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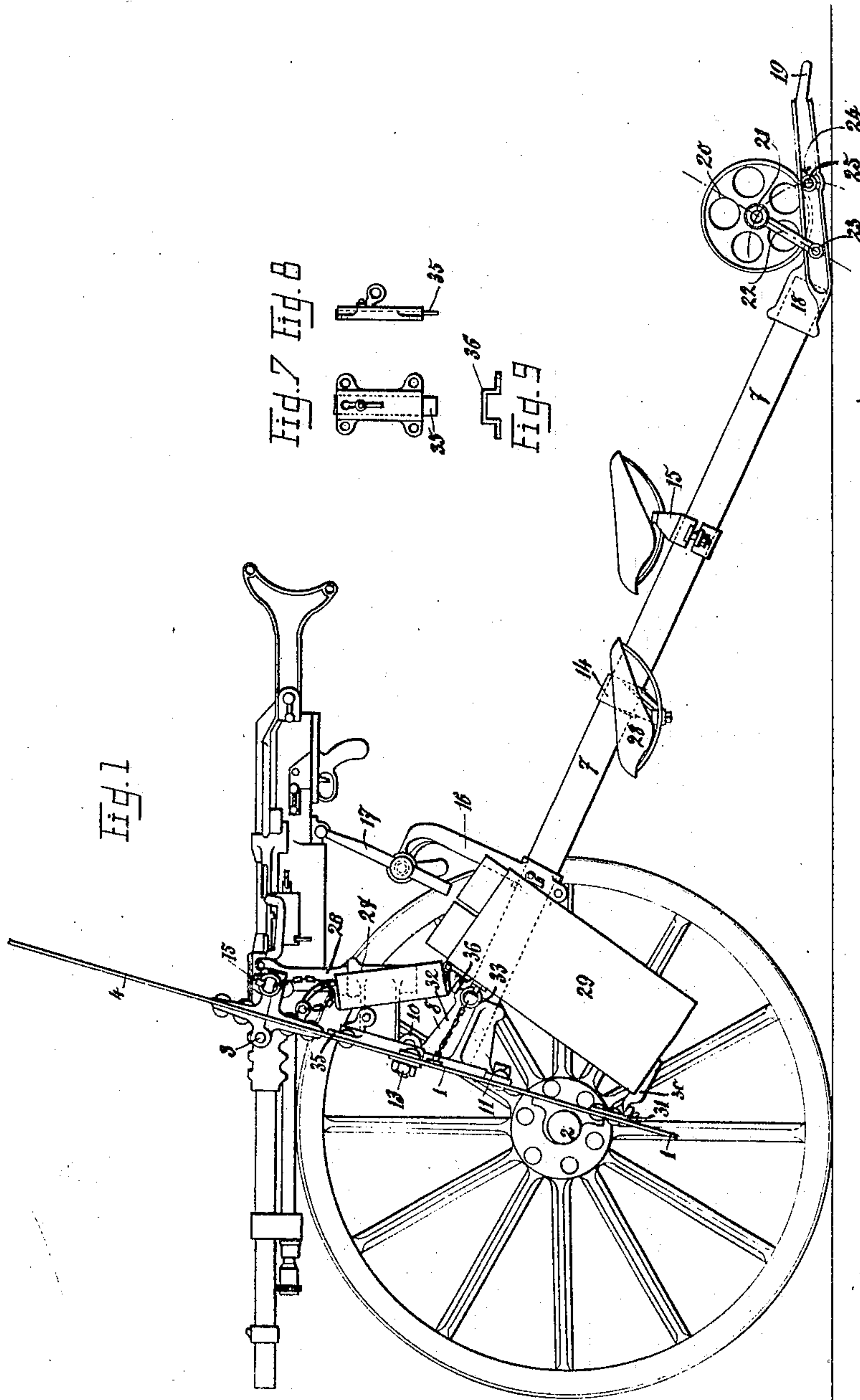
Patented Dec. 6, 1898.

L. V. BENÉT.  
GUN MOUNTING.

(Application filed Mar. 14, 1898.)

(No Model.)

3 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses

*C. H. Parker*

*D. H. B. L. Lock*

Inventor

*Laurence V. Benét*  
by *Millinson & Fisher*,  
Attorneys.

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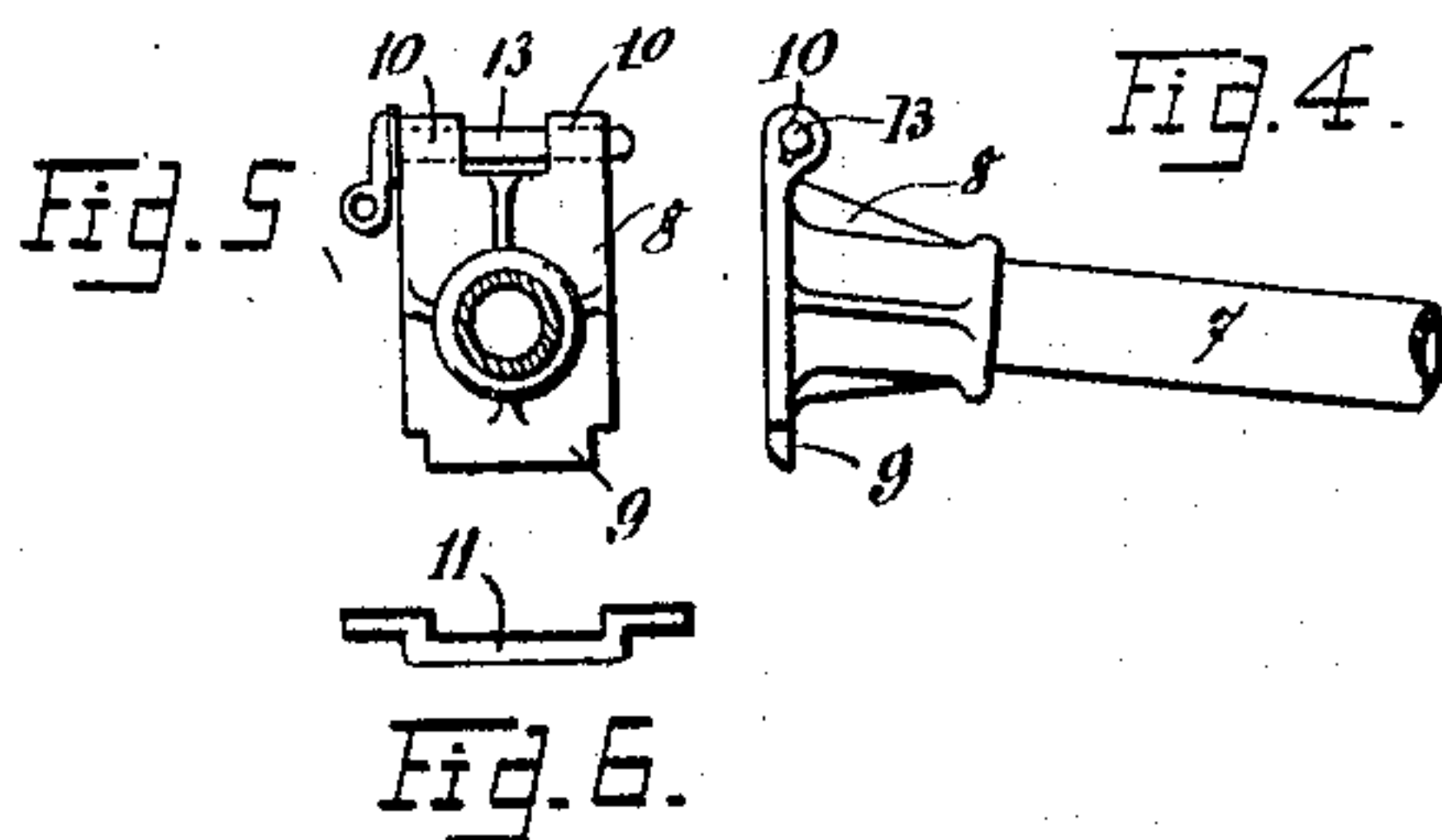
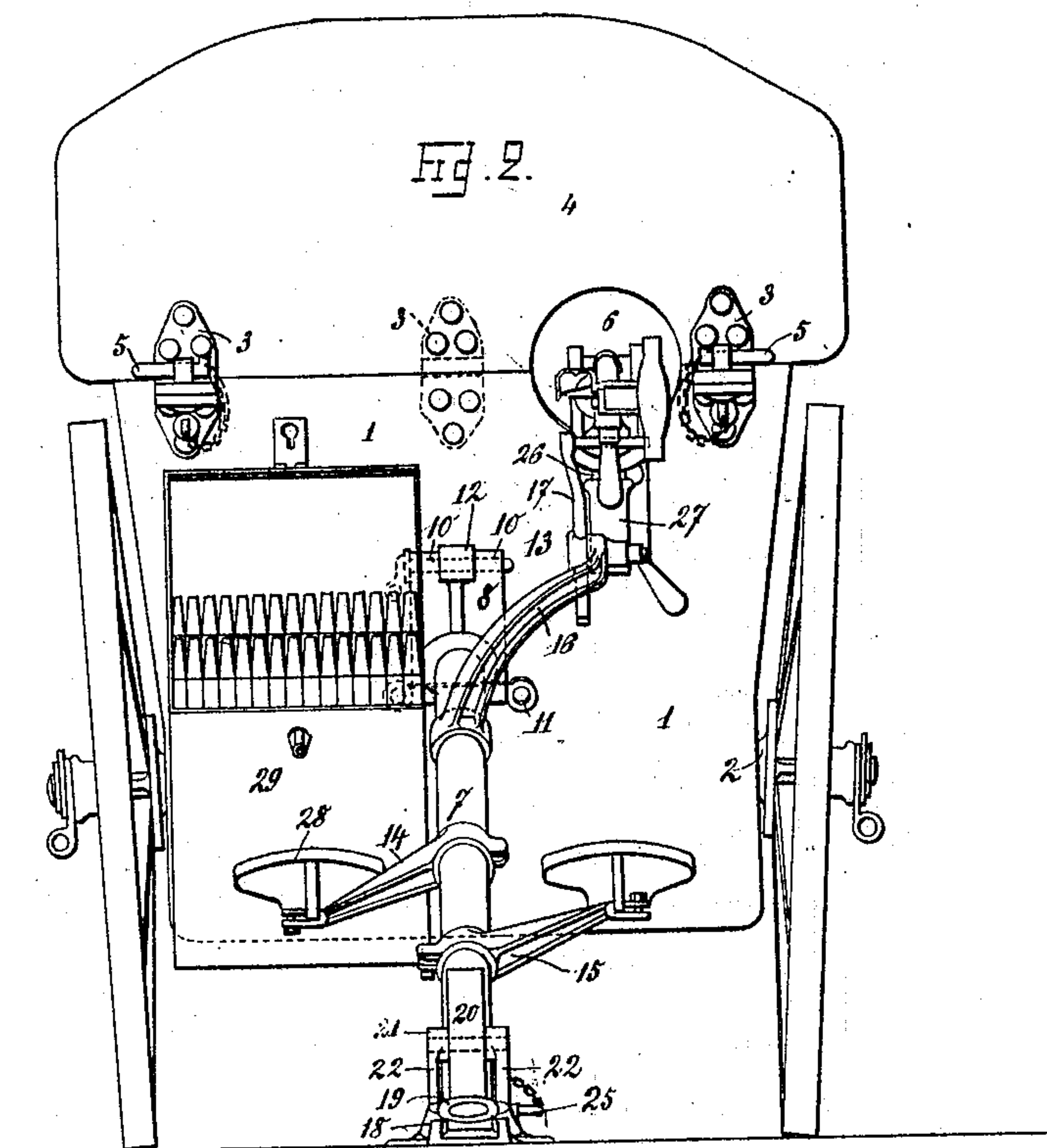
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3 Sheets—Sheet 2.



Witnesses

*Wm. H. Parker.*

*W. H. B. Lathrop.*

Inventor  
*Laurence V. Benét,*  
by *Milkinson & Fisher,*  
Attorneys

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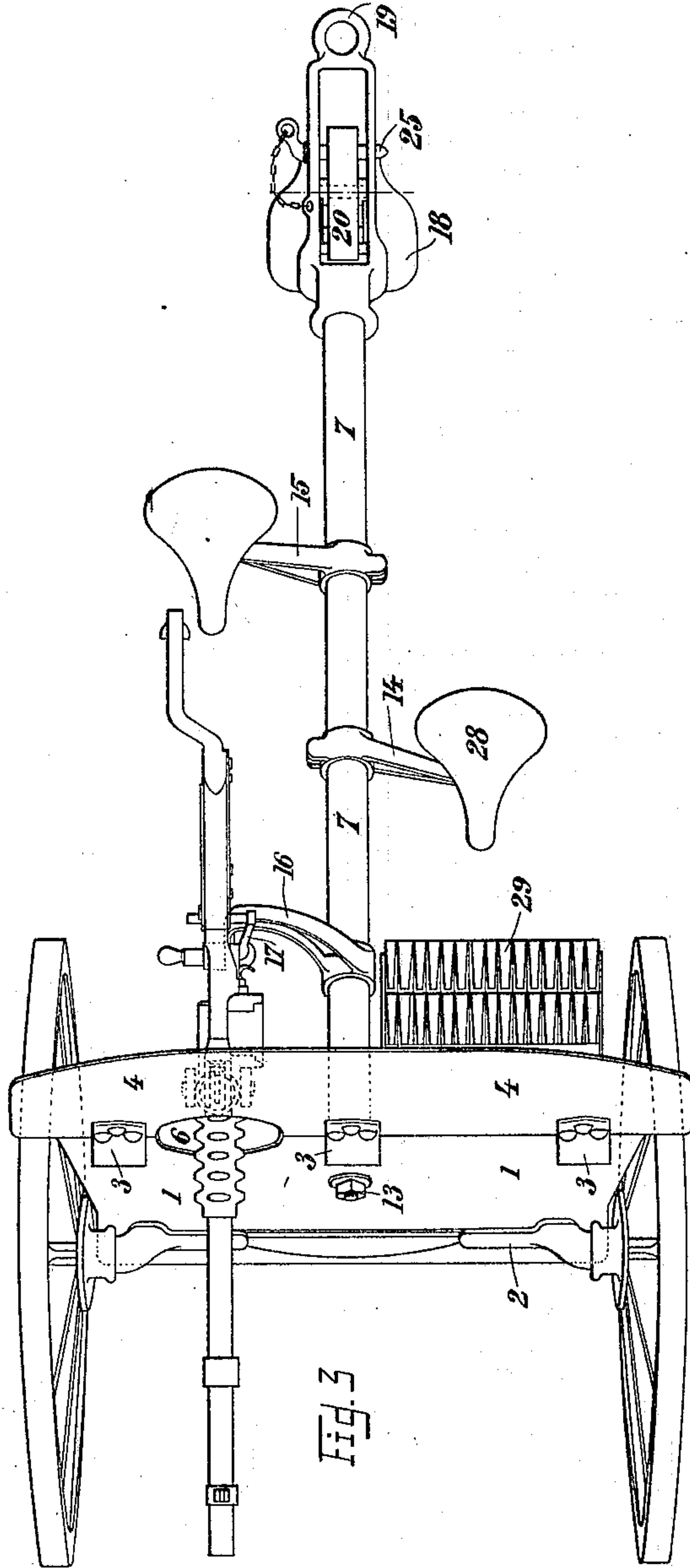
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3 Sheets—Sheet 3.



Witnesses

*Wm. H. Parker.*

*W. H. Blacklock*

Inventor,  
Lawrence V. Benét,  
by *Millinson & Fisher,*  
Attorneys.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LAURENCE V. BENÉT, OF PARIS, FRANCE.

## GUN-MOUNTING.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 615,522, dated December 6, 1898.

Application filed March 14, 1898. Serial No. 673,809. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LAURENCE V. BENÉT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paris, France, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Gun-Mountings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

This invention relates to gun-mountings in general, but more particularly to mountings for automatic machine-guns of the type described in Letters Patent dated July 14, 1896, No. 564,043. In guns of this type two men are required for the convenient service of the piece—one to feed the gun and one to aim and fire. It is essential that an armored protection be afforded to both these men against musketry fire, that definite positions be provided for each man convenient for the service of the piece, and that the mounting be capable of being readily and quickly divided into parts of size and weight suitable for stowage in ships' boats. At the same time provision must be made for the transportation of a reasonable amount of ammunition on the mounting itself. In order to fulfil these requirements, the improved mounting is constructed as follows: The body of the mounting consists of a bullet-proof shield hinged together and so arranged that the two sections may be folded one upon the other. To the lower section of this shield is riveted or otherwise attached an axle, on which are mounted wheels of any approved pattern. To the middle line of this shield is separably attached a trail, preferably of metallic tubing, on either side of which is secured an adjustable support for a seat, respectively, for the gunner and the loader. This trail also carries a bracket carrying the elevating-gear or clamp for securing the gun in elevation. To one side of the middle line of the shield (right or left) is secured a socket in which is mounted the pivot carrying the gun. It is to be observed that heretofore the gun has been invariably mounted in the middle line of the carriage and that by the new arrangement many advantages are secured. In fact, by this construction one half of the shield is utilized for the protection of the gunner and the other half for the protection of the loader. In the shield is provided a suitable port or embrasure for the

gun. On the left (or right) of the shield are provided suitable attachments for separably securing an ammunition-chest convenient for the loader and with a capacity for the amount of ammunition necessary for an ordinary engagement.

While many of the details of this mounting are well-known contrivances, the conception of the mounting as a whole has enabled me to produce a light and compact mounting, a result which would be impossible without placing the gun out of the center line of the carriage. This therefore is the gist of my invention.

Reference is had to the accompanying drawings, in which the same parts are indicated by the same figures throughout the several views.

Figure 1 is a side view of the mounting. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation. Fig. 3 is a plan, and Figs. 4 to 9 are details.

1 is the lower section of the shield, which forms, so to speak, the body of the mounting. To it is secured the axle 2, of such form as to afford the maximum of resistance with the minimum of weight. On the axle are mounted wheels secured by the usual linch-pins and swivels. On the top of the lower section 1 is hinged at 3 3 3 the upper section 4, so arranged as to afford protection for the heads of the gunner and loader. When in the developed position, the section 4 is secured by means of pins 5 5. Partly in the section 1 and partly in the section 4 is cut the embrasure 6. This embrasure is so carried to one side of the mounting that the gun and the gunner are entirely between the trail and the right (or left) wheel.

In the central vertical plane of the mounting is attached the trail 7, which makes such an angle with the ground as to insure stability of the mounting as a whole. The trail 7 is separately secured to the lower section of the shield by the following device. To the head of the trail 7 is attached a casting 8, Figs. 1, 2, 4, and 5, the lower part of which is formed into a locking-lip 9 and the upper part into a pair of lugs 10 10. On the lower section 1 of the shield is secured a U-shaped strap 11, into which may be engaged the lip 9 and a lug 12, which registers with the lugs 10 10 on the casting 8. Through the lugs 10;



12, and 10 on the trail and shield may be passed a key 13, which firmly secures the trail 7 to the section 1 of the shield. To the right and the left of the trail 7 are adjustably attached the brackets 14 15, which support seats of any approved form, and on which the gunner and the loader may seat themselves conveniently for the service of the piece. These brackets are adjustably clamped to the trail, so that the seats may be adjusted to the desired distance from the gun or ammunition-box or to the desired height. The trail 7 is also provided with a bracket 16 for supporting at its extremity a clamp or elevating device 17 of any well-known form—such, for instance, as the clamping device described and shown in application for United States Letters Patent filed September 7, 1897, in the names of L. V. Benét and H. A. Mercié for improvement in gun-mountings, Serial No. 650,834. The sole of the trail is formed of a casting 18, which is formed at the end into an eyepiece 19 for engaging with the pintle of the limber. I sometimes mount in this sole-piece an adjustable roller 20 of well-known construction for supporting the trail 7 when the gun is hauled without its limber. The said roller 20 is mounted upon a hollow axis 21, fitted to a pair of arms 22, pivoted at 23 to the casting 18. In the casting 18 are formed two eyes 24 24, receiving a pin 25 for supporting the hollow axis 21 of the roller when it is desired to haul the gun-mount from place to place.

As already stated, the gun is carried by a pivot 26, which in turn is supported by a socket 27, riveted or otherwise attached to the lower section 1 of the shield. The socket may be provided with means for securing the gun in any fixed vertical plane, as shown, or with means for adjustably limiting its horizontal sweep of fire, suitable elevating-gear being then provided.

On the opposite side of the trail from the gun (left or right) and directly in front of the loader's seat 28 is secured the ammunition-chest 29. On the lower rearward edge of the chest 29 are attached hooks 30, so formed that they may be disengaged from stirrups 31 on the shield only when the chest has been so swung down as to be essentially horizontal. The chest 29 is prevented from taking this position by chains 32, attached to the shield and engaging by means of snap-hooks with rings 33 on the chest. When swung down to the limit of the chains 32, the lid of the chest may be opened and the ammunition (in loading strips or otherwise) is in a convenient position for handling by the loader. On the march the chest 29 may be swung upward until parallel to the shield and there secured by means of a bolt 35, Figs. 1, 7, and 8, riveted to the shield and capable of engaging a stirrup 36, Figs. 1 and 9, on the chest.

To dismount the mounting for stowage in ships' boats, proceed as follows: Throw back the cap-squares, free the gun from the ele-

vating-gear, and dismount; free the bolt 35 from the stirrup 36 on the chest 29, swing the chest downward to full extent of the chains 32, free the chest from the chains, swing down until horizontal, and remove; remove the linchpins, swivels, and wheels, and lower the mounting to the ground; withdraw the key 13 and unship the trail 7; withdraw the pins 55, and fold the section 1 of the shield down upon the section 1. The mounting is now divided into light and handy parts, readily assembled and convenient for stowage.

Having now particularly described and ascertained the nature of the said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, I declare that what I claim is—

1. In a gun-mount, the combination of a plate-shield, an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, and a trail secured to said shield, substantially as described.

2. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield, of an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, and a trail detachably secured to said shield, substantially as described.

3. In a gun-mount, the combination of a plate-shield, an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail secured to said shield, and a gun supported by said shield at one side of the longitudinal axis of the gun-mount, substantially as described.

4. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield, of an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail detachably secured to said shield, and a gun supported by said shield at one side of the longitudinal axis of the gun-mount, substantially as described.

5. In a gun-mount, the combination of a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, an axle secured to one of said plates, wheels mounted on said axle, and a trail also secured to said plate, substantially as described.

6. In a gun-mount, the combination of a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, an axle secured to one of said plates, wheels mounted on said axle, and a trail detachably secured to the same plate, as the axle, substantially as described.

7. In a gun-mount, the combination of a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, of an axle secured to one of said plates, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail secured to said plate, and a gun supported by the same plate to which the trail and axle are secured, and at one side of the longitudinal axis of the gun-mount, substantially as described.

8. In a gun-mount, the combination of a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, an axle secured to one of said plates, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail detachably secured to the same plate with the axle, and a gun supported by the same plate, substantially as described.



9. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield forming essentially the framework of the mount, of means for supporting the gun on said shield, substantially as described.

10. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield forming essentially the framework of the mount, of means for supporting the gun on said shield, and an ammunition-box detachably secured to said shield, substantially as described.

11. In a gun-mount the combination with a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, one of which plates constitutes essentially the framework of the mount, of means for supporting the gun on said plate, substantially as described.

12. In a gun-mount, the combination with a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, one of which plates constitutes essentially the framework of the mount, of means for mounting the gun on said plate, and an ammunition-box detachably secured to said plate, substantially as described.

13. In a gun-mount, the combination with a shield formed of a plurality of plates hinged together, one of which plates constitutes essentially the framework of the mount, of means for mounting the gun on said plate, and an ammunition-box hooked to said plate, substantially as described.

14. In a gun-mount, the combination of a

plate-shield and an axle, trail, and ammunition-box secured to said shield, substantially as described.

15. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield, of an axle secured to said shield and a trail and an ammunition-box, both detachably secured to said shield, substantially as described.

16. In a gun-mount, the combination of a plate-shield, an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail secured to said shield, a gun supported by said shield at one side of the longitudinal axis of the gun-mount, and an ammunition-box secured to said shield on the opposite side of the trail from the gun, substantially as described.

17. In a gun-mount, the combination with a plate-shield, of an axle secured to said shield, wheels mounted on said axle, a trail detachably secured to said shield, a gun supported by said shield at one side of the longitudinal axis of the gun-mount, and an ammunition-box detachably secured to said shield on the opposite side of the trail from the gun, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 28th day of February, 1898, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

LAURENCE V. BENÉT.

Witnesses:

CHARLES KURER,

THEODORE FAVARGER.