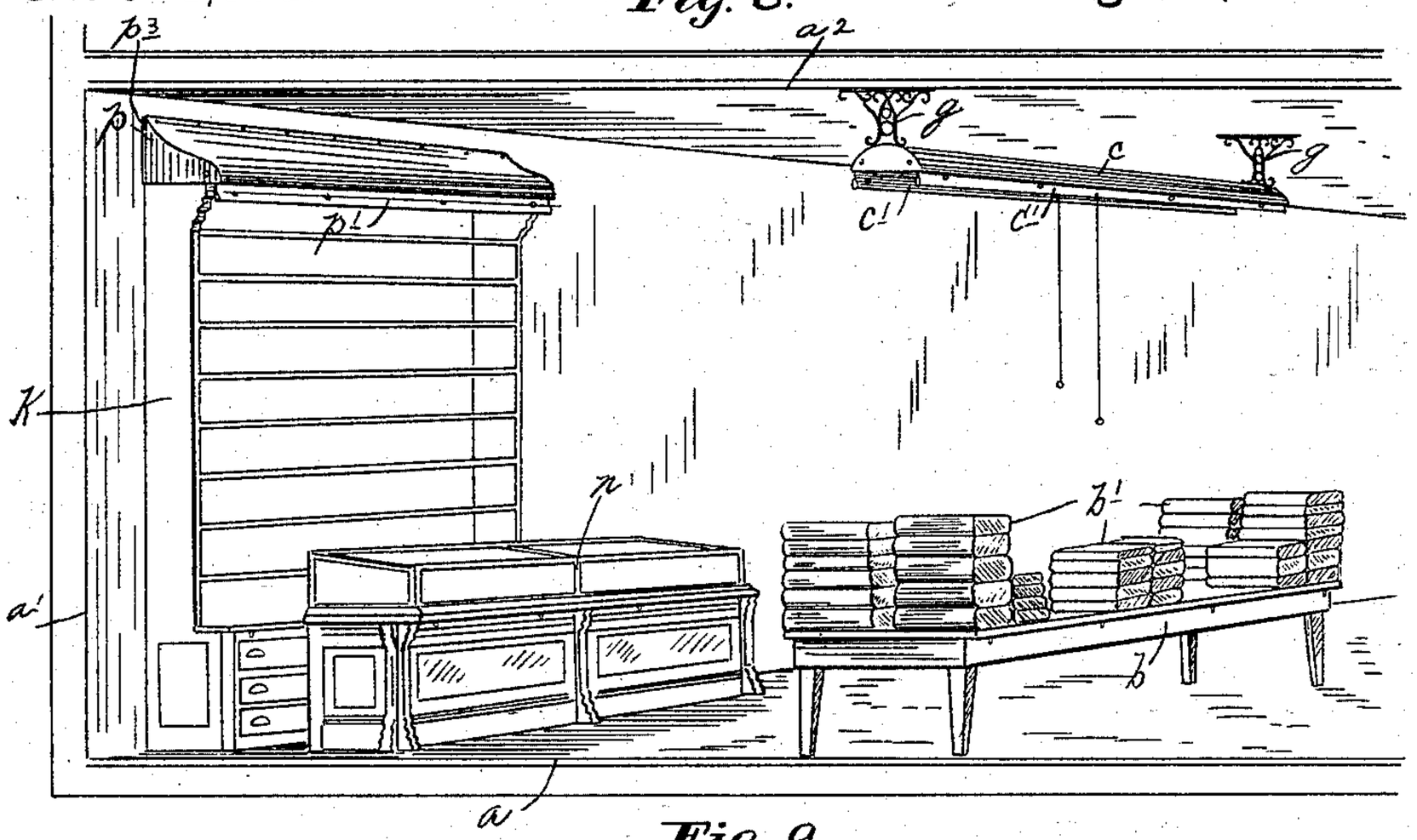


Fig. 9.

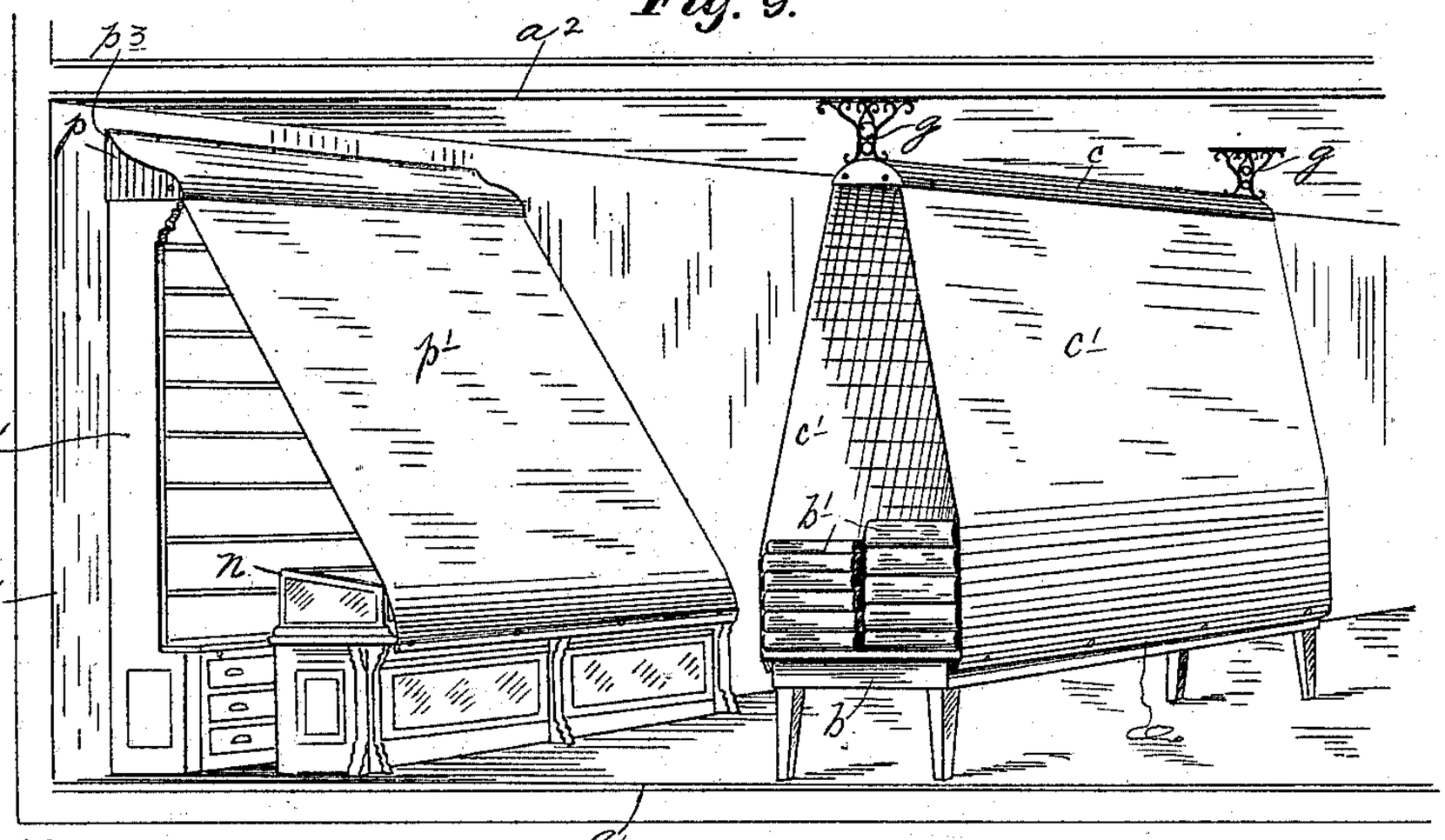


Fig. 10

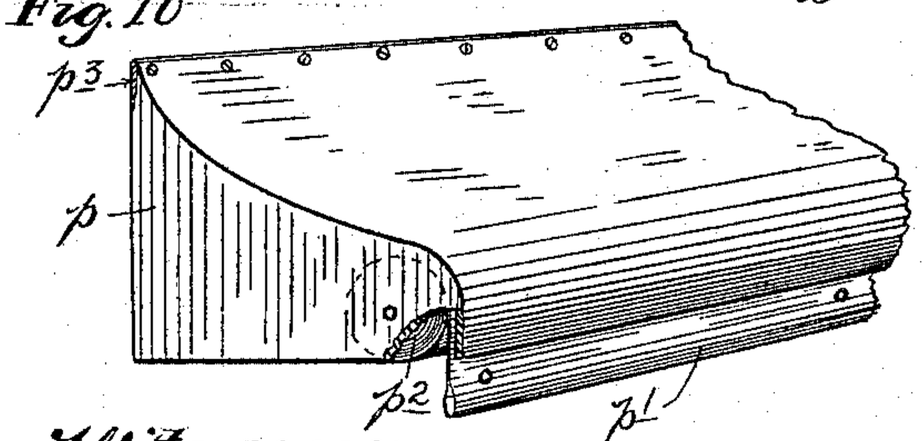
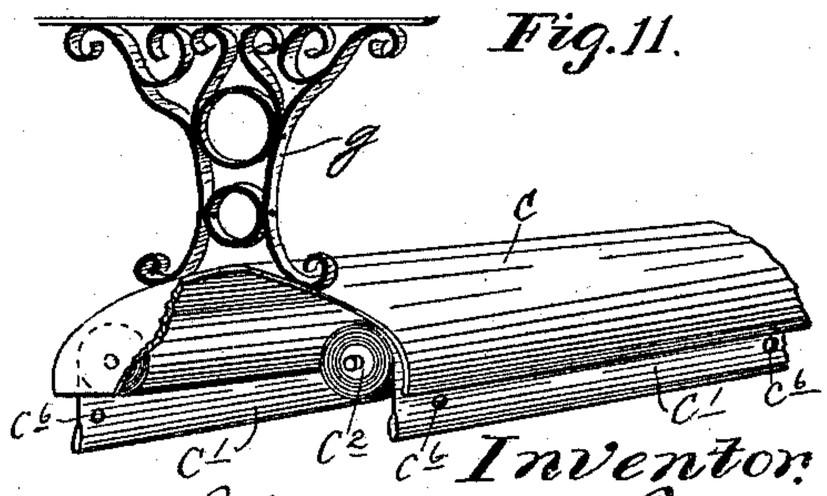


Fig. 11.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDWARD H. TURNER, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN S. KEARNEY, OF SAME PLACE.

PERMANENT SALVAGE DEVICE FOR PROTECTING GOODS ON DISPLAY-COUNTERS, &c.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 544,871, dated August 20, 1895.

Application filed June 24, 1895. Serial No. 553,816. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDWARD H. TURNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Permanent Salvage Devices for Protecting Goods on Display-Counters, Shelving, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to provide a permanent salvage device for protecting goods on display-counters, shelving, &c., from injury by water at times of fire or otherwise. It is a fact well known that in the large cities with well-organized fire departments the injury to goods and the resulting loss therefrom on account of water is greater than from the direct action of the fire. Fires are frequently stopped on single stories of a building; but at the same time the large quantity of water required therefor will often flood all the lower stories of a building, thereby occasioning great loss in case the said lower floors happen to be occupied by a class of goods which can be damaged by water. A few of the best-equipped cities are provided with salvage-corps as part of the fire department; but by far the greater number of even the large cities and pretty much all the smaller ones are without any such salvage-corps. Even where salvage-corps are provided they can seldom reach the building as quickly as desirable for the purpose of spreading the tarpaulins in time to save as many goods as might otherwise be done. Moreover, even supposing the salvage-corps to be on hand with sufficient promptitude, the loosely-spread tarpaulins lying on top of the goods do not afford perfect protection, for the reason that the shedding-surfaces will not be regular or on a sufficient incline, but, on the contrary, will follow all the depressions of the irregular contour of the stack of goods, thereby forming pits or pools, which ofttimes direct the water directly into the goods instead of shedding the same therefrom. A vivid idea of the loss from water on account of the lack of proper protection may be had by supposing an ordinary display-counter to be occupied with fine cloths or silks ranging from three to five dollars a yard. As a bolt usually contains fifty yards and an ordinary display-counter would have, in a jobbing house, several hundred bolts, it will be seen at once that on a single counter there might easily be twenty-five or thirty thousand dollars' worth of goods. In a large jobbing house there would be hundreds of such counters. If the values or the quantities be less, the same principle will hold in proportion.

My invention has for its object to render such wholesale destruction by water impossible or improbable. To this end, generally stated, I provide an overhead support having attached thereto a body or bodies of flexible waterproof material, which may be instantly extended to cover the goods on the counters or on the shelving and form an inclined surface adapted to catch and shed the water onto the floor without permitting the same to come in contact with the goods.

Other details of the construction will appear in the following description.

The novel features of my device will be defined in the claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which like letters refer to like parts.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one form of my device as it might appear when not in use, but ready for instant application upon the alarm of fire or at night as a security in case of possible fire. Fig. 2 shows the same device as applied to protect the goods on the counter with the end section of the flexible cover unextended. Fig. 3 is a detail in perspective showing some of the same parts as in Fig. 1 with a part of the overhead support broken away and some parts removed. Fig. 4 is a detail showing side view of one end of the counter and an end view of one of the end covers. Fig. 5 is a view in side elevation showing a modified form of the device, wherein the side and end covers are constructed integral with each other and as adapted to overlap and button together at the ends of the counter. Fig. 6 is an end view of the device shown in Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a cross-section of the salvage device shown

in Figs. 5 and 6. Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing one form of device as ready for application to protect goods on a display-counter and another form as ready for application to protect goods on the side-wall shelving or on the shelving and a closely-adjacent counter. Fig. 9 is a perspective view showing the same parts as in Fig. 8 with the covers in their extended position, with the exception of one of the end sections. Fig. 10 is a detail in perspective showing the overhead support for the shelving-cover shown in Figs. 8 and 9. Fig. 11 is a detail with some parts broken away, showing the overhead support for the counter-covers shown in Figs. 8 and 9.

Referring first to the construction shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, a a' a^2 represent, respectively, the floor, the side wall, and the ceiling, respectively, of a store or wareroom. b represents a display-counter containing dry goods b'.

c represents an overhead support for the counter-covers c'. The said covers c' are mounted, preferably, on spring-rollers c^2, which are suitably journaled in the end pieces of the support c. The support c, as shown in said Figs. 1, 2, and 3, is held with freedom for vertical adjustment by cords, ropes, or other flexible connections c^3, made fast to the said support and passing over suitable guide-sheaves c^4, attached to the ceiling, and thence to a fastening device c^5, (shown as on one of the side walls a',) about which fastening device the free ends of the flexible connections may be wound or looped to secure the overhead support c in any desired adjustment.

The bodies of the covers c' are composed of suitable waterproof flexible material, preferably rubber or waterproof cloth, but which may be made of sheet-steel or other metal, if so desired. The lower ends or margins of the covers c' are provided with eyes c^6 or other suitable devices, for co-operation with hooks b^2 or other suitable devices on the side margins of the counters, to hold the covers down in their extended positions, as shown in Fig. 2.

The arrangement above noted, so far as described, provides suitable side covers, but would leave the ends of the counters exposed. To shield the ends I provide, in the form shown in Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4, an end cover f, which is mounted, preferably, on a suitable spring-roller f', journaled in brackets f^2, fixed underneath the ends of the counter b. To the free ends of the covers f are attached cords f^3, which extend upward through guide rings or eyes f^4, fixed to the end pieces of the overhead supports c. Hence, by the cords f^3 the end covers may be extended upward until the free ends thereof form a junction with the support c, and the cord f^3 may then be made fast to any suitable support, as f^5, to hold the end cover in its extended position. The side covers c' and the end covers f will then, when the support c is in its lowermost or working position, as shown in Fig. 2, cooperate to form a complete waterproof shield over the entire counter.

During the day, when it is desired to display and handle the goods, the covers c' and f will be wound up on their respective rollers and the overhead support c will be raised into its most elevated position, as shown in Fig. 1, so that the salvage device is entirely out of the way.

Referring now to the form of the device shown in Figs. 5, 6, and 7, the covers are formed with side portions h and end portions h' integral with each other and adapted when extended to form a complete shield for the counter. To secure this result, the overhead support c and the covers h h' are of a greater length than the counter b, and the covers are so mounted on their rollers c^2 that they wrap from the inside outward, as best shown in Fig. 7. The difference between the length of the covers h h' and the counter b is sufficient to provide for the flap or fold section h' of the covers. Hence these fold-sections h', folding on the dotted line shown at h^2 in Fig. 5, may be brought together, overlapped, and buttoned, as shown in Fig. 6. For this purpose the end sections h' of one of the covers is provided with suitable loops h^3 and the end sections of the other cover have suitable co-operating buttons or hooks h^6. The other parts are the same as in the other views.

The form of device shown in Figs. 5, 6, and 7, in so far as the covers are concerned, affords a somewhat more perfect shield than is afforded by the form shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

Referring to the form shown in Figs. 8 to 11, inclusive, the salvage device shown as in position to protect the goods on the principal or central display-counter has an overhead support and covers similar to the form shown in Figs. 1 to 4, but is upheld in a constant position by rigid brackets g but, in addition to the said form of salvage device for the central display-counters, there is shown in said views, Figs. 8 to 11, an additional form of device adapted to protect goods on the shelving alone, or on the shelving and an immediately adjacent side counter or show-case. The shelving k is shown as fixed in the usual way to one of the side walls a' of the store-room. A show-case counter n is shown as located directly in front of the shelving k. Directly over the top of the shelving k is mounted a suitable support p for holding the cover p', which would be of the same material as the other covers hereinbefore noted. The cover p' is mounted preferably on a spring-roller p^2, which is journaled in the support p. The support p is of a form to constitute a projecting cap with inclined top projecting outward over the top section of the shelving k. Hence the cover p' may be drawn down and secured to the outer edge of the show-case counter n, as illustrated at the left in Fig. 9, or it may be drawn directly down in front of the shelving, but behind the counter, and be made fast to the lower or foot section of the shelving in

any suitable way. Hence the cover p will serve to form a complete shield to the shelving k when so desired, or may be made to serve as a top shield or cover for shedding the water away from the shelving and the show-case counter. The support p is provided at its cope with a packing-strip p^3, of rubber or other suituable material, for forming a tight joint with the side wall, so as to prevent the water from running down the wall and entering the shelving from behind. For greater security the said support p might be set into the wall in an obvious manner.

It must be obvious that in all the forms described the construction of my salvage device is simple and of small cost. It does not interfere with the ordinary handling of the goods during business hours. It is always ready for instantaneous application to protect the goods. The direct saving therefrom in protecting the goods from water, in case of actual fire, which was not a complete burn-out, would be great, and the indirect saving in decreasing the risk and lessening the insurance rates would many times repay the cost of the equipment.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is as follows:

1. The combination, for preventing water damage to goods on counters, shelving, &c., in case of fire, comprising water-proof flexible covers and permanent supports therefor normally holding said covers out of the way and adapted to sustain said covers over said goods in a water shedding position, when extended, substantially as described.

2. The combination for preventing water damage to goods, on counters and shelving in case of fire, comprising a support elevated above the counter or shelving and water-proof flexible covers, normally upheld by said support, out of the way, but extensible therefrom to cover and form a water shed over the goods, substantially as described.

3. The combination for preventing water damage to goods, on counters, shelving &c., of a support elevated above the counter or shelving and water-proof flexible covers mounted on rollers journaled in said elevated support, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

EDWARD H. TURNER.

Witnesses:
JOHN S. KEARNEY,
JAS. F. WILLIAMSON.