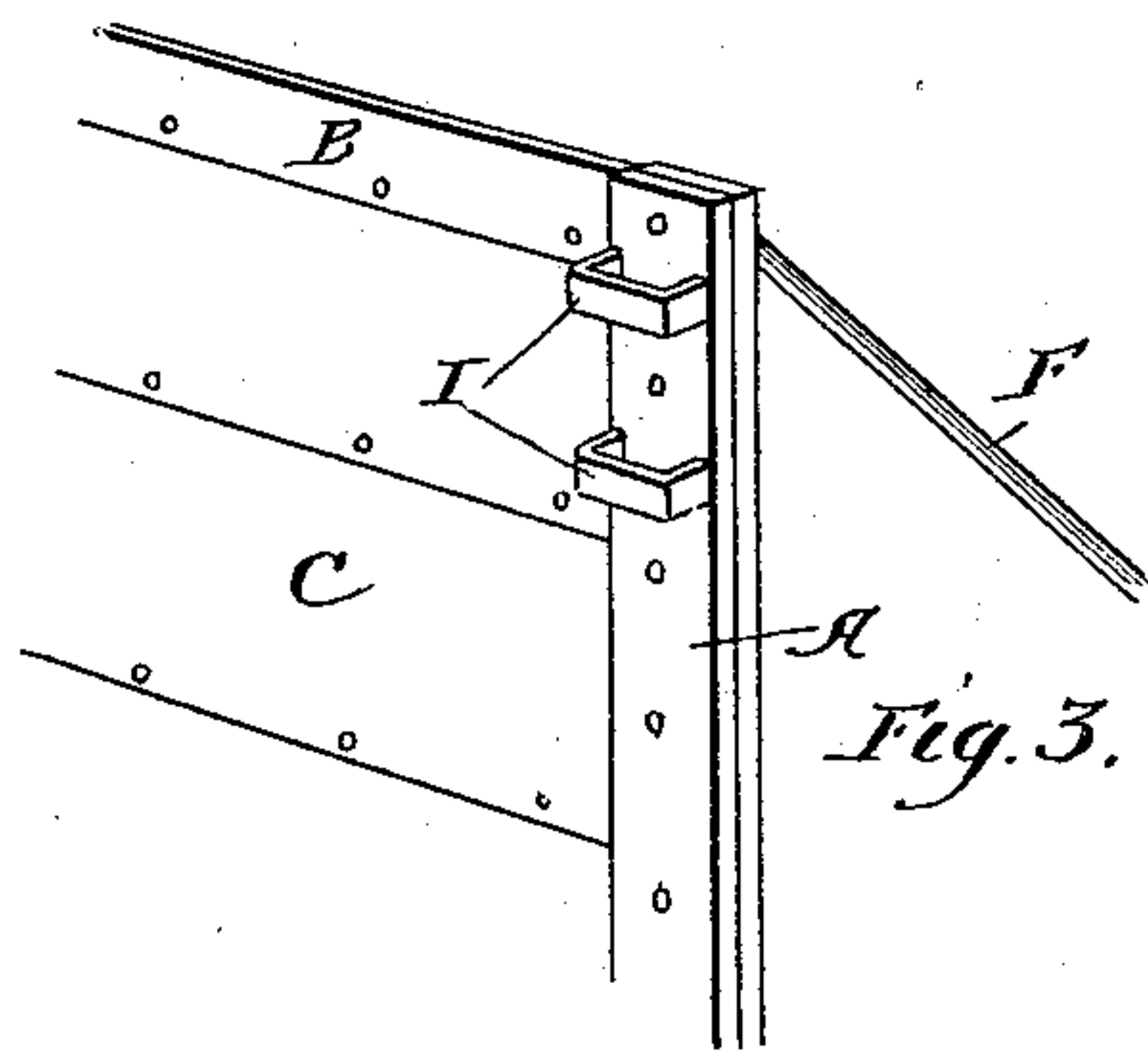
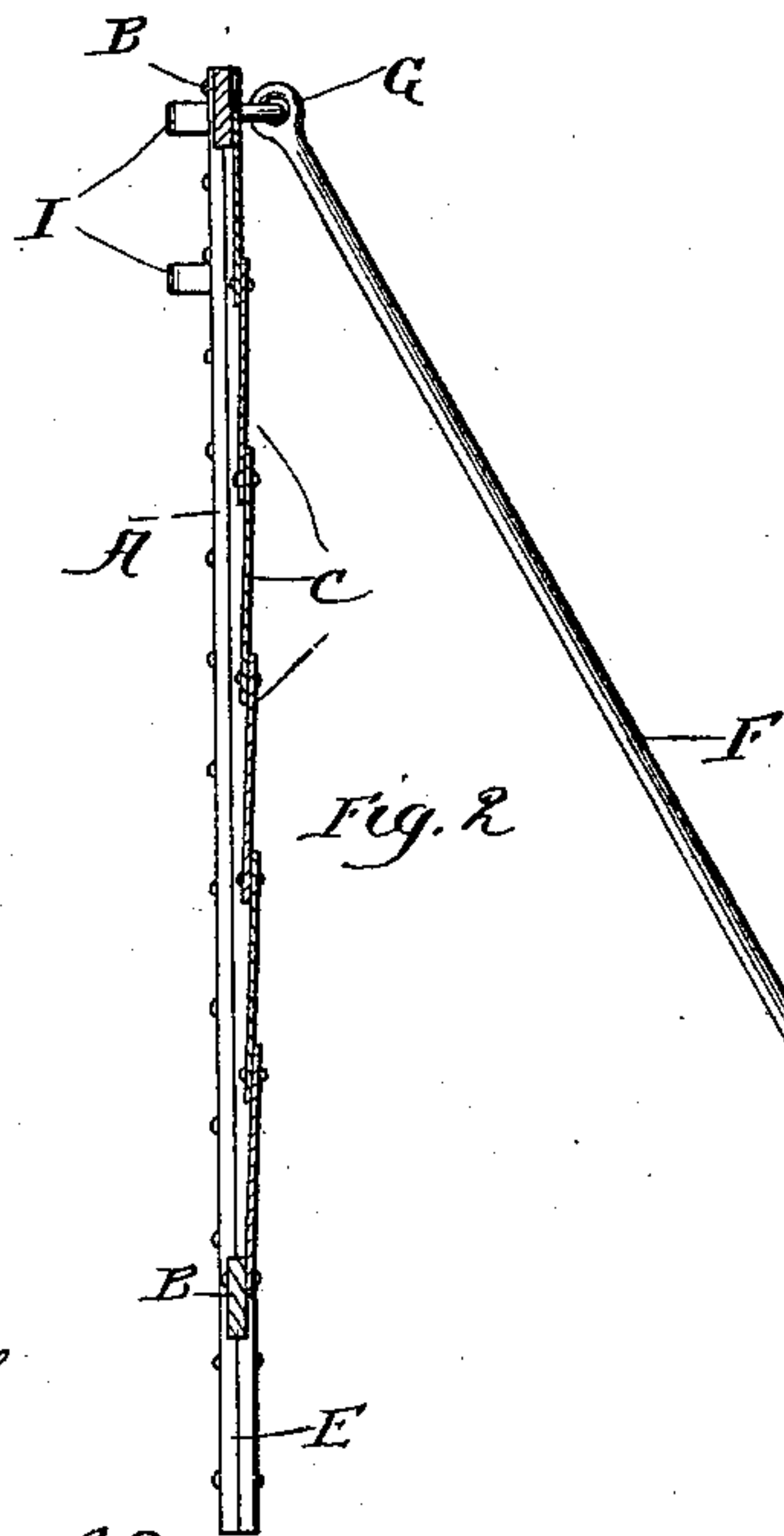
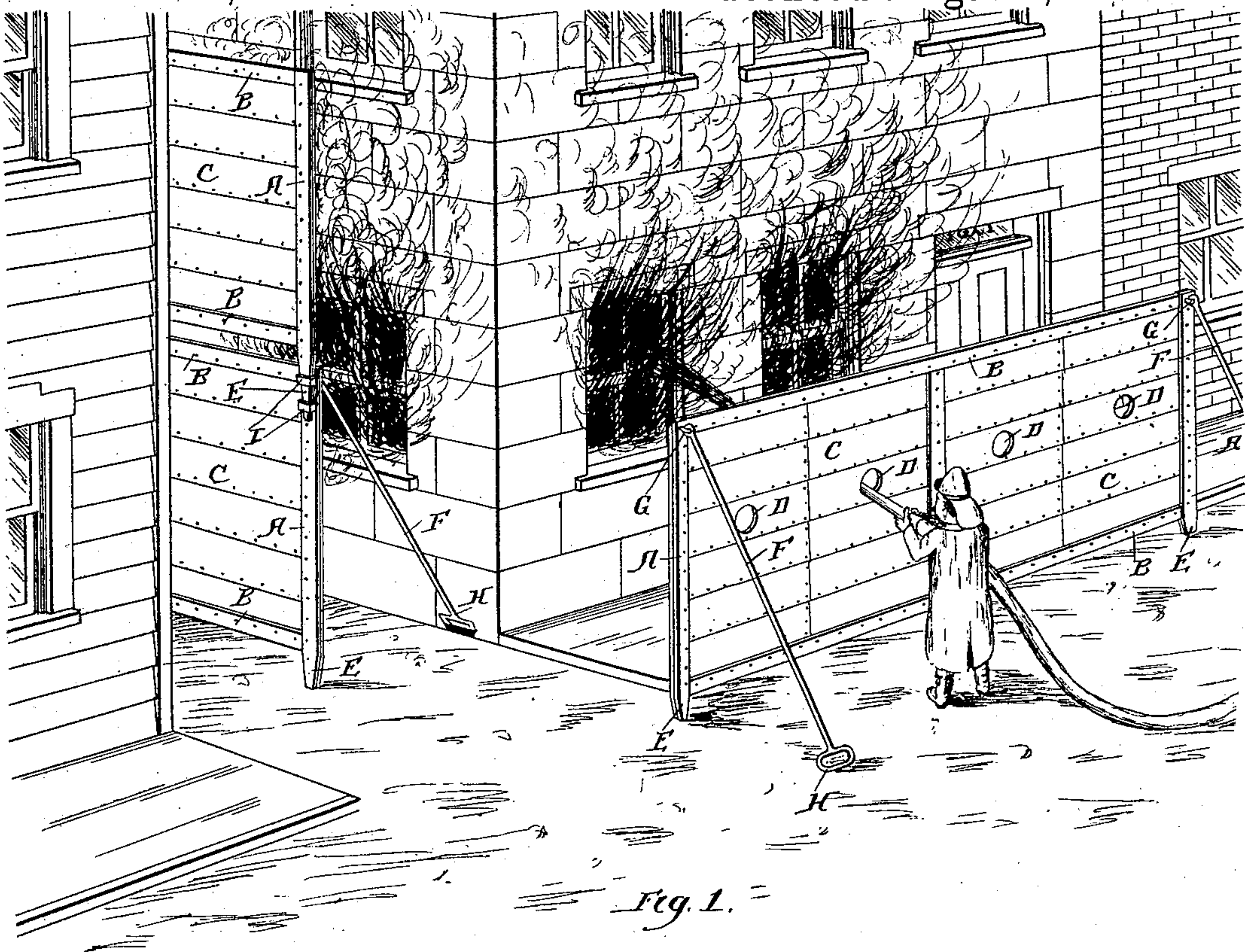


(No Model.)

W. J. WOODRUFF.
FIRE SHIELD.

No. 589,062.

Patented Aug. 31, 1897.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILSON J. WOODRUFF, OF FOSTER, IOWA.

FIRE-SHIELD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,062, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed September 15, 1896. Serial No. 605,907. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILSON J. WOODRUFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Foster, in the county of Monroe and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Shields, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new and useful improvement in shields for use by firemen and the like, and has for its object to provide a device of this description which shall be simple in construction, easy of operation, and which will afford a perfect protection to firemen in approaching in close proximity to a burning building for the purpose of directing streams of water thereon.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claims.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, its construction and operation will now be described in detail, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective illustrating the application and use of my improvement; Fig. 2, a central vertical section of the screen; and Fig. 3, a detail perspective of a portion of the screen, showing the sockets for increasing its width or folding the sections thereof together.

In carrying out my invention I provide a frame of strip metal, preferably iron, consisting of a number of uprights A and cross-rails B, which may be of the desired width, so as to afford proper protection to the firemen in approaching the flames, and upon this framework is secured a series of plates C, of sheet-iron, asbestos, or other suitable material, through which are formed the holes D to be utilized for the directing of streams of water upon the fire and are therefore of a height from the ground which would correspond to the position in which the nozzle of a hose is usually held. The end uprights of the shield extend below the lower rail thereof, as indicated at E, and serves the purpose of feet to support the shield when in use, and in order that the shield may be further supported I provide the stay-rods F, which are stapled or

otherwise secured to the shield at G, their opposite ends being provided with handholds H. Thus when the shield is to be used these stay-rods are grasped by a number of firemen and the shield thereby run into place, after which it may be either held by the firemen continuing to hold the stay-rods or it may be set after the manner of an easel by placing the lower ends of the stay-rods in contact with the ground, as clearly shown in Fig. 1. When the shield is in place, it is obvious that firemen may approach within close proximity to the flames and direct streams of water upon said flames through the openings D, which will serve as rests for the nozzles as well as observation-holes. From this it will be seen that the firemen may be protected, and at the same time greater facility afforded the application of water to the burning building.

For convenience in extending the shield, so as to increase its width to prevent the spread of fire from one building to another and enable the firemen to gain access to windows above the first floor by means of their ladders, sockets I are secured to the end uprights of the shield, in which the lower ends E of corresponding uprights may be placed, as will be readily understood, and for some purposes it is found desirable to form the shields in half-widths, and thus complete them when the location of the fire has been reached by the insertion of the end uprights of one half in the sockets of the other half, since by this method the transportation of the shield is facilitated. The most important use to which my improved shield may be put, and with great saving to property and life, is the placing of these shields between a burning building and buildings which have not yet been ignited, thereby preventing the spread of the fire from one building to another and enabling the firemen to confine the flames within a given space, which greatly increases the efficiency of the fire apparatus, in that their efforts are concentrated within a small area. This is clearly illustrated in Fig. 1.

Since my improvement is cheap in construction, simple and durable, and readily handled with but little or no skill, it is especially adapted for use in all classes of fire-extinguishing apparatus and under some cir-

cumstances will obviate the necessity of calling out fire-engines, since fire-extinguishers may be used at such close range to the flames as to extinguish ordinary fires.

- 5 When not in use, my improvement may be stored in a small space, since its folding together facilitates this.

Having thus fully described this invention, what is claimed as new and useful is—

- 10 1. A fire - shield, consisting of uprights, cross-rails and plates secured thereon, certain of said plates having holes formed therein, rods pivoted to the frame, and handholds formed upon said rods, substantially as
15 and for the purpose set forth.

2. The herein-described combination of the uprights A terminating in feet E, rails B, plates C, certain of said plates having holes

formed therethrough, sockets I carried by the uprights, stay-rods F pivoted to the uprights, 20 and handholds H, all arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a device of the character described, a frame composed of uprights terminating in feet, rails connecting the uprights, a cover- 25 ing secured on the frame and sockets on the uprights adapted to hold the feet of similar frames, as and for the purpose described.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two sub- 30 scribing witnesses.

WILSON J. WOODRUFF.

Witnesses:

S. S. WILLIAMSON,
M. R. PIERCE.