

(No Model.)

J. W. COLE.
PORTABLE WAGON SIGN.

No. 549,630.

Patented Nov. 12, 1895.

Fig - 1 -

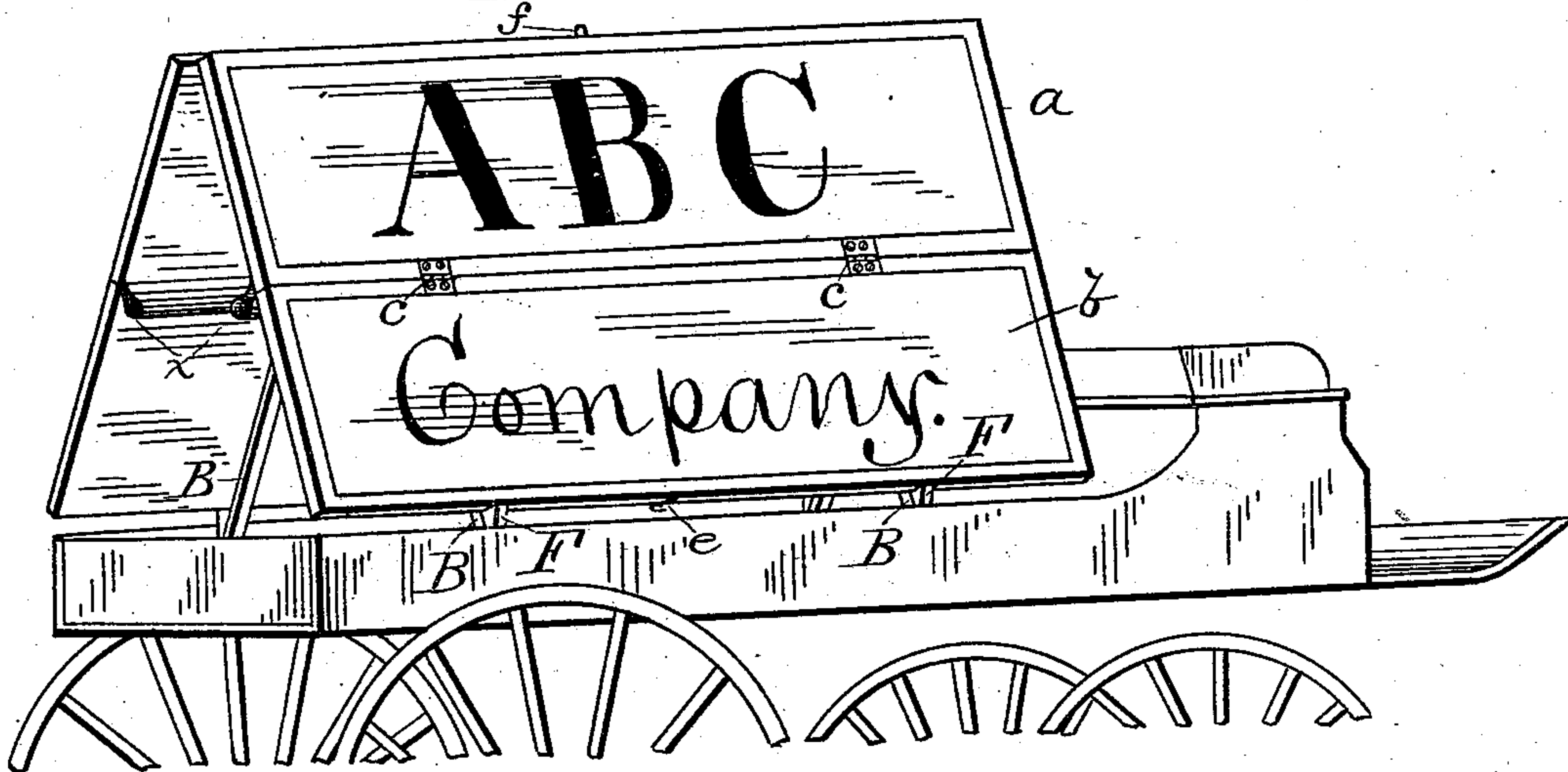


Fig - 2 -

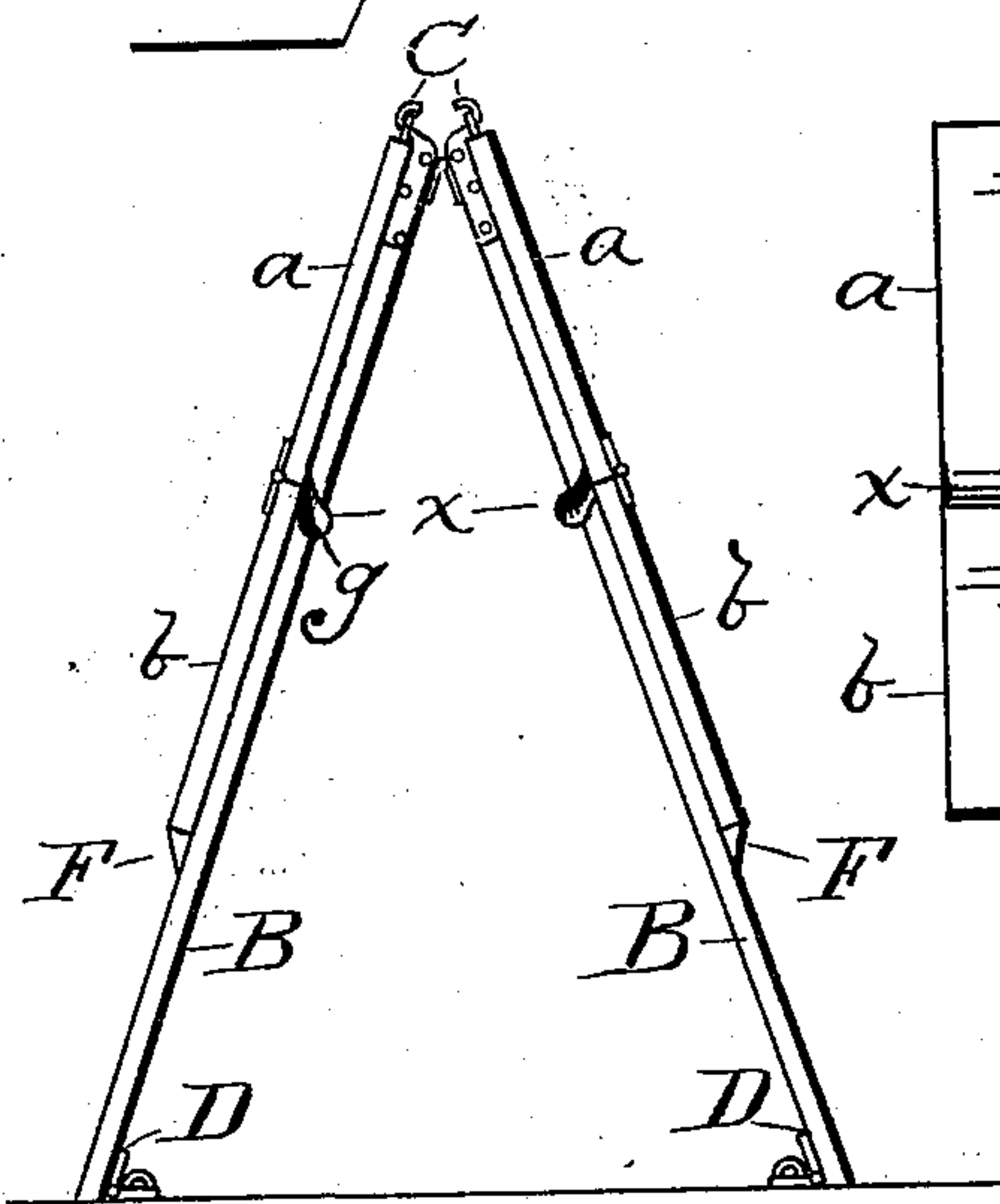
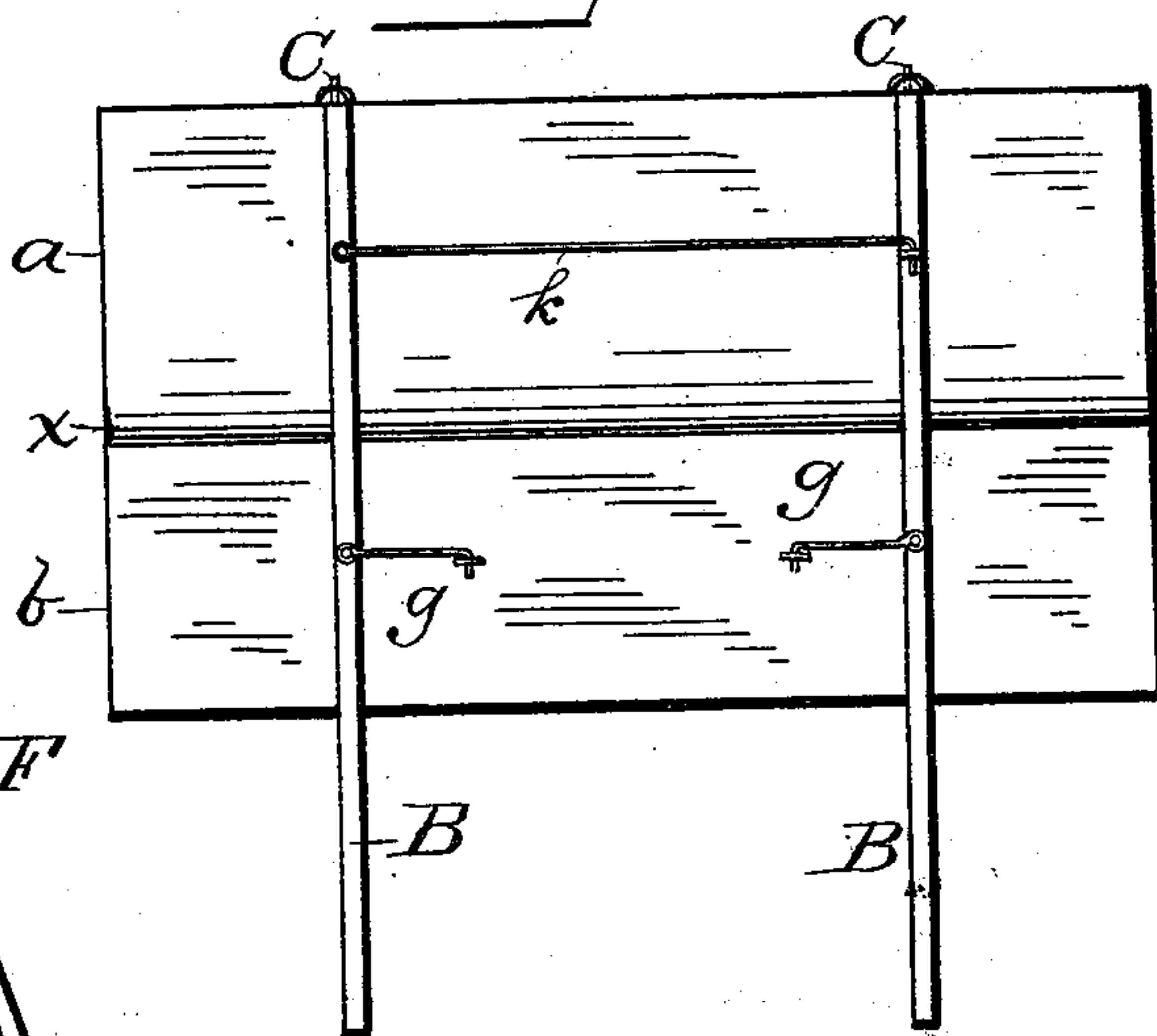


Fig - 3 -



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES WENDELL COLE, OF COLUMBUS, OHIO.

PORTABLE WAGON-SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 549,630, dated November 12, 1895.

Application filed March 27, 1895. Serial No. 543,355. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES WENDELL COLE, of Columbus, Franklin county, Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Wagon-Signs, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

Heretofore it has been customary for considerable transient advertising to be done by means of large signs, always conspicuous and to a degree more or less ornate, placed in wagons and drawn about the streets. These are particularly useful for theatrical and concert companies, especially in places where they give one-night shows, and something of this nature, differing according to the facilities at hand, are much used by them. The signs are generally printed, stenciled, or painted on cotton cloth and stretched on an improvised frame and carried alongside the wagon or in the same, and are stayed by wires or cords to keep them upright.

My invention is simple and practicable, and enables the advance agents to fold and ship them from place to place without fear of injury, and to speedily and securely mount them in a wagon for immediate use.

My invention consists of a folding horse or trestle and the folding frames carried thereby, all constructed and arranged substantially as hereinafter fully described and as illustrated in the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the same, and Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section showing the back of one of the signs and illustrating its manner of fastening to said trestle.

In Fig. 1 of the drawings I show the body of a wagon and in it my invention. This consists of a pair of rectangular sign-boards *a b* for each side of the wagon. These sign-boards *a* and *b* are, preferably, of the same dimensions—say about seven feet by two—and are hinged together at *c c*, so that the outer surfaces, on which the advertising or display matter is placed, can be folded together when it is desired to prepare the sign-boards for transportation or storage, so as to protect from injury or defacement said advertise-

ment or display matter. The lower edges of the lower board *b* are provided with hooks *e*, and the upper board *a* is provided with staples *f*, located with reference to the position of the hooks *e*, so that when said boards are folded together the hooks may be made to engage the staples so as to lock them together. A suitable strap might be used for this purpose and said hooks and staples be dispensed with.

In order to prevent the display or advertising matter from becoming spoiled by rain or dust, I have secured to the backs of each pair a covering *g* of waterproof canvas or other suitable fabric, which is secured on the boards when closed together, so that when opened a fold of fabric, as at *x*, will result.

B B represent two trestles, the legs of each of which are hinged together at their upper ends, and each leg of which at its upper end is provided with a hook *C*, projecting outward, as shown. When set up in a wagon the trestles are placed one near the forward and the other near the rear end of the same and the legs spread apart and secured.

I prefer to secure the lower ends of the legs by means of a hinged hasp *D*, one leaf of which is secured to the leg and the other leaf of which is passed over a staple to hold said leg in place. The only thing necessary to be done in order to render the wagon suitable for this method of fastening is the driving of the staples into the floor of the wagon-body. Any other method of fastening the legs would answer, however.

Now, in operation, I suspend the sign-boards on the hooks *C*, suitable eyes or staples being driven into the upper edge of the upper board for this purpose. The lower board rests against and on brackets *F*, secured to each leg, as shown. In order to prevent said boards from collapsing when being moved, I further solidify the structure of my invention by hinging to each leg, preferably back of the lower board, the hooks *g*, which engage the staples in the back of the board, about as shown. Such a hook and staple might be provided for each board, if desired.

If desired, the trestles can be immediately connected, so as to render them more stable,

by a stay-rod *k*, which has hooked ends that enter staples driven into the rear of said legs.

What I claim as new is—

- 5 1. The combination with two trestles, the legs of which are hinged together at their upper ends, and hooks projecting from the upper ends of the same, of two sign-boards hinged together so that their display surfaces may be folded together.
- 10 2. The combination with two trestles the legs of which are hinged together at their upper ends, hooks projecting from said upper ends, and devices for securing the lower ends of said legs, of two sign-boards hinged together so that their display surfaces may fold together.
- 15 3. The combination with two trestles the legs of which are hinged together at their upper ends and hooks projecting from said upper ends, of two sign-boards hinged together so that their display surfaces may be folded together, and which are suspended from said hooks and a covering of suitable fabric applied to the back of said sign-boards, as set forth.
- 20 25

4. The combination with two trestles, the legs of which are hinged together at their upper ends, hooks projecting from the upper ends of each of said legs, hasps for securing the lower ends of said legs stationary, and brackets secured thereto, of two sign-boards hinged together, suspended from said hooks, and provided with a cover of suitable fabric, as set forth.

5. The combination with two trestles the legs of which are hinged together at their upper ends and hooks projecting from said upper ends, and a stay rod temporarily connecting said trestles, hasps for securing the lower ends of said legs stationary, and brackets secured thereto, of two sign-boards hinged together and suspended from said hooks and anchored temporarily to the legs of said trestles, and provided with a cover of suitable fabric, as set forth.

JAMES WENDELL COLE.

Witnesses:

T. BRODERIC HELLER,
FRANK D. THOMASON.