

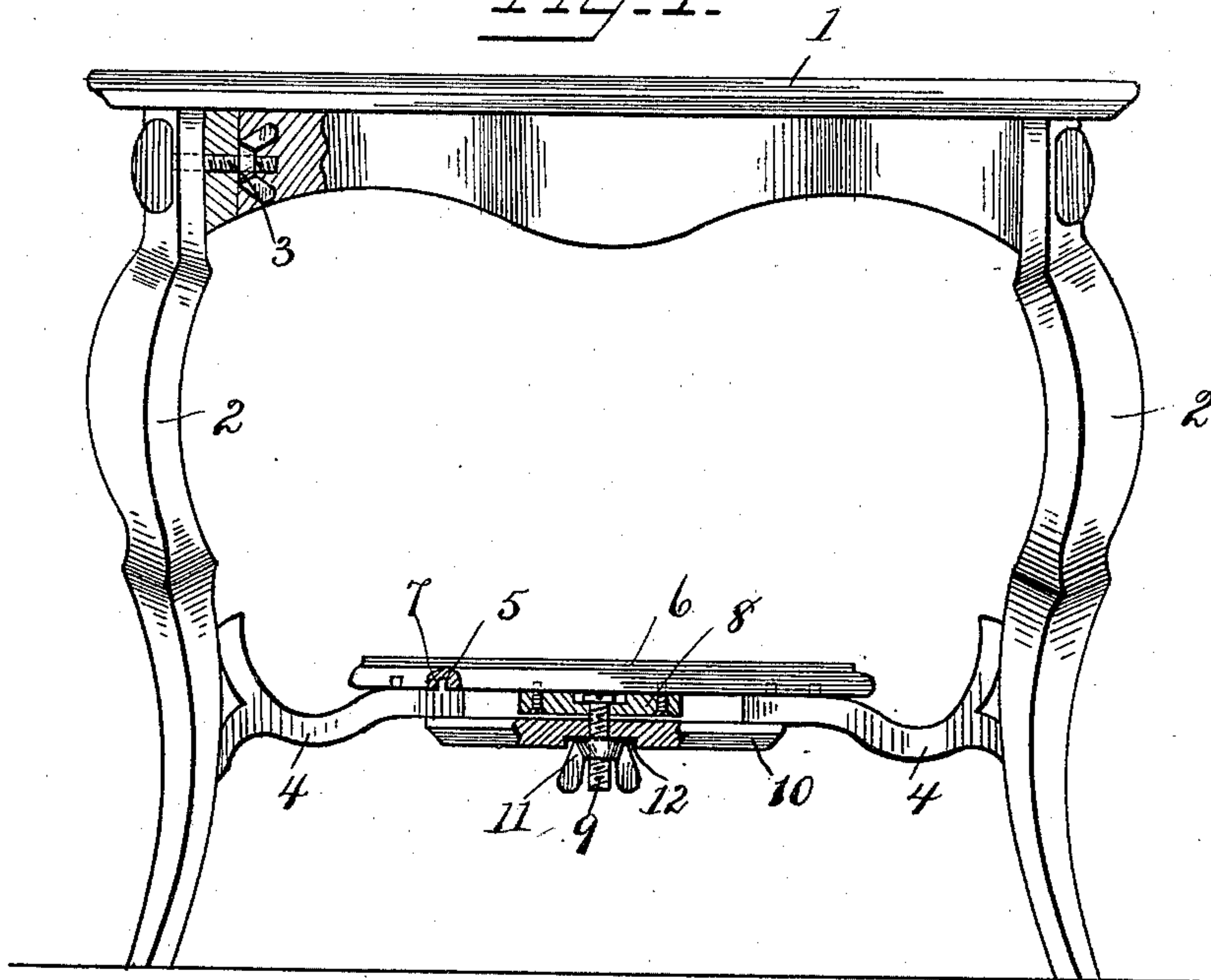
(No Model.)

F. RITTER.  
KNOCKDOWN TABLE.

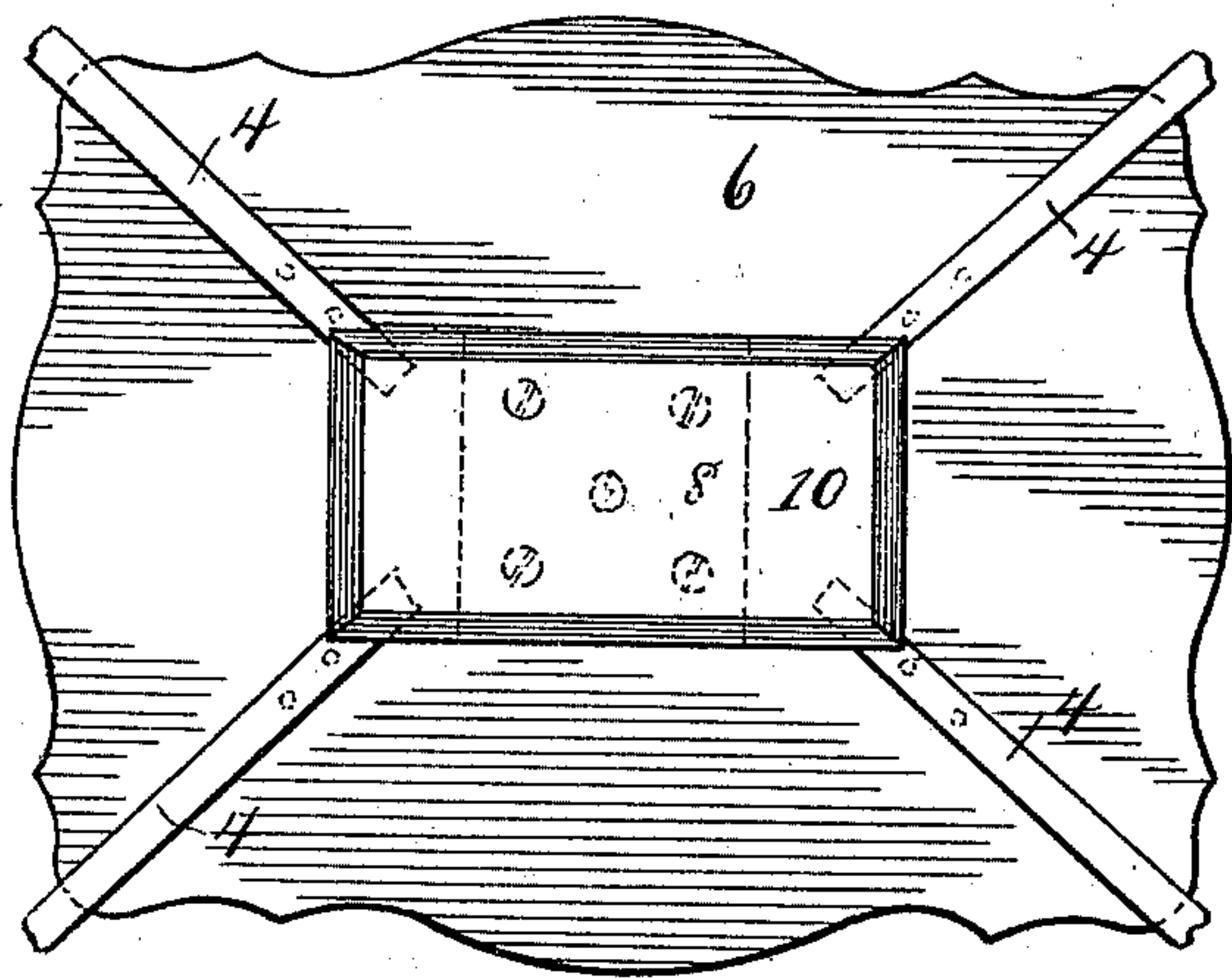
No. 561,612.

Patented June 9, 1896.

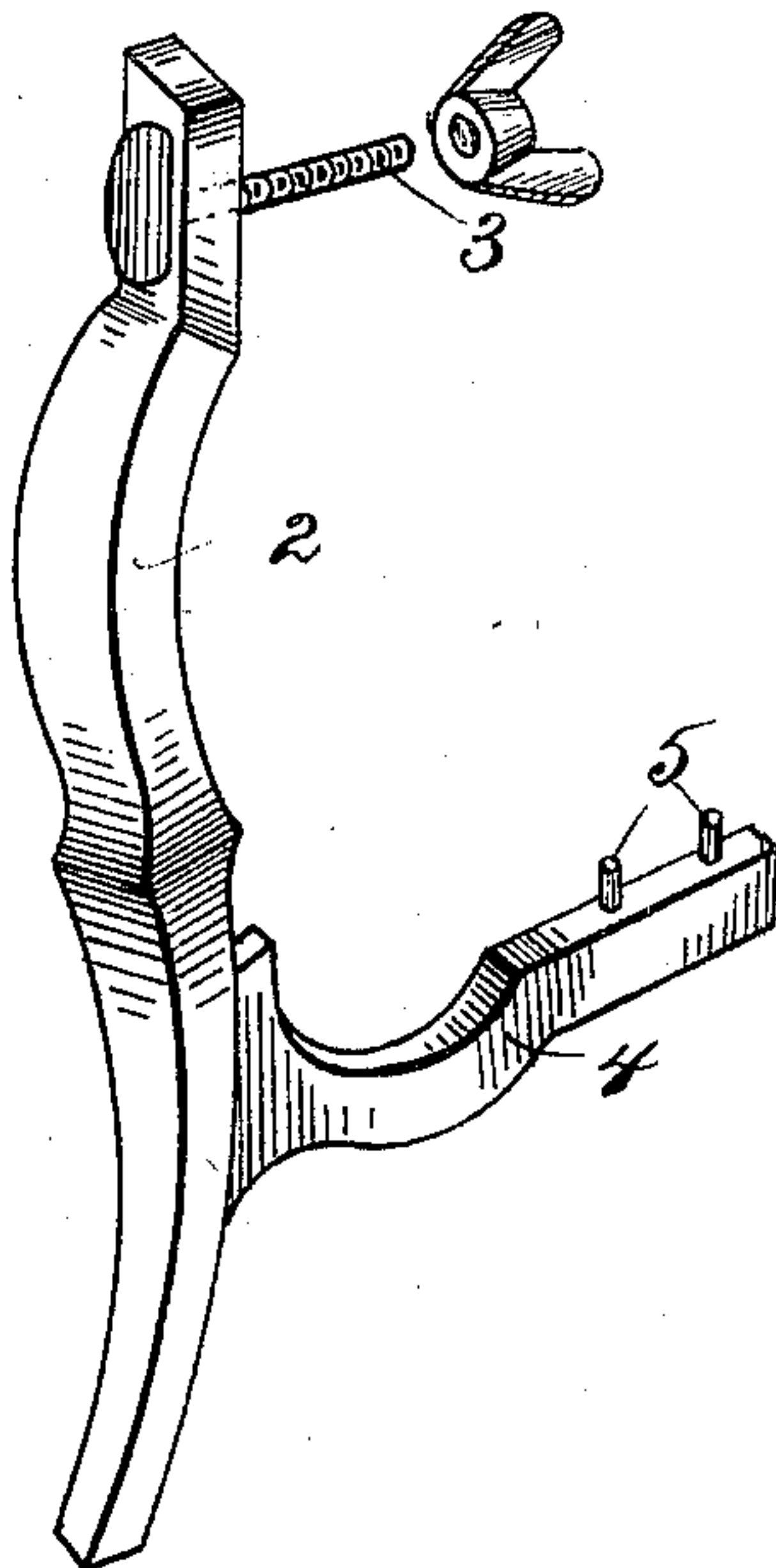
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



WITNESSES.

*Albert Popkins.*  
*Carrie L. Acker.*

INVENTOR

*Frank Ritter*  
*by Benj. R. Baslin*  
*att'y*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK RITTER, OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.

## KNOCKDOWN TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 561,612, dated June 9, 1896.

Application filed January 3, 1896. Serial No. 574,235. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK RITTER, a resident of Rochester, in the county of Monroe and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knock-down Tables; 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 pertains to make and use the same.

The invention relates to so-called "knock-down" tables, and has for its object to improve their construction, and more particularly the means whereby the table-legs may be connected by a detachable shelf; and the invention consists in the construction hereinafter described and particularly pointed out.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation, parts being broken away. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan of a shelf attachment and legs, partly broken away; and Fig. 3 is a side elevation of a leg and connected bracket detached from the table.

The table-top 1 is supported upon several detachable legs 2, which may be secured thereto by screws and thumb-nuts 3 in a well-known manner. To each leg is fixed a bracket 4, extending inwardly from the leg in an approximately horizontal plane and converging to a central situation beneath the top. Near the inner end of each bracket are fixed one or more pins or dowels 5.

6 denotes a shelf provided with sockets 7 to receive the pins 5 of the brackets.

8 is a screw-retaining plate fixed to the bottom of the table in any convenient manner, and 9 is a screw whose head is held in a countersunk hole in the upper side of the plate 8 or in the bottom of the shelf.

The plate or piece 8 has a thickness less than that of the adjacent ends of the brackets, as shown.

10 denotes a cover for the ends of the brackets and bearing on the under side of the same.

11 is a thumb-nut fitting the screw 9 and adapted to draw the shelf 6 and cover 10 together and clamp the brackets between them, thereby holding the shelf securely upon the pins 5.

12 denotes a washer, against which the

thumb-nut can be screwed. The screw-holding plate 8 need not fill vertically the space between the shelf and cover 10, and it does not therefore prevent these parts being forced toward each other, so as to firmly pinch the brackets between them.

As the brackets are rigidly secured to the legs and when clamped, as stated, are bound between the shelf and the cover, they hold the legs at fixed distances apart in a very firm manner, and any horizontal movement such as would result in the spreading of the legs is entirely precluded.

For transportation or storage the legs can be detached from the top as heretofore. The shelf can be separated by loosening the single nut 11. The legs and attached brackets can be packed side by side and the other parts laid together and the whole table and shelf thus detached can be packed in a small compass.

The single fastening-screw 9 and its nut 11 and the cooperating fastening devices are easily and quickly manipulated and when in use are effectually concealed.

No tool is required to take the article apart or to put it together, nor is the use of glue necessary in such operation, and the surface finish of the article is not in danger of being either marred or smeared.

So-called "knockdown" tables have been heretofore proposed. In a prior construction the top and legs have been detachably secured together by a centrally-situated rod interfering with the use of a shelf such as mine, and in one or more cases detachable connections have been made at or on the legs themselves, and such constructions are not of my invention. My improvement comprises a shelf 6, cooperating with a bottom cover 10, and a screw and thumb-nut or the like to bind between said shelf and cover suitable brackets projecting inwardly from the legs. The shelf, aside from its more obvious functions, serves as an important cooperating element of the fastening devices which are concealed by it. The improved construction allows the legs to be set wide apart without necessitating brackets of great length. Such result has heretofore been secured by bending the legs in-

wardly or placing them comparatively near together. My shelf and cover 10 are practically extensions of the brackets.

Having thus described my invention what I claim is—

1. In a knockdown table having detachable legs, the brackets extending inwardly from the legs, a shelf having an unobstructed upper surface and resting upon the inner ends of the brackets, a cover on the under side of said ends, and mechanism to draw the shelf and cover together and clamp the ends of the brackets, thereby binding the legs in fixed relation to each other, said mechanism being attached to the under side of the shelf, substantially as described.

2. In a knockdown table having detachable

legs, brackets extending inwardly from the legs and provided with pins, a shelf having holes in its bottom to receive said pins, a screw-retaining plate 8 fixed to the shelf, a cover bearing on the under side of the brackets opposite the shelf, and a screw and nut to draw the cover and shelf together upon opposite sides of the brackets, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK RITTER.

Witnesses:

JOHN H. CHADSEY,  
WM. F. LYON.