(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

R. B. POTTS.

PLATOON GUN BATTERY.

No. 573,353. Patented Dec. 15, 1896.

Fig. 1.

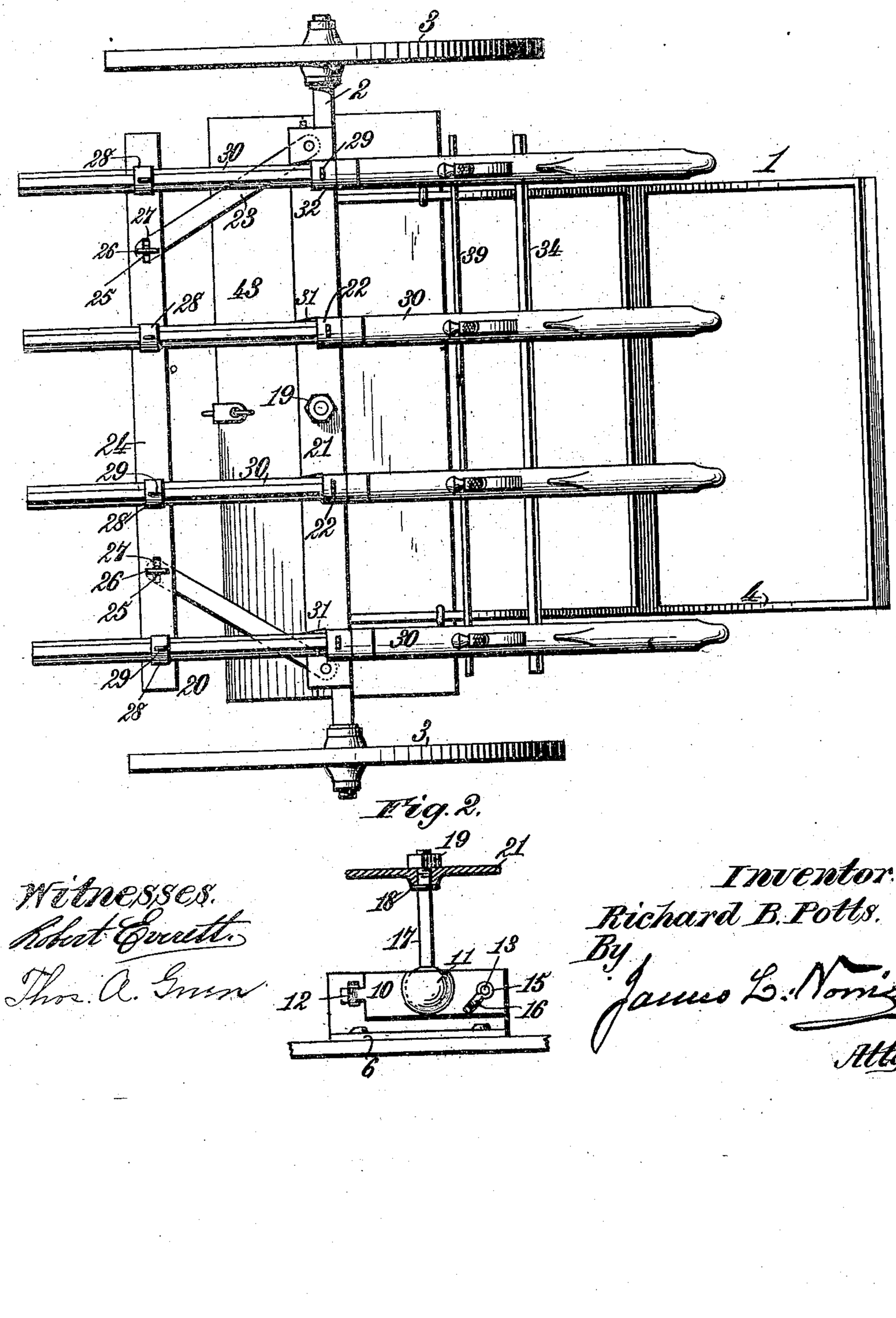

Fig. 2.

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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

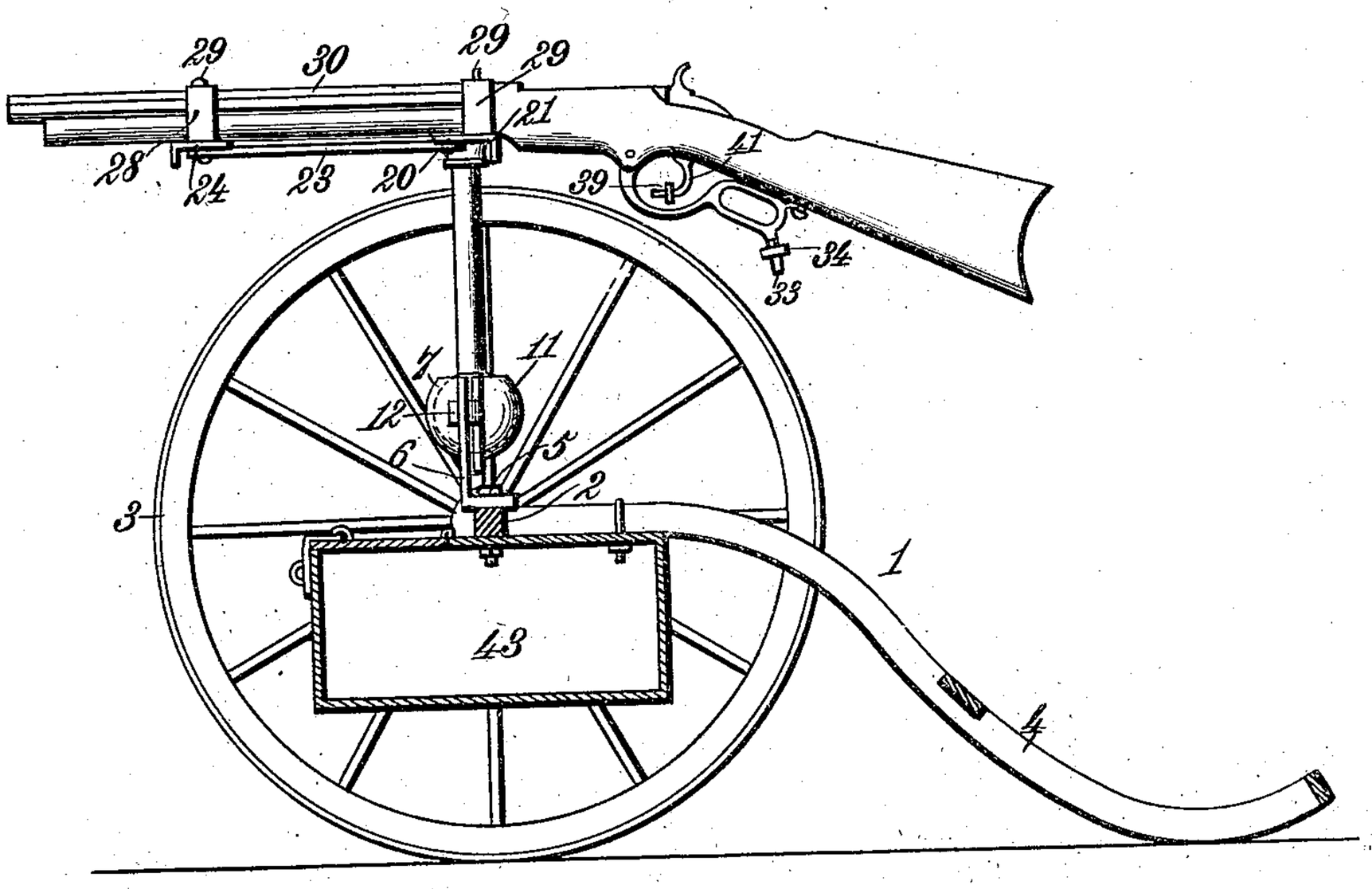


Fig. 4.

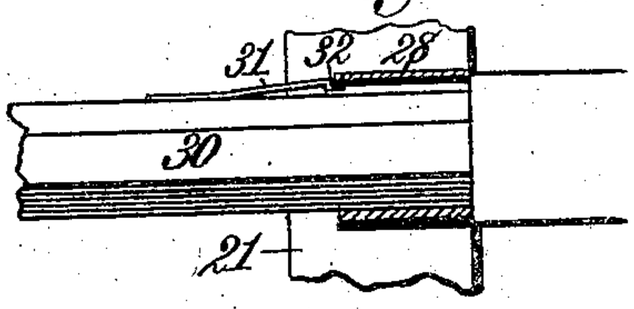


Fig. 5.

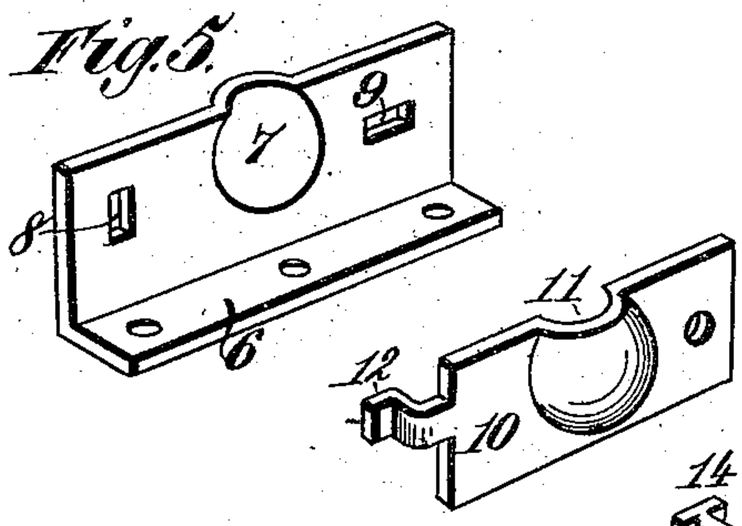


Fig. 6.

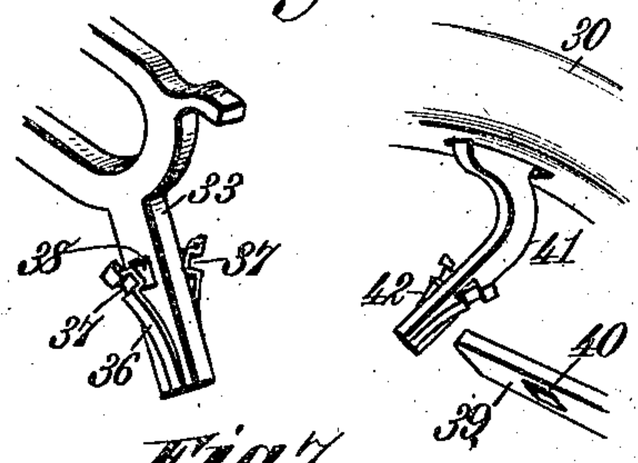
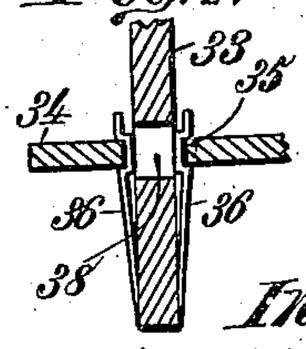


Fig. 7.



Witnesses.
Robt Everett.
Thos. A. Green

Inventor:
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By James L. Norris.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD B. POTTS, OF EDMOND, OKLAHOMA TERRITORY.

PLATOON GUN-BATTERY.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 573,353, dated December 15, 1896.

Application filed May 11, 1896. Serial No. 591,111. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD B. POTTS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Edmond, in the county of Oklahoma and Territory of Oklahoma, have invented new and useful Improvements in Platoon-Batteries, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a platoon-battery, and has for its objects to provide a gun-carriage upon which a plurality of breech-loading magazine-rifles or similar small-arms may be mounted and fixed in firing position with great rapidity and little labor and when so mounted may be loaded, cocked, and fired simultaneously, and to provide means carried by the carriage for storing the guns and their attachments when detached.

It also has for its object to provide improved means for simultaneously aiming and holding in their aimed position the entire series of guns; and, finally, it has for its object to improve the construction and efficiency of this class of batteries generally.

To these ends my invention consists in the features and in the construction or arrangement of parts hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims following the description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, wherein—

Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved battery. Fig. 2 is a detail view of the universal joint for supporting the gun-supporting platform. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view taken on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1, and Figs. 4, 5, 6, and 7 are detail views of some of the parts.

Referring to the drawings, the numeral 1 indicates the battery-carriage, consisting of an axle 2, wheels 3, mounted thereon, and a trail 4, attached at its forward end to the carriage. Attached to the carriage by bolts 5 or equivalent fastenings is a plate 6, forming one member of a two-part clamp, said plate being centrally provided with a cup-shaped recess 7 and near its opposite ends with slots or recesses 8 and 9. The slot 9 is preferably rectangular in shape and is longer in one direction than in the other, as shown and for the purpose hereinafter described. A plate 10 forms the other member of said clamp and is provided with a cup-shaped recess 11, corresponding to the recess 7 in the plate 6 and adapted to register with the latter when the two plates are secured in position. One end of the plate 10 is provided with a hooked extension 12, that is adapted to be inserted in the aperture 8 in the plate 6 and operates to attach the two ends of the plates together after the manner of a hinge. The other end of the plate 10 is provided with a bolt-hole that registers with the slot 9, and through said slot and hole is passed a bolt 13, having a transversely-elongated head 14, which when turned to register with the slot 9 may be withdrawn through the latter to permit of the separation of the two plates, but when turned transversely to said slot serves, in conjunction with a nut 15, tapped over the other end of said bolt, to hold the two plates together. The nut 15 is provided with a hand-lever 16, by means of which the nut may be quickly screwed and unscrewed. Seated in the cup-shaped recesses in said plates is the spherical end of a pintle 17, provided near its upper end with a fixed collar 18, the upper end of said pintle being threaded and having tapped on said threaded end a nut 19. The pintle 17 serves as a support for the gun-supporting frame 20, consisting of a bar 21, swiveled on the upper end of the pintle and resting on the collar 18 and secured in place thereon by the nut 19. Upon the upper side of said bar are formed or affixed a plurality of collars 22, each adapted for the reception of the barrel of a magazine rifle or gun.

To the under side of the bar 21 are pivoted connecting-bars 23, that at their other ends are detachably connected to a bar 24 by means of pivot-bolts 25, that are swiveled in the ends of the connecting-bars 23 and are provided with elongated heads 26, that are adapted to be passed through corresponding apertures 27 in the bar 24 and then turned. The bar 24 is provided with a plurality of collars 28, corresponding in number to the collars 22 and in alinement with the latter, said collars 28 being adapted for the reception of the forward ends of the gun-barrels. The collars 28 and 22 are preferably provided with front and rear sights 29, respectively.

The magazine-guns herein illustrated as mounted in the gun-supporting frame 20 are the well-known Winchester rifles, in which a vibrating hand-lever operates mechanism

to eject the empty shell, place a cartridge in the breech, and set the firing mechanism, and a trigger operates to release the firing mechanism to discharge the gun. The construction of the Winchester rifle is so well known to those skilled in the art that a detailed description or illustration of the same is unnecessary. The barrels of the guns 30 are inserted in the collars 22 and 28, and to one side of each of the gun-barrels is attached the forward end of a flat spring 31, the free end of which is bent inward toward the barrel to form a shoulder 32, said spring, when the barrel is inserted in the collars 22 and 28, lying flat against the barrel to permit its free passage through said collars, but springing laterally away from the barrel when the latter has been thrust forward fully into place, so as to cause the shoulder 32 to abut against the front side of the collar 28 and prevent the recoil of the gun. The levers 33, that operate the mechanism for ejecting the empty shells, feeding the cartridges into the breeches, and setting the firing mechanism in the usual manner, are detachably connected to a lever-bar 34, common to all of said levers, in the following manner: The bar 34 is provided with a series of slots 35 of the proper size and shape to receive the ends of said levers. To the opposite sides of said levers are attached flat springs 36, which near their free ends are bent to form depressions 37, and the adjacent sides of the lever opposite said depressions are provided with corresponding indentures 38, in which the depressed portions of the springs are adapted to seat. The springs 36 normally project at their free ends from the sides of the levers 33 in such manner that their depressed portions are thrown outward in opposite directions. To attach the lever-bar 34 to the levers 33, it is only necessary to slip the slotted portions of said lever-bar over the ends of the levers, when the springs 36 will be compressed against the sides of the levers until the bar reaches the depressions 37, upon which the springs will spread outwardly and grasp the lever-bar, forming a rigid attachment between the lever-bar and the levers. A trigger-bar 39, provided with slots 40, is also attached to the ends of the triggers 41, the triggers being provided with springs 42, that operate to hold the trigger-bar in place upon the triggers in the same manner that the lever-bar is attached to the levers, and which need not, therefore, be more fully described.

Attached to the axle 2 of the carriage is a gun and ammunition chest 43, in which may be stored the guns and their attachments when dismounted and a limited supply of ammunition.

The operation of my improved battery is as follows: Assuming that the parts are set up in position for operation, as above described and that it is desired to dismount the guns and their attachments for transportation, the trigger-bar and lever-bar are removed from the triggers and levers by compressing the springs 36 and 42 and slipping said bars from off the ends of the triggers and levers. The springs 31 on the gun-barrels are then compressed and the guns withdrawn from the collars 22 and 28 on the gun-supporting frame, and the bar 24 is next removed by turning the bolts 25 and lifting the bar therefrom. The connecting-bars 23 are finally swung underneath the bar 21, in which position they are out of the way and protected from injury. The guns, the bar 24, and the lever and trigger bars are then stored in the chest 43, upon which the entire device is ready for transportation without liability of damage to any of the parts.

To set up the battery for operation the above-described operation is reversed, the bar 24 being first attached to the connecting-bars 23, the guns next slipped into their collars, and the trigger and lever bars finally slipped over the ends of the triggers and levers. In this operation the springs on the guns and on the triggers and levers automatically snap into place, permitting the battery to be set up for action almost instantaneously. When ready for action, all the guns may be simultaneously aimed by turning the gun-supporting frame upon its pintle 17 by first slightly loosening the hand-nut 15 of the clamp, and after the guns have been properly aimed the hand-nut is tightened, holding them rigidly in position for firing. The spherical-headed pintle and its clamp form a ball-and-socket joint, whereby the guns may be freely trained in every direction. When correctly aimed, all the guns are simultaneously fired by oscillating the trigger-bar 39 rearward, thus releasing the firing mechanism of each gun and causing the guns to fire a volley. After the guns have been discharged they are simultaneously prepared for firing another volley by oscillating the lever-bar 34 rearward and then forward, which operates the mechanism for ejecting the shells, feeding new cartridges into place, and setting the firing mechanism. These operations may be continuously repeated, whereby volleys follow one another with great rapidity.

I have illustrated my improved battery as provided with a series of Winchester rifles, but it will be readily understood that guns of a similar type may be substituted for those shown.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage, of a plurality of magazine-guns detachably mounted on said carriage, means for simultaneously charging and setting in firing position said guns, means for simultaneously firing the guns, and a chest carried by the carriage for the storage of the guns and their attachments when detached, substantially as described.

2. In a platoon-battery, the combination

with a wheeled carriage, of a gun-supporting frame 20 mounted thereon, a plurality of coincident collars 22 and 28 fixed on said frame for the reception of a plurality of guns, means for simultaneously loading and discharging said guns, and springs 31 arranged on the gun-barrels and operating to engage the collars 22 to prevent the recoil of the guns, substantially as described.

3. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage, of a gun-supporting frame 20 mounted thereon and provided with means for detachably holding a plurality of guns said frame consisting of a bar 21 attached to the carriage by a universal joint, connecting-bars 23 pivotally connected at their rear ends to said bar 21, and a bar 24 detachably connected to the forward ends of the said connecting-bars, substantially as described.

4. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage, of a gun-supporting frame 20 mounted thereon and consisting of a bar 21 attached to the carriage by a universal joint, connecting-bars 23 pivotally connected at their rear ends to said bar 21, and having swiveled in their forward ends pivot-bolts 25 provided with elongated heads 26, a bar 24 having slots 27 for the reception of the heads of said bolts, and means carried by the said bars 21 and 24 for detachably holding a plurality of guns, substantially as described.

5. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage, of a two-part clamp consisting of a plate 6 fixed on the carriage, a plate 10 movably connected to said plate 6, said plates being provided with cup-shaped recesses 7 and 11, a spindle 17 having a spherical head seated in said recesses, means for clamping the plates 6 and 10 about the spherical head, a gun-supporting frame mounted on said spindle, and means for detachably mounting a plurality of guns on said frame, substantially as described.

6. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage, of a two-part clamp consisting of a plate 6 fixed on the carriage, a plate 10 attached at one end by a hinged connection to the plate 6, a bolt 13 adjustably connecting the other ends of said plates, the said plates being provided with cup-shaped recesses 7 and 11, a spindle 17 having a spherical head seated in said recesses, a gun-supporting frame swiveled on said spindle, and means for detachably mounting a plurality of guns on said frame, substantially as described.

7. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage carrying a gun-supporting frame, a plurality of magazine-guns detachably mounted on said frame each having a lever 33 for operating the ejecting and loading mechanism, and a trigger 41, and a lever-bar 34 and trigger-bar 39 detachably connected to said levers and triggers for simultaneously loading and firing all the guns, substantially as described.

8. In a platoon-battery, the combination with a wheeled carriage carrying a gun-supporting frame, magazine-guns detachably mounted on said frame and each provided with a lever 33 for operating the ejecting and loading mechanism, and a trigger 41, springs 36 and 42 respectively attached at one end to the said levers and triggers and provided at their free ends with shouldered recesses, and a lever-bar 34 and trigger-bar 39 each provided with a plurality of slots to permit the passage therethrough of the ends of the said levers and triggers, the springs 36 and 42 operating to engage and hold said bars in place, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD B. POTTS.

Witnesses:
GUY F. SMITH,
JOHN M. DAVIS.