

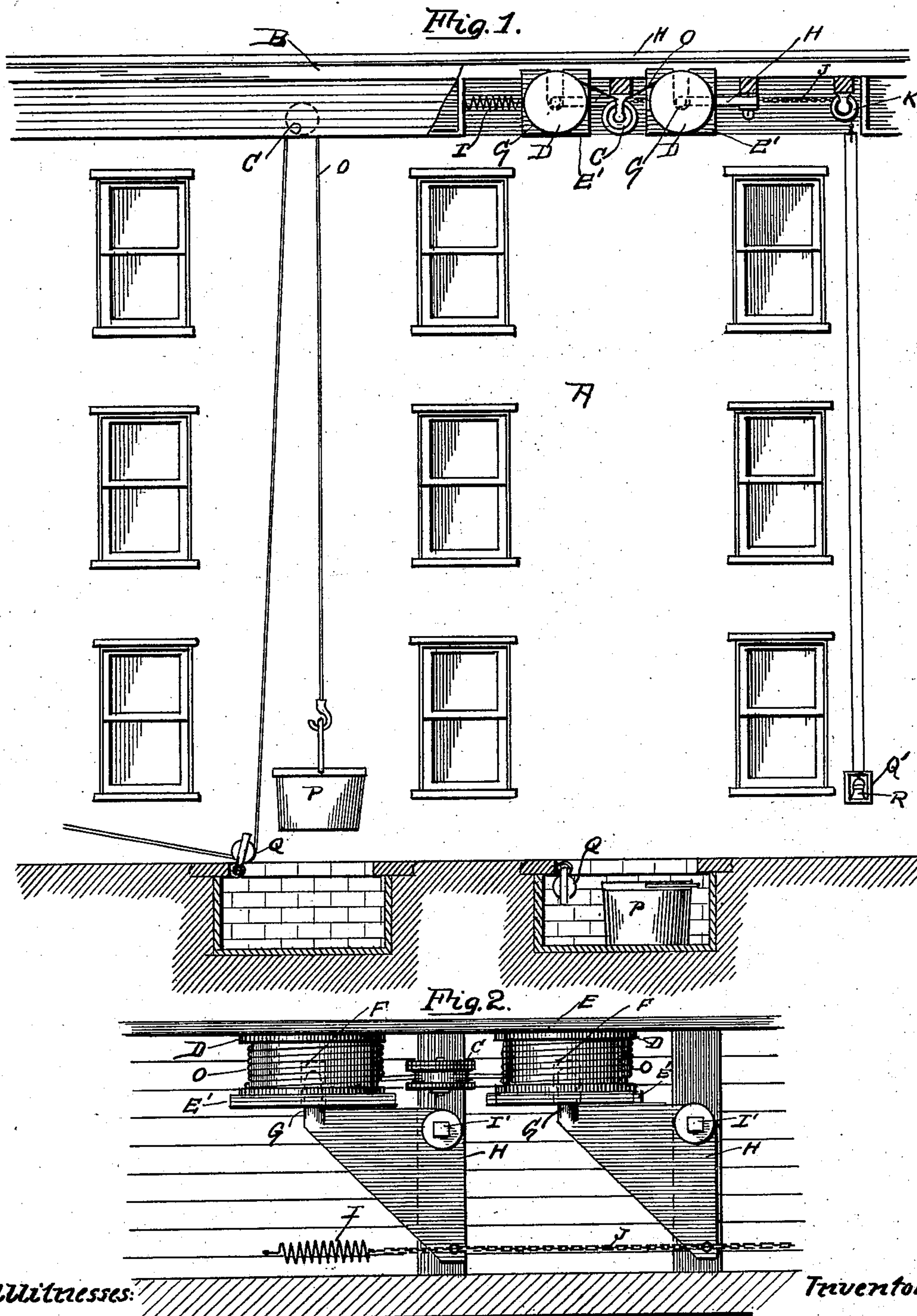
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T. G. GOODFELLOW.
FIRE ESCAPE.

(Application filed July 3, 1901.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses:

M. Friel.

Clement B. Sticker.

Trivento:

Thomas G. Goodfellow
By Frank D. Thorsen
Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS G. GOODFELLOW, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 692,847, dated February 11, 1902.

Application filed July 3, 1901. Serial No. 66,996. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS G. GOODFELLOW, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact specification.

It is usual in factories, hotels, and large business blocks to provide fixed structures on the outside of the building for escape in case of fire. These structures must necessarily be placed at the ends of corridors or halls, where they can be reached by the inmates from any room in the building. It frequently happens that the halls leading to these fire-escapes become impassable before all the inmates can escape. The escapes are unsightly and mar the architectural lines of the building.

This invention relates to improvements in fire-escapes whereby means of egress may be afforded from every room in the building and, if need be, from practically every window. The means provided are so disposed in the structure as to be normally out of view, and consequently not detrimental to the appearance of the building.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter set forth, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a portion of a building fitted with devices embodying the salient features of my invention, parts of the cornice being broken away to give a clear view and the device being shown both in its concealed and in its working position. Fig. 2 is a plan view showing some of the details of the device.

Referring to the drawings, A represents a portion of the wall of a large building, such as a factory or hotel, surmounted at the top with the usual cornice B. This cornice is of the usual hollow construction and is made with a plurality of pockets at regular intervals along the building, preferably corresponding to the unbroken portions of the wall adjacent to the vertical lines of the windows. These pockets open downward, portions of the plancher being cut away. In each of said pockets a pulley C is secured to the under side of the projecting end of a beam of the building. On either side of this pulley reels D are de-

tachably supported on horizontal pivots G, between two vertical parallel guide-plates E and E'. These pivots extend through apertures or slots in the inner guide-plates E' into pivot-sockets F in the reels and are secured at their other ends to swivel-plates H, which oscillate horizontally on bolts I', by which they are secured to the frame of the building. Said plates, and consequently said pivot-pins G, are normally held in the position shown in Fig. 2 by a spring I, one end of which is secured to one of the plates H and the other to the side of the building. Said plates may be swung so that the pivots are withdrawn from the reels D by means of a chain J, secured to the plates, which is fastened to a wire. The latter passes over a fixed pulley K, and thence down the wall to a convenient height above the ground for operating. As a means of protection from the weather and to prevent molestation to said chain it may be inclosed in a pipe secured on the side of the building. Its lower end is provided with a weight, such as a few feet of chain, which rests on the glass bottom of a case or box Q', secured to the side of the building. Said weight is so proportioned in regard to the pull of the spring I as to move the plates, and consequently the pivot-pins G, out of engagement with the reels when it is allowed to fall. A rope, cord, or wire O is passed over the fixed pulley C, each end being detachably secured to one of the reels D and the rope, cord, or wire being smoothly wound upon them.

At the bottom of the wall under the pockets of the cornice areas may be formed, in which a carrier P, having a reel of heavier rope secured to its handle, lines of hose, and other suitable apparatus, may be stored, or the regular areas of the building under the windows may be used. A snatch-block Q may be fastened to the lower portion of the wall under the reel-pockets. As herein shown, the snatch-blocks are secured in the area-walls.

The operation of the device is as follows: In case of fire or other emergency the glass bottom of the case O is broken. This releases the weight R, which falls and trips the swivel-plates, thereby moving pivots G out of the reel-sockets and allowing the reels to fall to the ground, uncoiling the rope or cord, so that it hangs in a double line over the fixed

pulley C from the cornice to the ground. One end may be passed over the nearest snatch-block and the other end secured to the rope on the reel of a carrier, which latter may be
 5 thereby quickly raised and swayed by means of a suitable guy-line to the upper windows of the building, thereby affording easy means of escape; or lines of hose may be quickly run to the top of the building by aid of the
 10 rope, and by nozzles turned by hand-lines running to the ground firemen may direct streams at will into the building. A line may be provided for every window in the building.

It will be understood that the operative
 15 parts of the device are made of fireproof material. The manner of coiling the rope around the comparatively heavy reels insures its paying out easily, while the weight of the reels is sufficient to bring the line to the
 20 ground regardless of any wind which may be blowing.

The device is wholly concealed within the cornice when not in use. As the chain conductor may be built in the wall, it does not
 25 mar the lines of the building and affords a ready means of escape without cumbering the walls or taking up air and light space.

What I claim as new is—

1. The combination with the cornice of a
 30 building of a fixed pulley, secured within said cornice, a cord passing over said fixed pulley, vertical parallel guide-plates within said cornice, reels carrying said cord detachably secured between said guide-plates and
 35 means for releasing said reels from said cornice and guide-plates.

2. The combination with the cornice of a building of a fixed pulley, secured within said cornice, a cord passing over said pulley,

parallel vertical guide-plates within said cor- 40
 nice, horizontal pivot-plates pivotally secured within said cornice, reels carrying said cord, detachably supported by said pivot-plates between said guide-plates, means normally hold- 45
 ing said pivot-plates in engagement with said pulleys, and means for releasing said pivot-plates from said reels.

3. The combination with the cornice of a building of a fixed pulley secured within said cornice, a cord passing over said pulley, 50
 parallel vertical guide-plates within said cornice, horizontal pivot-plates pivotally secured within said cornice, reels carrying said cord detachably supported by said pivot-plates between said guide-plates, a spring acting by 55
 tension to hold said pivot-plates normally in engagement with said reels, and a cord extending from said guide-plates to the ground for moving said pivot-plates out of engage-
 60 ment with said reels.

4. The combination with the cornice of a building of a fixed pulley secured within said cornice, a cord passing over said pulley, parallel vertical guide-plates within said cor- 65
 nice, horizontal pivot-plates pivotally secured within said cornice, reels carrying said cord detachably supported by said pivot-plates, between said guide-plates, a spring acting by
 tension to hold said pivot-plates normally in engagement with said reels, and a cord oper- 70
 atively secured to said pivot-plates and detachably secured to the building, and adapted when released therefrom to throw said pivot-plates out of engagement with said reels.

THOMAS G. GOODFELLOW.

Witnesses:

M. FRIEL,

FRANK D. THOMASON.