

(No Model.)

J. J. DOLAN.  
CAR SIGN.

No. 559,516.

Patented May 5, 1896.

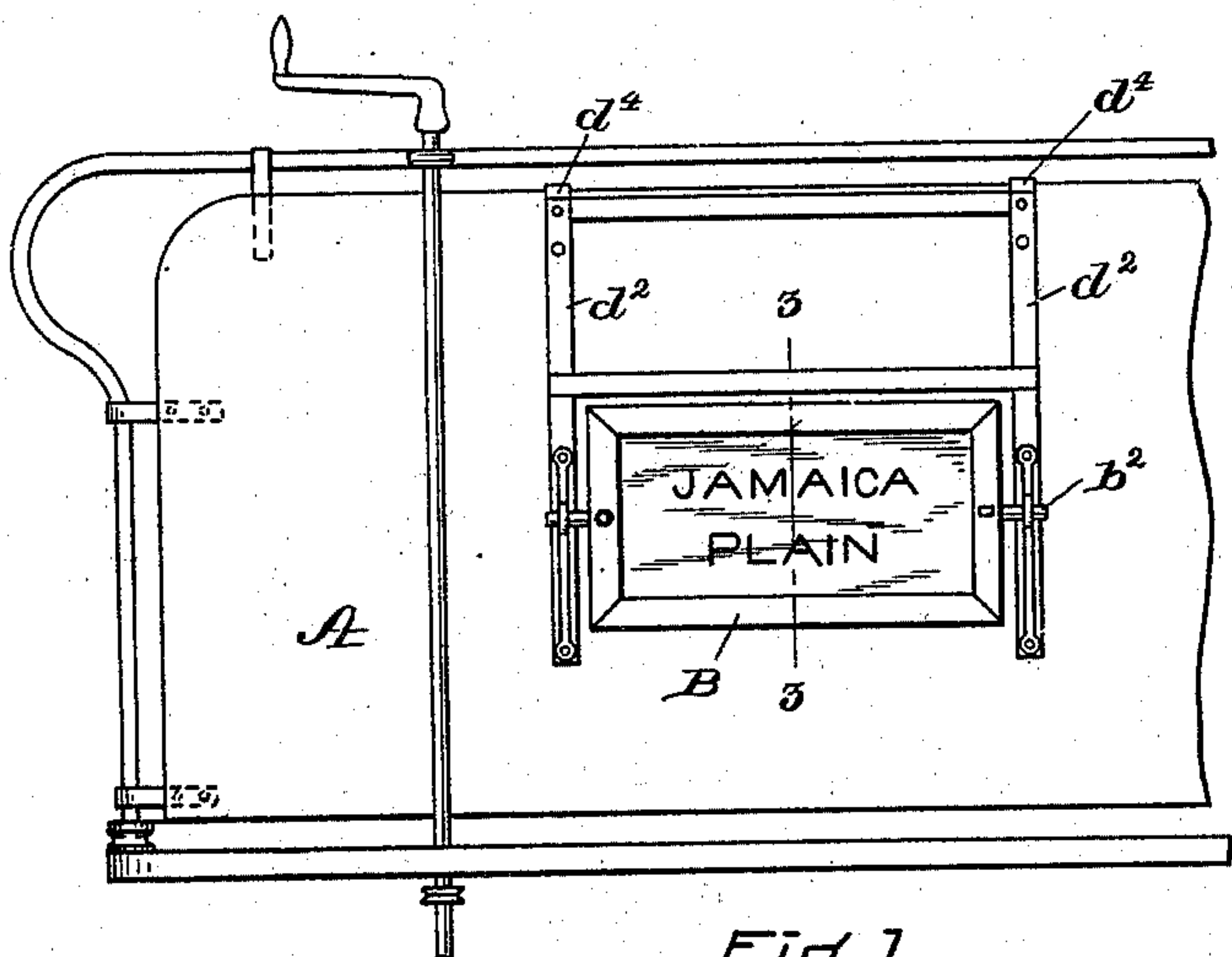


Fig. 1.

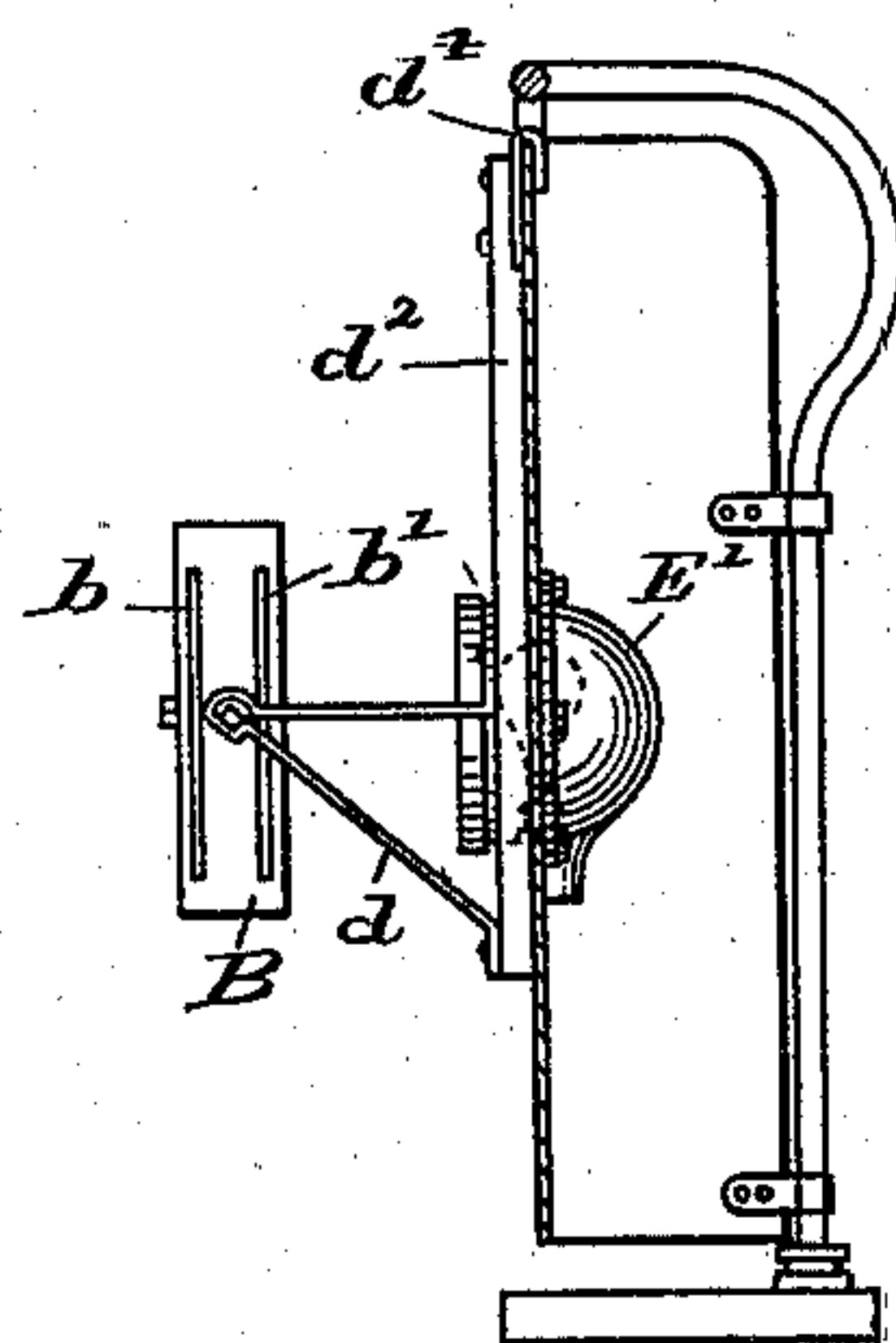


Fig. 2.

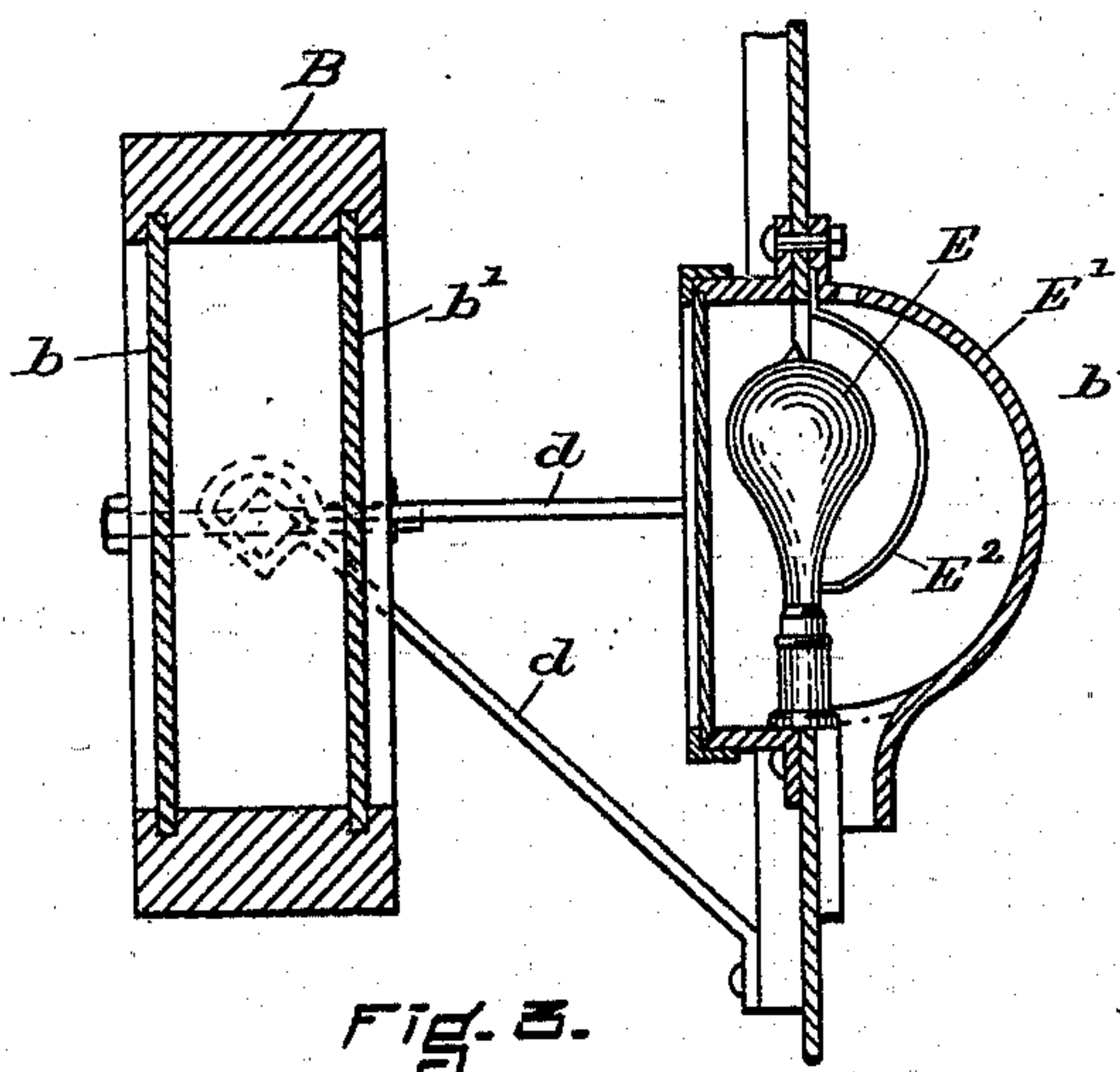


Fig. 3.

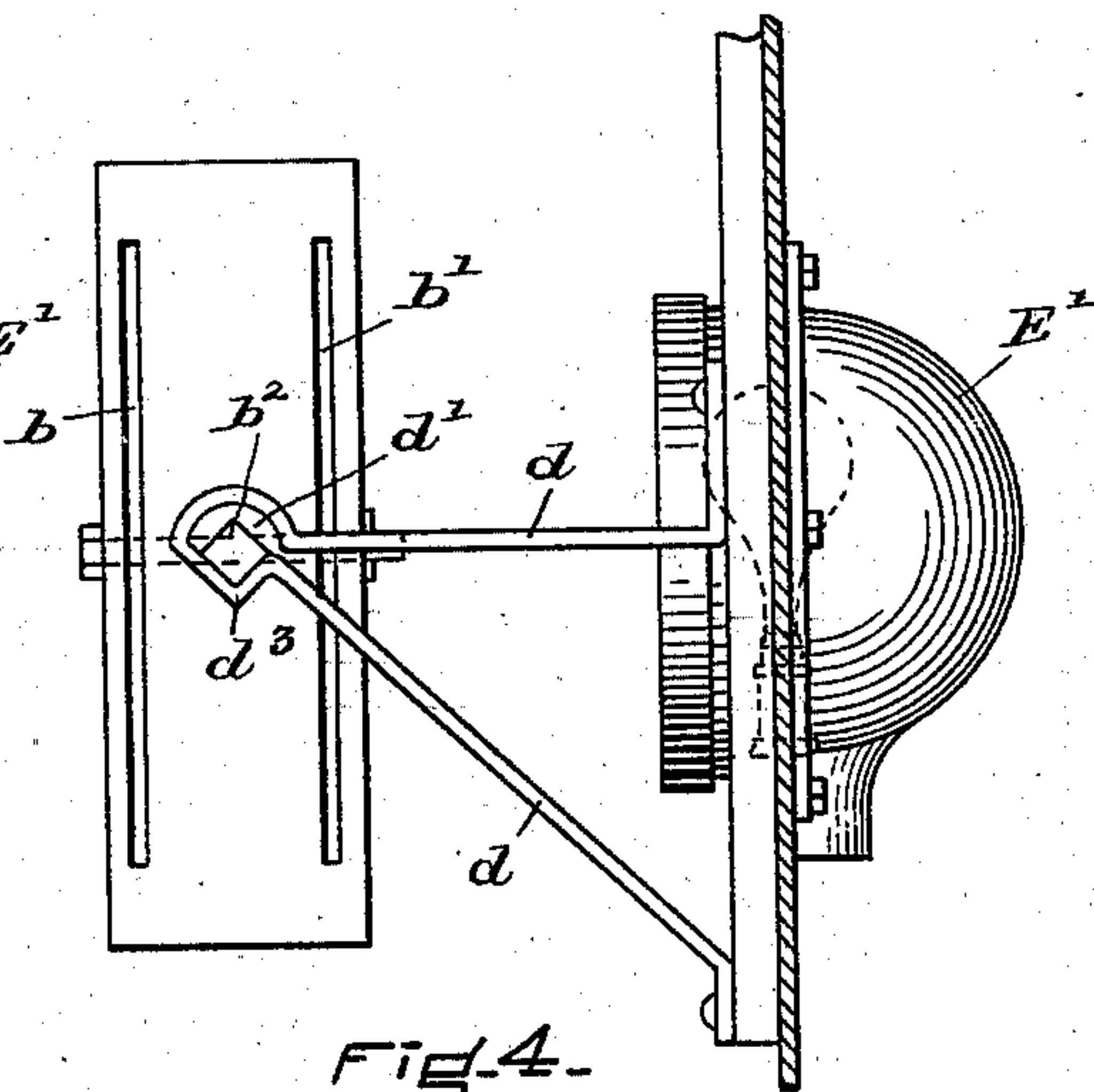


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES.

*A. D. Frost.*  
*Charles H. Jones*

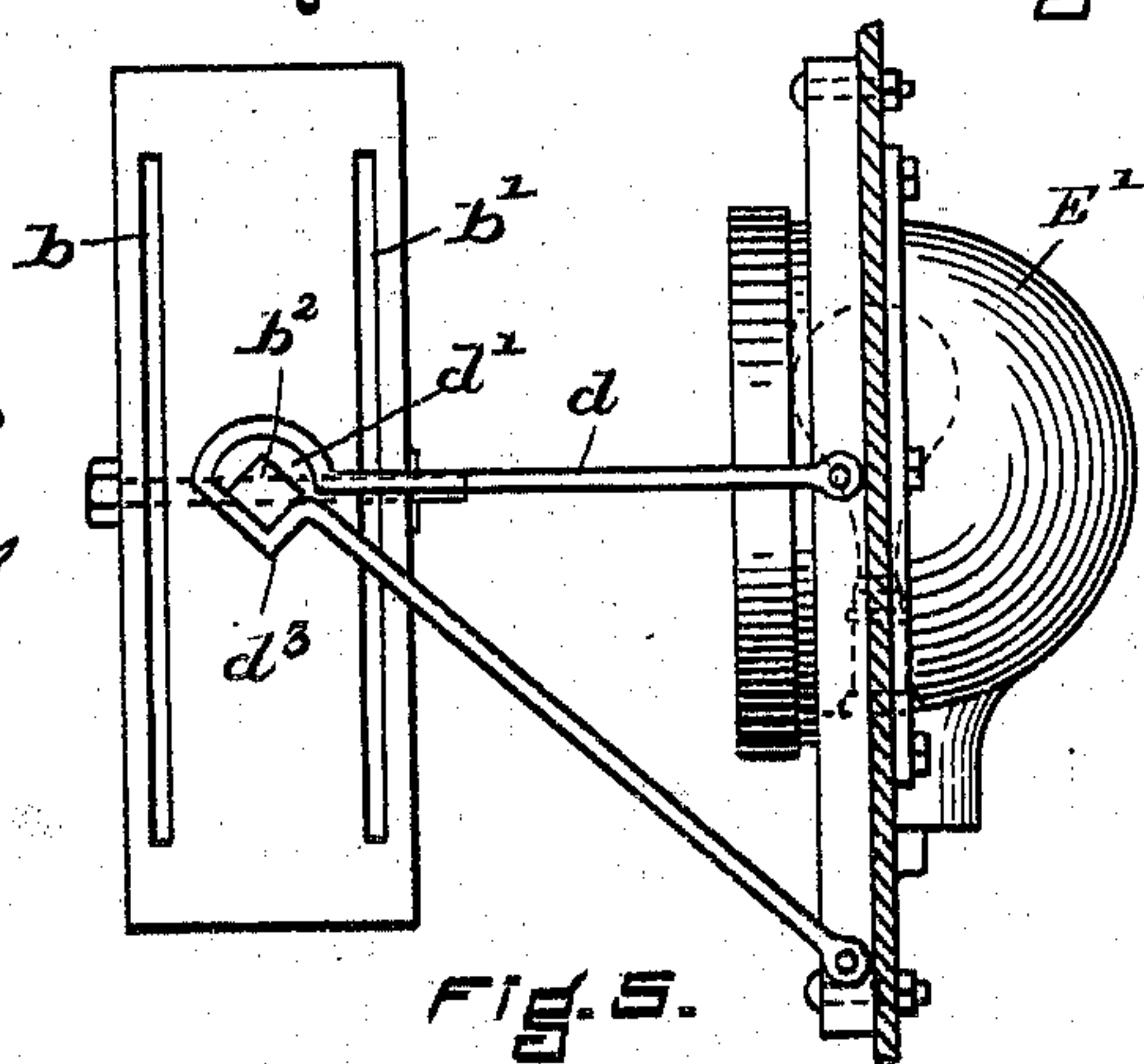


Fig. 5.

INVENTOR -

*John J. Dolan*  
*by Edward S. Beach*  
*his atty.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN J. DOLAN, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

## CAR-SIGN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 559,516, dated May 5, 1896.

Application filed November 4, 1895. Serial No. 567,784. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN J. DOLAN, of Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Car-Signs, of which the following is a specification.

The object of my invention is a rotatable illuminated car or other sign, in which opposed translucent faces of the sign-box may each have a sign thereon illuminated from behind in such a manner that the rear face will transmit the light so as to illuminate the front sign without blurring or confusing it with the sign on the rear face.

The main feature of my invention consists in a rotatable sign comprising a box or casing having two opposed faces, each consisting of translucent material, on which a sign is printed, the case being rotatable to bring either one of the two faces to the front, and a lamp in the rear of the casing at such a distance that the rays will be transmitted through the rear face and illuminate the front face without casting a blurring shadow of the rear sign on the front face.

Another feature of my invention consists in making the trunnions and their bearings angular in cross-section to prevent the sign from wobbling when set.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a front elevation of a portion of the dashboard of the street-car with my improved car-sign attached. Fig. 2 is a side view of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged vertical section on line 3 3 of Fig. 1, showing the casing and the lamp. Fig. 4 is an enlarged end view of the same parts shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 5 is a modification of Fig. 4.

In the drawings illustrating my invention, I have represented the device as connected with the dashboard A of a street-car, although it may be attached to any portion of the car desired—as, for instance, to the bonnet. A casing B has two opposing faces  $b\ b'$ , of ground glass or other translucent material, on each of which is printed or otherwise marked the appropriate sign. The casing may be fitted to receive these panels as slides which can be readily removed and replaced by others, or they may be permanently secured therein. It is preferable, though not essential, that when the slides are in place they should form a close box. There should, however, be a

space between the translucent panels. The casing is supported by trunnions  $b^2$ , projecting from the ends and mounted in brackets  $d$ . The trunnions  $b^2$  are angular in cross-section, and the brackets  $d$  are formed with an eye  $d'$ , having an angular bend  $d^2$  at the bottom to receive the angular edge of the trunnions to keep the case in an upright position and prevent wobbling when the sign is turned to expose either of its faces. These brackets are attached directly to the dasher or other part of the car, or when the sign is at the front of the dasher the brackets are preferably fixed to a frame  $d^2$ , which is attached to the dashboard.

In Fig. 2 the frame  $d^2$  has hooks  $d^4$ , by which it is hung on the dashboard and is readily detachable. In the modification shown in Fig. 5 the frame  $d^2$  is bolted to the dashboard.

One great advantage of having the frame  $d^2$  detachable is that it can be detached for the purpose of turning the sign, and it is not necessary in such case to leave as much clearance-space between the dashboard and the sign as would be necessary if the frame were permanently fixed to the dashboard.

At a short distance in the rear of the sign-box is a lamp E, preferably inclosed in a box  $E'$ , with a reflector  $E^2$ , which throws the rays of light directly against the rear translucent face of the box. The light is transmitted through the rear face and illuminates the exposed face sufficiently to render the sign thereon legible in the night. The space between the two translucent sign-faces permits the light to diffuse sufficiently to prevent any appreciable shadow of the lettering on the rear face being cast on the front face to blur the exposed sign. The box  $E'$ , containing the lamp, is set in an opening in the dashboard behind the sign-box.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. A rotatable car or other sign consisting of a box having two opposed sign-faces of translucent material with space between said faces, and mounted in bearings which permit either sign-face to be rotated into an exposed position, in combination with a lamp behind said box whose rays are transmitted through the rear sign-face and illuminate the exposed sign-face, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.



2. A rotatable car or other sign consisting of a box having opposed sign-faces of translucent material with a space between said faces, angular-sided trunnions on said box, 5 brackets having angular-sided bearings for said trunnions which hold the box with either sign-face exposed, and a frame to which said brackets are secured, in combination with a lamp behind said box whose rays are trans- 10 mitted through the rear sign-face and illuminate the exposed sign-face.

3. In combination with a car, a rotatable car-sign consisting of a box having opposed sign-faces with intervening space, angular- 15 sided trunnions on said box, brackets having angular-sided bearings for said trunnions which hold the box with either sign-face exposed, a frame to which said brackets are secured, a lamp-holder set in the framework of 20 the car behind said sign-box, and a lamp in said holder whose rays are transmitted through the rear sign-face and illuminate the exposed sign-face, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

25 4. In combination with a dashboard of a car, a rotatable car-sign consisting of a box having opposed sign-faces of translucent material with an intervening space, said box being mounted in bearings which permit rotation of 30 the box to expose either sign-face, brackets supporting said box in front of the dashboard, a lamp-holder set in the dashboard back of the sign-box, and a lamp in said holder whose rays are transmitted through the rear

sign-face and illuminate the exposed sign- 35 face, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In combination with the dashboard of a car, a rotatable car-sign consisting of a box having opposed sign-faces of translucent ma- 40 terial with an intervening space, angular-sided trunnions on said box, brackets having angular-sided bearings for said trunnions which hold the box with either sign-face ex- 45 posed, a frame to which said brackets are attached, a lamp-holder set in the dashboard back of the sign, and a lamp in said holder whose rays are transmitted through the rear sign-face and illuminate the exposed sign- 50 face, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

6. In combination with the dashboard of a car, a rotatable car-sign consisting of a box having opposed sign-faces, trunnions on said box, brackets having bearings for said trun- 55 nions, a frame to which said brackets are secured, and means for detachably securing said frame to the dashboard, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my 60 name to this specification, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses, on this 31st day of October, A. D. 1895.

JOHN J. DOLAN.

Witnesses:

WM. A. COPELAND,  
A. I. CRAWFORD.