

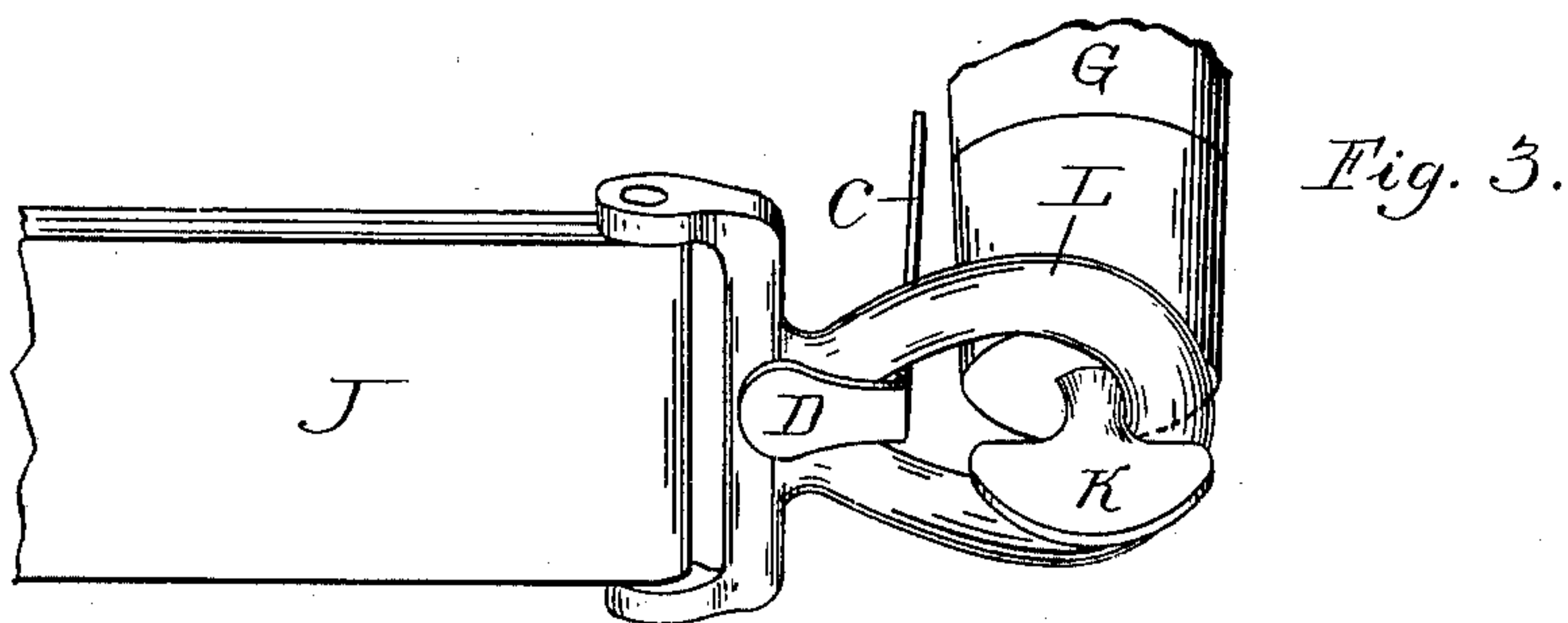
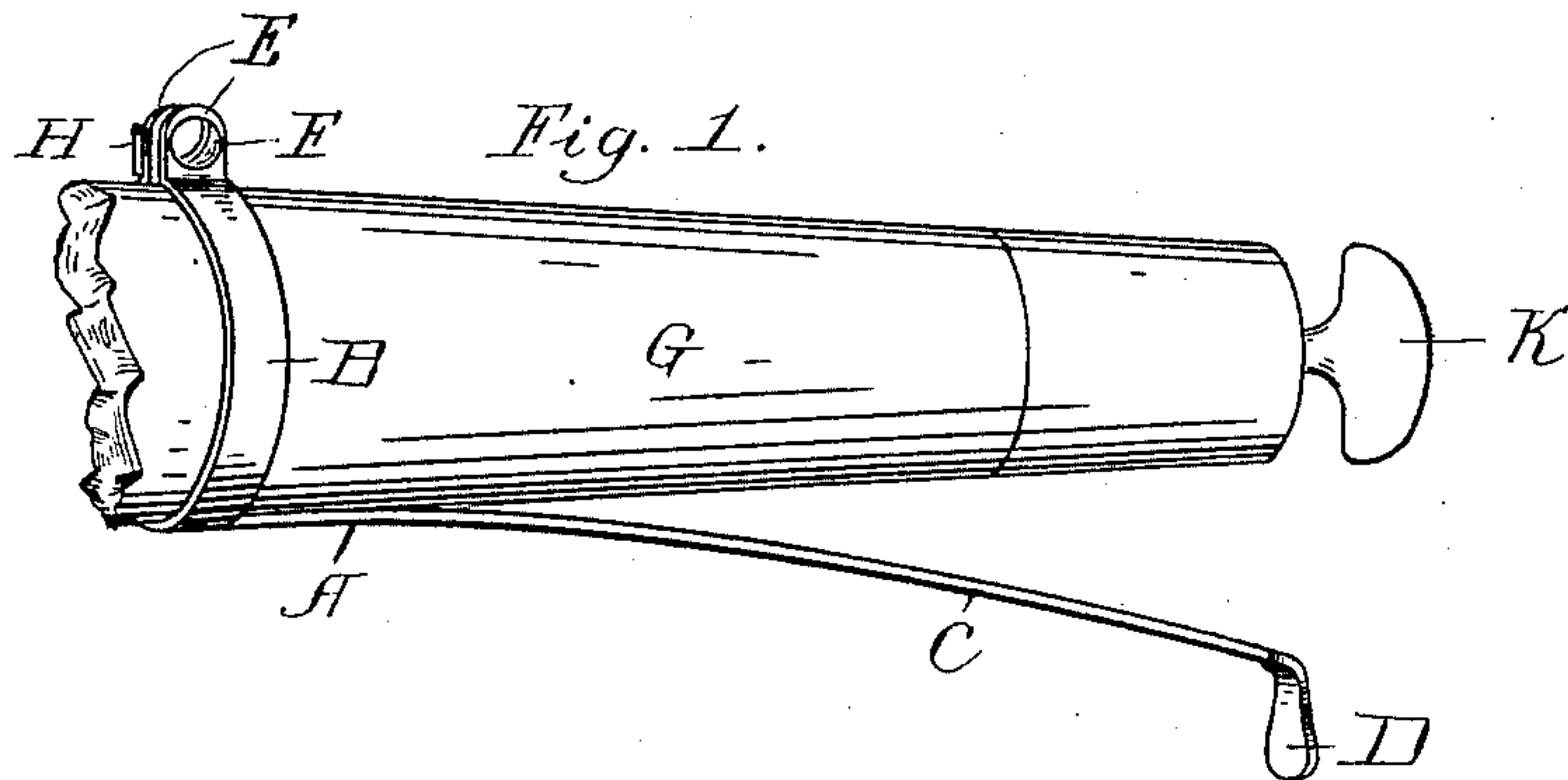
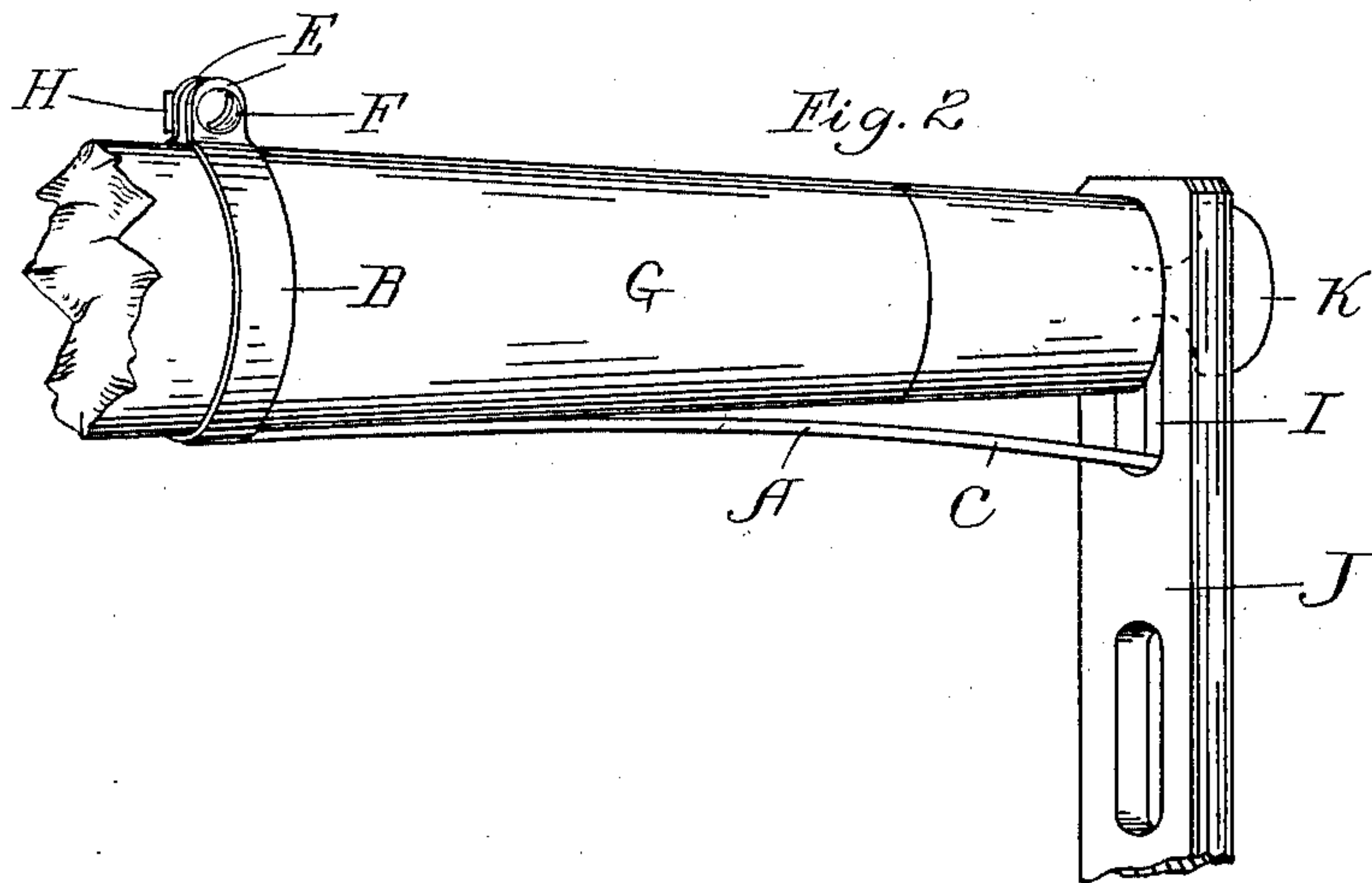
No. 657,022.

Patented Aug. 28, 1900.

F. W. CRAFTS.
ADJUSTABLE TRACE LOCK.

(Application filed Mar. 9, 1899.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

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A. L. Thawald.

Inventor:

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per: J. S. Bradbury
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRED W. CRAFTS, OF DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA.

ADJUSTABLE TRACE-LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 657,022, dated August 28, 1900.

Application filed March 9, 1899. Serial No. 708,313. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRED W. CRAFTS, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Devils Lake, in the county of Ramsey and State of North Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Adjustable Trace-Locks, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in adjustable trace-locks, and it relates more particularly to a device which can be fastened to whiffletrees, so as to lock the trace in place, and which is simple and inexpensive in construction.

With whiffletrees as now generally used much annoyance and danger is caused by the trace becoming detached. In the use of my improved device this trouble is overcome by locking the tug in place on the whiffletree in a manner which secures protection from its becoming detached.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved device shown fastened in place on the whiffletree. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing a trace locked upon the whiffletree in position for use, and Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of my improved device shown in position for locking a modified form of trace to the whiffletree.

In the drawings let A represent my improved trace-lock, composed of thin steel or other suitable material, consisting of a split collar B, having a curved spring-clamp arm C formed thereon, which extends substantially in a lateral direction therefrom. The end of the arm is formed with a clip, which is adapted to engage the trace when the device is in use. The collar is provided with shoulders E, through which the screw F is adapted to pass.

In the use of my improved trace-lock the collar is fastened to the whiffletree G by means of the screw F and nut H and is positioned so that the clamp-arm will extend through the loop-hole I in the trace J and the clip loosely engage the tug laterally. In fastening the trace to the whiffletree the loop-hole I is slipped over the clip and clamp-arm of the lock and then passed over the hook of the whiffletree. It is to be observed the tension of the spring-clamp arm causes the trace to be drawn tightly into engagement with the hook. The clip prevents the tug from becoming detached against any backlash or side thrust of the trace. In the alternate construction (shown in Fig. 3) the eye L is similarly passed over the clamp and hook when attaching it to the whiffletree.

The lock may be of various constructions, equivalents being substituted for minor portions of the device herein indicated without departing from the principles applied by me in my invention. The lock may be fastened to the whiffletree in other ways than to be adjustable.

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

A trace-lock, consisting of a spring-clamp having a clip upon its end and formed with the split collar B, for engaging the whiffletree, for the purposes specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature, in presence of two witnesses, this 16th day of February, 1899.

FRED W. CRAFTS.

Witnesses:

HERMAN RUTTERS,
D. T. DUELL.