

(No Model.)

H. MAYERS.
KNOCKDOWN CHAIR.

No. 583,385.

Patented May 25, 1897.

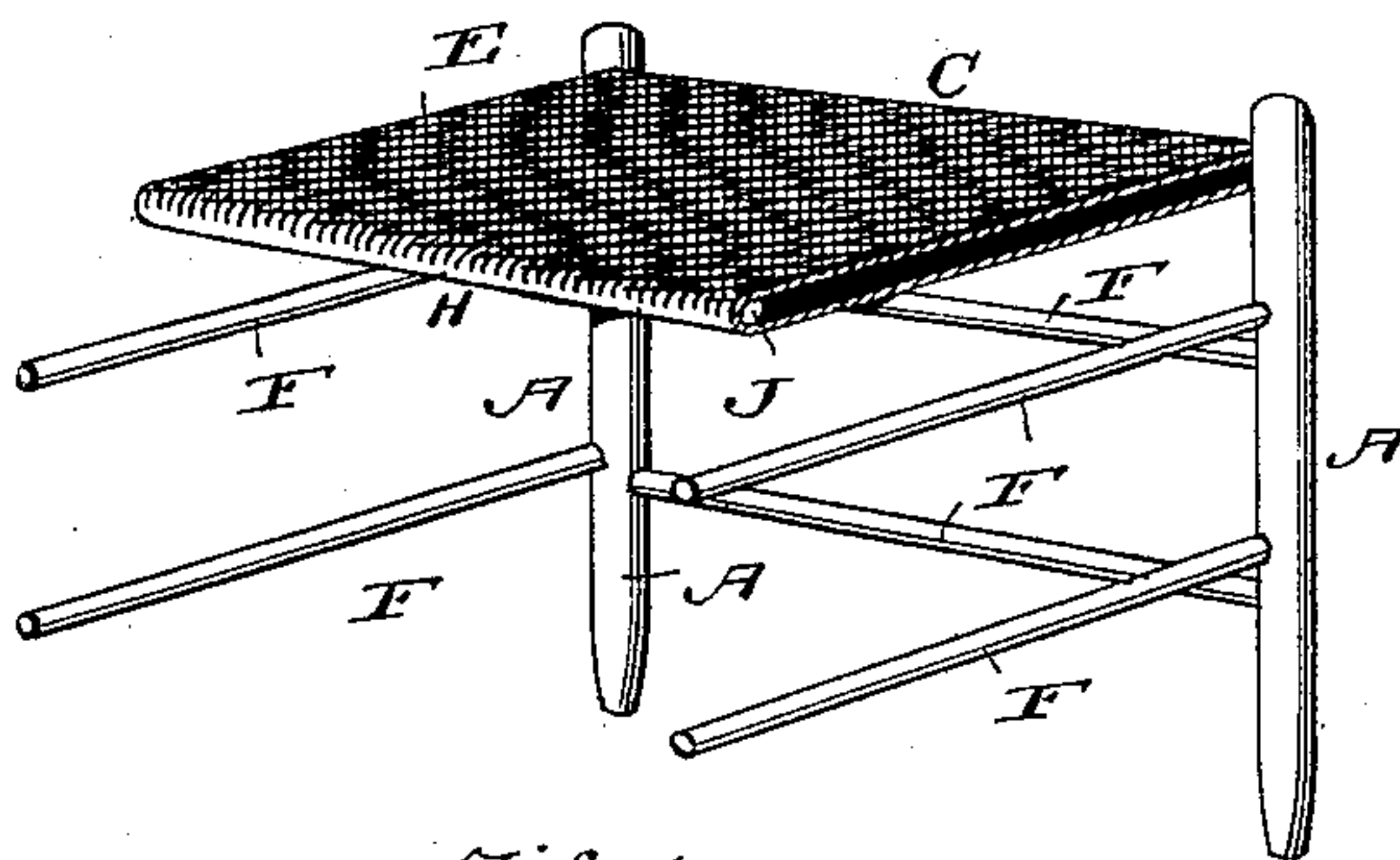
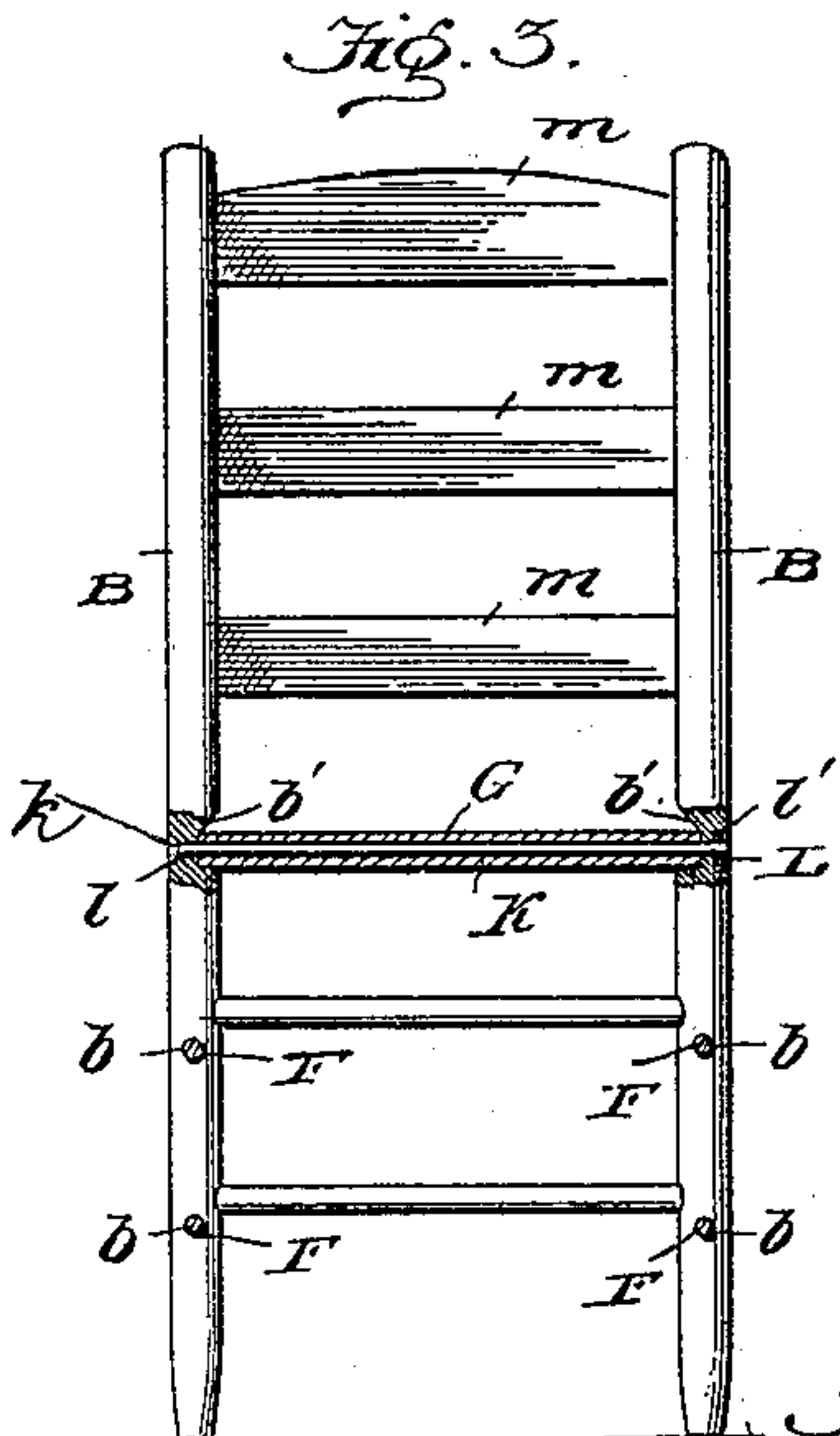
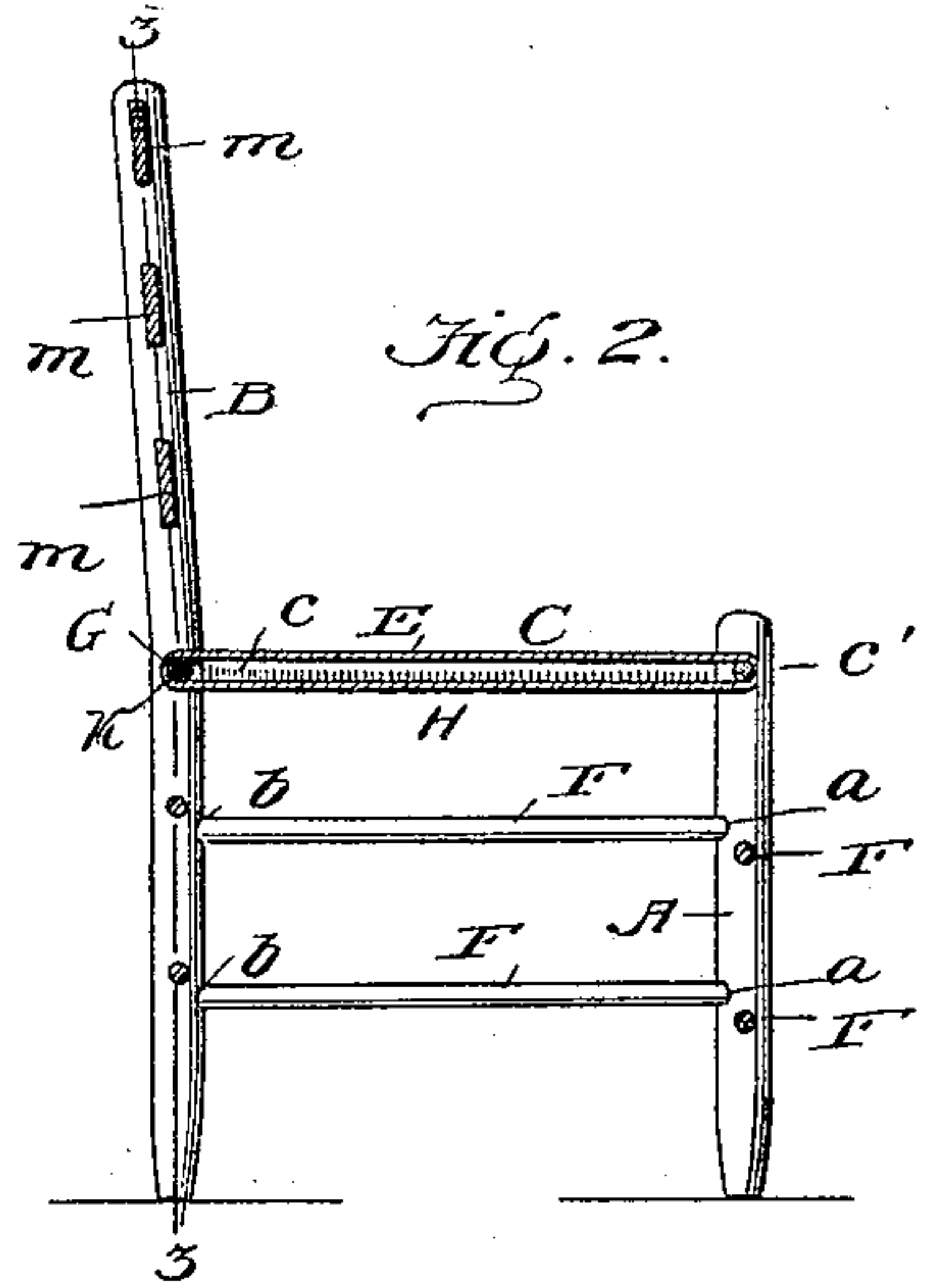
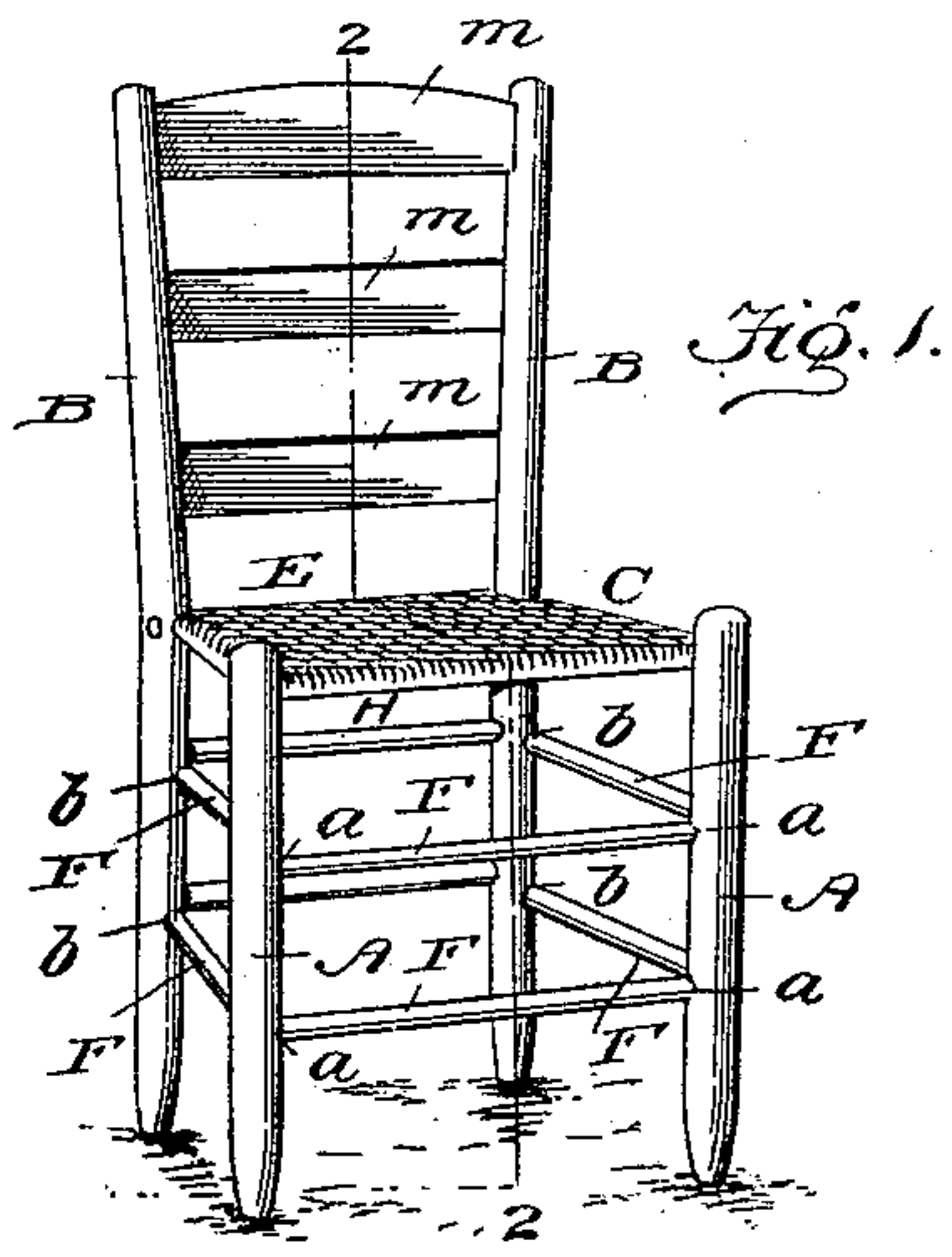


Fig. 4.

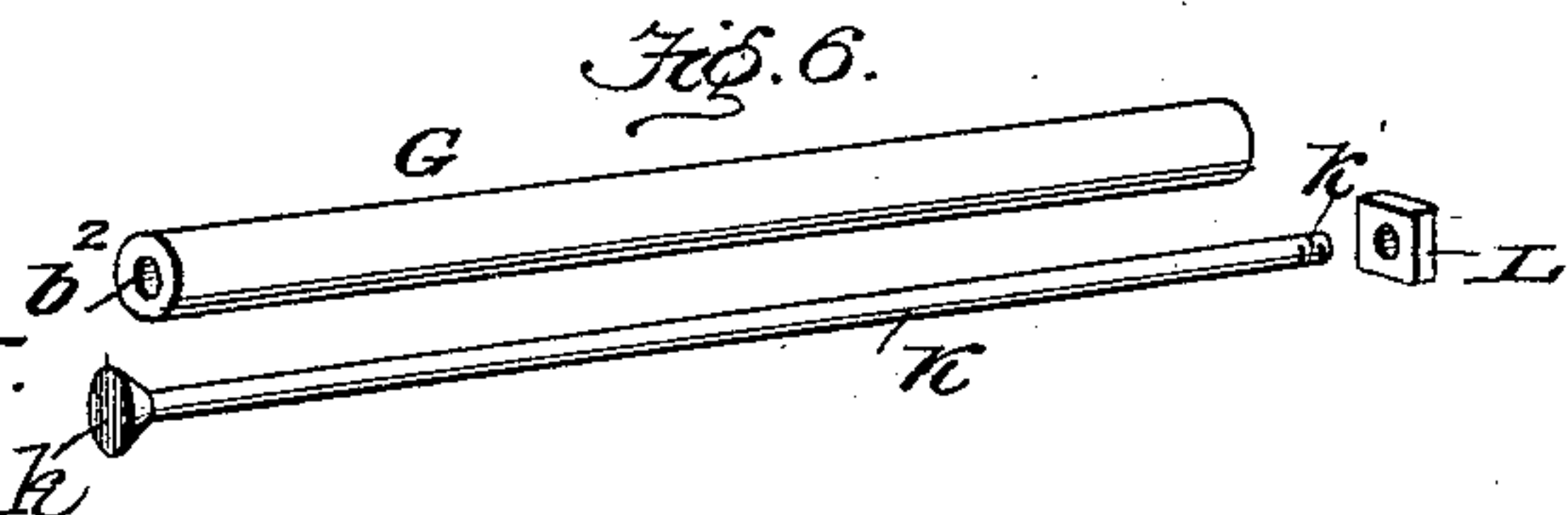


Fig. 5.

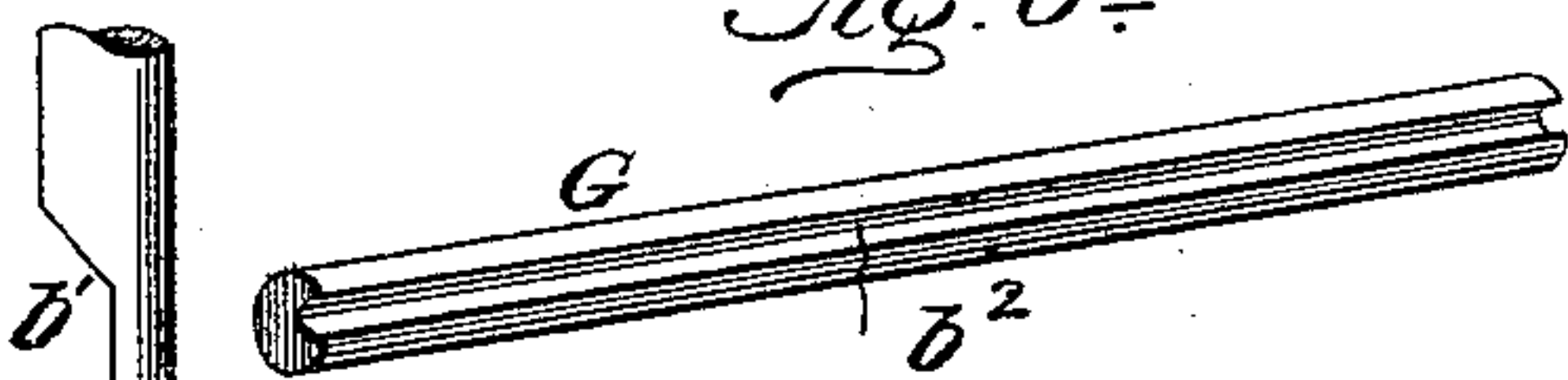
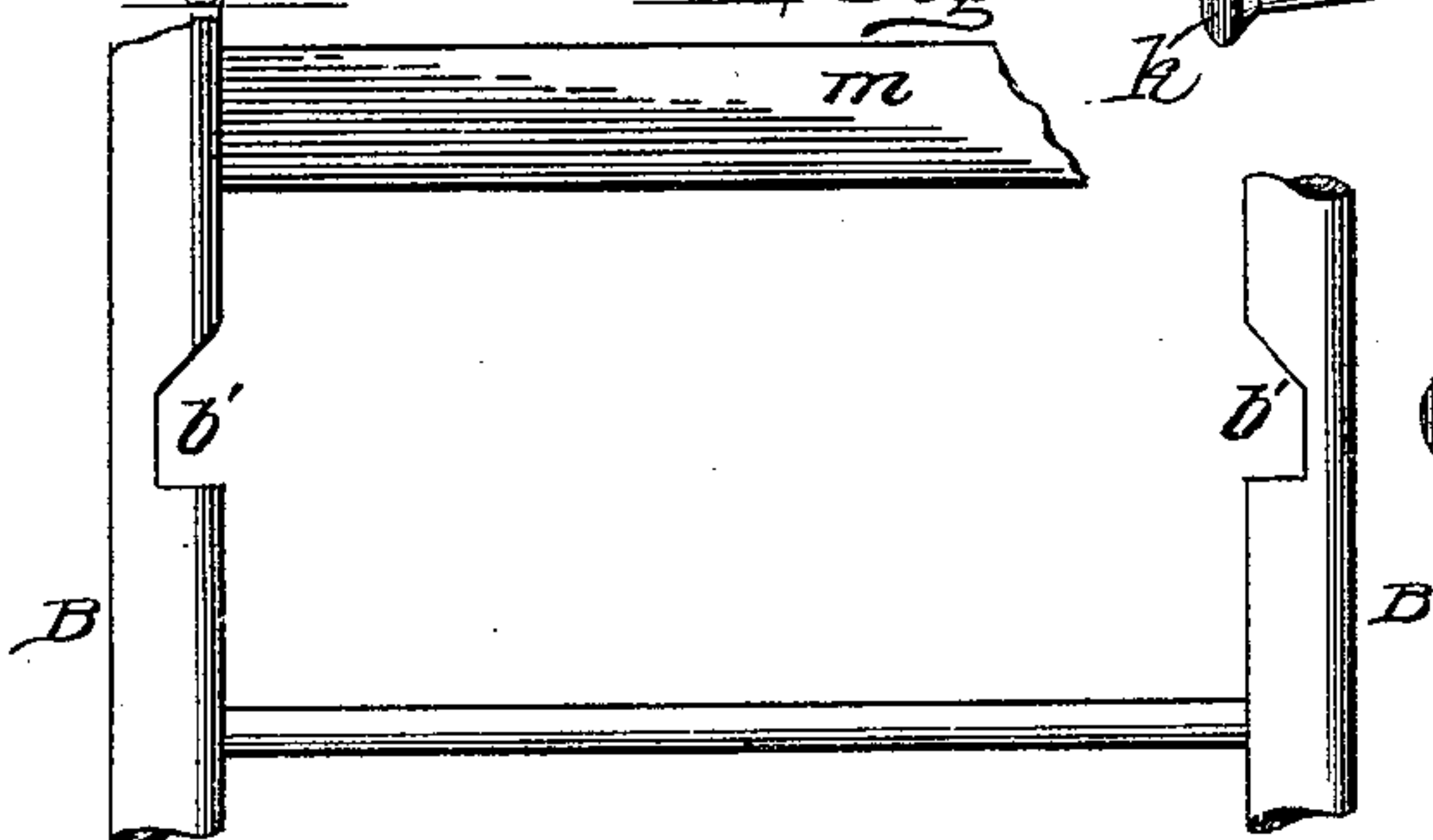


Fig. 6a



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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KNOCKDOWN CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 583,385, dated May 25, 1897.

Application filed November 7, 1896. Serial No. 611,403. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY MAYERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Union City, in the county of Obion and State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Knockdown Chairs; 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.

In the manufacture of cane, ratan, or split bottom chairs it has been customary to assemble the parts together into the complete article at the factory, but this is objectionable because shipping and transportation charges are high-priced in consequence of the bulky nature of the articles.

The object of the present improvement is to provide a chair which may be shipped in a "knockdown" or folded condition, which may be easily and quickly assembled together, and shall be simple, strong, and durable in construction as well as comparatively cheap of manufacture.

In the manufacture of my chair I make the seat-frame with a temporary rear stretcher or round, and on this frame is woven in any suitable way the bottom of cane, ratan, or splint, after which the temporary stretcher is removed in order that the chair, together with the front and rear legs and the rounds, may be compactly packed for transportation or storage, thereby reducing to a minimum the bulk of the shipment, enabling the shipper to secure low freight rates, and facilitating the handling of the merchandise.

In assembling the parts of the chair into a complete unitary structure the rounds are forced into proper sockets formed in the legs, and the seat-frame with the woven bottom, but minus the temporary rear stretcher, is properly adjusted to the chair-frame. I provide a permanent rear stretcher, cut to the proper length to fit between the back legs and having a longitudinal groove or aperture and shouldered ends. The stretcher is fitted in the rear woven edge of the bottom, and its shouldered ends are fitted in shouldered parts of the back legs or posts, after which a tie-rod is adjusted to the grooved or aper-

tured stretcher, so that the headed end of said rod is countersunk flush with one of the back posts, while the threaded end of the rod is screwed into a nut countersunk in the other back post or leg. The permanent rear stretcher is arranged to conceal the tie-rod from view, because said rod lies in the groove or aperture in the stretcher, and said rod imparts strength and rigidity to the chair-frame to a greater degree than can be secured by the rear stretcher alone.

The invention further consists in the novel combination and construction of parts which will be hereinafter described and claimed.

To enable others to understand my invention, I have illustrated one embodiment of the same in the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a chair constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-sectional view on the plane indicated by the dotted line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a vertical transverse sectional view on the plane indicated by the dotted line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a perspective view illustrating the use of a temporary stretcher in weaving the chair-bottom. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the back posts to show the notches. Figs. 6 and 6^a are detail views of two forms of the rear permanent stretcher.

Like letters of reference denote corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings, referring to which—

A A designate the front legs; B B, the back posts, which form the rear legs and the support for the back; C, the seat-frame; E, the seat-bottom, and F the rounds of the chair.

The front legs A A are provided with sockets or mortises *a*, as usual, to receive the ends of the front and side rounds F, which are driven into said sockets or mortises.

The back posts B B have mortises or sockets *b* in their front sides to receive the side rounds and the side stretchers of the seat-frame, and the inner-facing sides of said back posts are provided with shoulders *b'*, cut for the ends of the rear permanent stretcher G to rest in and support said stretcher in proper position.

The seat-frame consists of the side stretchers *c* and the front stretcher *c'*, which, to-

gether with the rear permanent stretcher G and the bottom H, completes the seat of the chair. In preparing the seat I first unite the side and front stretchers $c c'$ together and employ a temporary rear stretcher J, and these parts may be assembled with the front and back posts or with a suitable former or shaper, while the seat-bottom H is woven around the stretchers $c c' J$. This bottom may be of cane, ratan, or splint, and it may be woven in any way to the desired pattern; but it is not attached to the rear temporary stretcher J, whereby said stretcher J may be withdrawn after the bottom has been woven to enable the bottom to be assembled with the seat-frame, front and back posts, and the permanent stretcher into the complete chair.

The permanent stretcher is cut to the proper length to fit between the back posts and engage with the shoulders b' thereof, and said stretcher is provided with a longitudinal aperture, channel, or groove b^2 to receive the rod K, which, when the stretcher is properly fitted to the back posts, lies on the inner side of or through the stretcher in order that it may not be visible. In this groove or aperture of the stretcher is fitted the tie-rod K, having a head k at one end and a screw-thread k' at its other end. Suitable holes $l l'$ are cut in the back posts B nearly in alignment with the shoulders b' , and in the hole l' of one back leg is fitted a nut L, which is held fixed in place in any suitable manner. The rod K is adjusted to occupy the groove or aperture on the inside of the permanent stretcher and to have its head k fill the hole l in one back post to lie flush with the latter, and the threaded end of the rod is screwed into the fixed nut L, thus holding the rod rigidly in place and contributing to the stability and strength of the chair.

The back posts have the usual rear rounds and the cross-bars m , the latter forming the chair-back, and these parts are assembled and united together at the factory, so that the back posts may be packed in a small compass for shipment and storage. The seat-frame and bottoms are packed together, and the front legs with the rounds are assembled and united, so that a number of said parts may be packed into small compass. In assembling the chair at the merchant's or retailer's store the rounds are driven into their sockets in the back legs, the seat-frame is adjusted so that the front and side stretchers occupy the sockets in the front legs and back posts, the permanent stretcher is adjusted to fit the rear edge of the bottom and occupy the shoulders on the back posts, and the tie-rod is passed through the hole l and the channel or aperture b^2 to enable its threaded end to be screwed into the nut L and its headed end fit in the hole l of one of the back posts. The tie-rod is concealed from view, because it lies in the groove or aperture on the inside

of the permanent stretcher, and said rod draws the back parts of the chair together.

It will be observed that the chairs may be made up at the factory in part and the parts packed to advantage to take up a minimum amount of space, thus enabling the manufacturer to secure low transportation charges and facilitating the handling of the merchandise. The parts can be easily and quickly assembled together to complete the chairs, and each chair is strong and durable in construction, especially at the back, where the rod draws together the various parts.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a knockdown chair, the back posts provided on their facing sides with the shoulders b' and with transverse openings in alignment with said shoulders, and a nut fixed in the opening in one of said posts, combined with a channeled, rear stretcher fitted in the shouldered parts of said back posts, a tie-rod passing through said channeled stretcher and screwed into said nut to draw the back posts tightly against the stretcher, and a seat-frame having its bottom connected to said stretcher, whereby said stretcher forms one element of the chair and is removable from the back posts and seat-bottom, as and for the purposes described.

2. In a knockdown chair, the back posts united by the cross-slats and stretchers and provided, at points intermediate between an adjacent slat and stretcher, with means for receiving a removable, chair-seat stretcher, and a chair-front having the front posts, stretchers and seat-frame all joined together and adapted to be connected with the back posts, combined with a seat-bottom united to the side and front rails of the seat-frame, and a removable rear stretcher connected to said seat-bottom and provided with means for fastening the same to and between the back posts to bind the parts rigidly together, as and for the purposes described.

3. In a knockdown chair, the seat-frame comprising the front legs, the side and front stretchers, and the seat-bottom all united permanently together whereby said frame may be nested with others similar frames, and the back posts having the cross-rails and stretchers and provided with sockets to receive a rear stretcher and said side stretchers, combined with a rear stretcher which is adapted to fit in the rear edge of the seat-bottom, and means for removably fastening said rear stretcher to the back posts, for the purposes described, substantially as set forth.

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

HENRY MAYERS.

Witnesses:

A. J. HARPOLE,
J. G. GREEN.