

No. 715,436.

Patented Dec. 9, 1902.

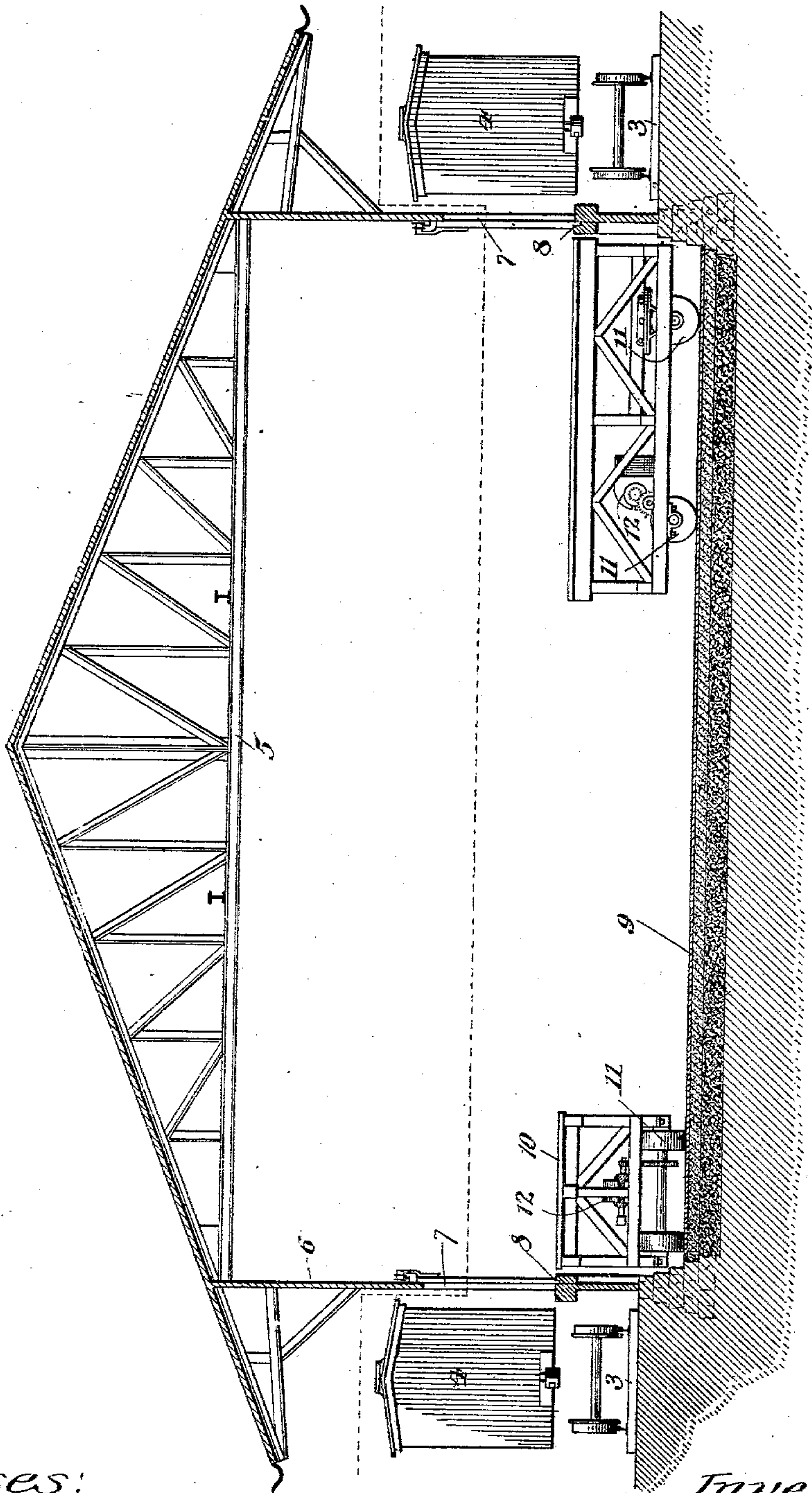
A. W. SWANITZ.
MERCHANDISE TRANSFER APPARATUS.

(Application filed Feb. 20, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses:
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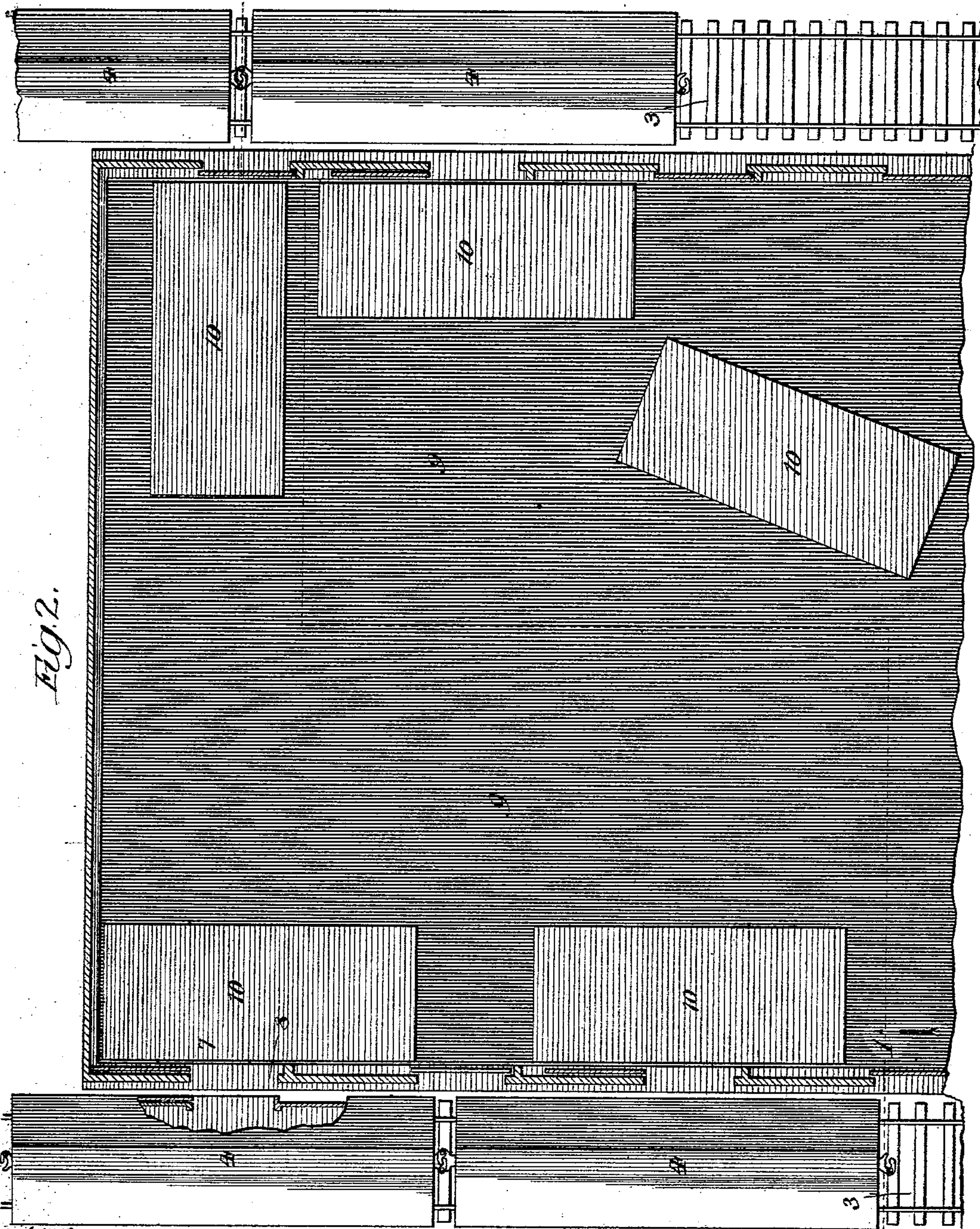


Fig. 2.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALEXANDER W. SWANITZ, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO THE SWAN-ITZ COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE.

MERCHANDISE-TRANSFER APPARATUS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 715,436, dated December 9, 1902.

Application filed February 20, 1901. Serial No. 48,174. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALEXANDER WILLIAM SWANITZ, a citizen of the United States, residing in Chicago, Cook county, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Merchandise-Transfer Apparatus, (Case No. 3,) of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification.

My invention has for its object the provision of improved means for transferring merchandise or freight which is brought into a terminal in what is called "broken car-lots" and which has to be sorted out, redistributed, and then loaded upon other cars for trans-shipment.

In carrying out my present invention I provide a couple of tracks, spaced some distance apart, and between the same erect a transfer-house or shelter provided with walls having door-openings therein at intervals, arranged with the lower sills thereof substantially on a level with the level of the floor of the cars standing on the said tracks. Within the said shelter and between the said tracks I provide a traction-floor constructed, preferably, with some hard smooth bearing-surface, such as sheet-steel, resting upon a foundation made of concrete or other like material, and upon said traction-floor I mount platforms adjacent to the said door-openings, the said platforms being made in sections, with the sections carried by rollers and provided with motor devices, whereby they can be moved by power from one part of said traction-floor to any other, as the circumstances may require.

In order to better understand my invention, reference may now be had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a transverse section showing merchandise-transfer apparatus constructed in accordance with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a partial plan view of the same.

Spaced some distance apart I provide a couple of tracks 3, constructed to receive cars 4, and between the said tracks I erect a transfer-house having a roof 5 and side walls 6, the side walls being provided with door-openings 7, the lower sills of which 8 are approximately on a level with the level of the floors

of the cars 4. Between the tracks 3 and within the transfer-house I provide a traction-floor 9, having a bearing-surface of some hard smooth material and constructed without rails or obstructions. I next provide platforms the upper surface whereof is substantially level with the sills 8 and which are made in sections or parts 10, each section being mounted on rollers 11, resting upon the traction-floor 9, and provided with a motor device 12 for moving the same by power.

The operation of my invention is as follows: The car upon the left of the drawings in Fig. 1 being placed upon the track 3, with its door opposite the door-opening 7, one of the movable sections of the platform 10 is placed adjacent to said door-opening, as shown in said Fig. 1, and the merchandise to be transferred placed upon it, being taken out of the car through said door-opening. The movable section 10 of the platform is now run across by means of the motor 12 to a position adjacent to the car to which the goods which it carries are to be transferred when they are taken off and put into such car.

By the above arrangement it is obvious that where a number of movable platform-sections are employed the goods can be transferred directly from car to platform and then without further moving from platform to car with the greatest facility, this arrangement making it unnecessary to take the goods out of the car and distribute them on a fixed platform and then transferring them from the fixed platform to a carrying-truck and then from a carrying-truck to another fixed platform and from the latter to the car of their destination.

By the use of my present invention it is also obvious that where a number of movable platform-sections are employed, as described, the goods to be transferred can be readily sorted out, those intended for each separate outgoing car or number of cars being placed upon separate trucks, which can be moved up to the car from which the goods are taken each in turn and loaded with maximum facility.

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

1. A merchandise-transfer apparatus comprising two car-tracks spaced some distance

apart, a transfer-house between said tracks, door-openings in the side walls of said house arranged at intervals with the sills thereof upon a level with the floors of the cars standing upon said tracks, a plurality of movable platform-sections having their upper surfaces substantially level with the level of the sills of said door-openings, mounted upon said traction-floor and carried by rollers thereon, and power mechanism upon each of said movable platform-sections for moving the same upon said traction-floor, substantially as described.

2. A merchandise-transfer apparatus comprising a car-track, a transfer-house adjacent

thereto, a traction-floor within said transfer-house extending parallel with said track, door-openings in the side walls of said house arranged at intervals with the sills thereof upon a level with the floors of the cars standing upon said track, and a movable platform-section mounted upon rollers upon said traction-floor and having its upper surface on a level with the sills of said door-openings, and power mechanism for moving said movable platform-section, substantially as described.

ALEXANDER W. SWANITZ.

Witnesses:

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FRANK O. GREEN.