No. 726,752. PATENTED APR. 28, 1903.

W. J. PREATER.

SHIP'S TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 18, 1902.

NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

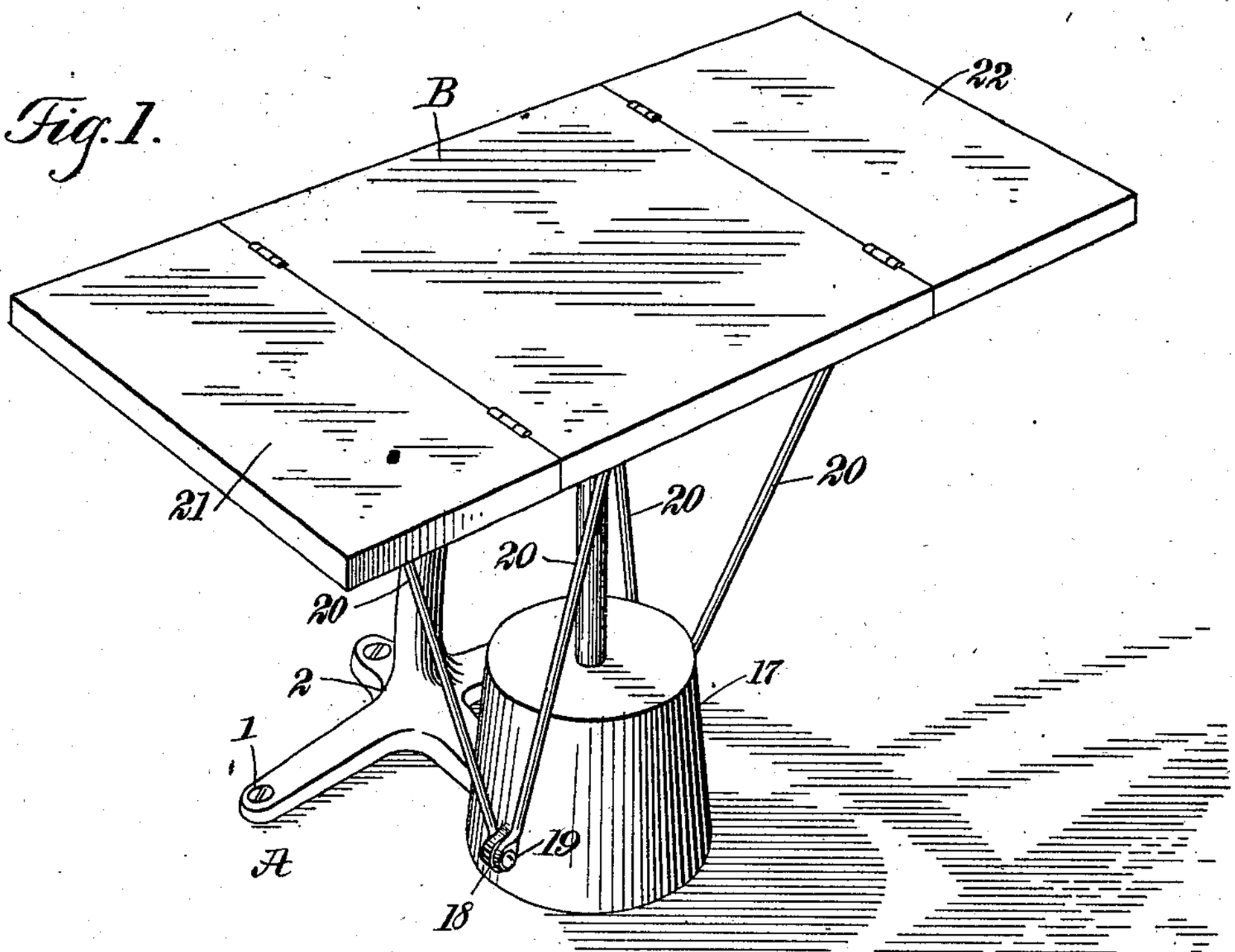
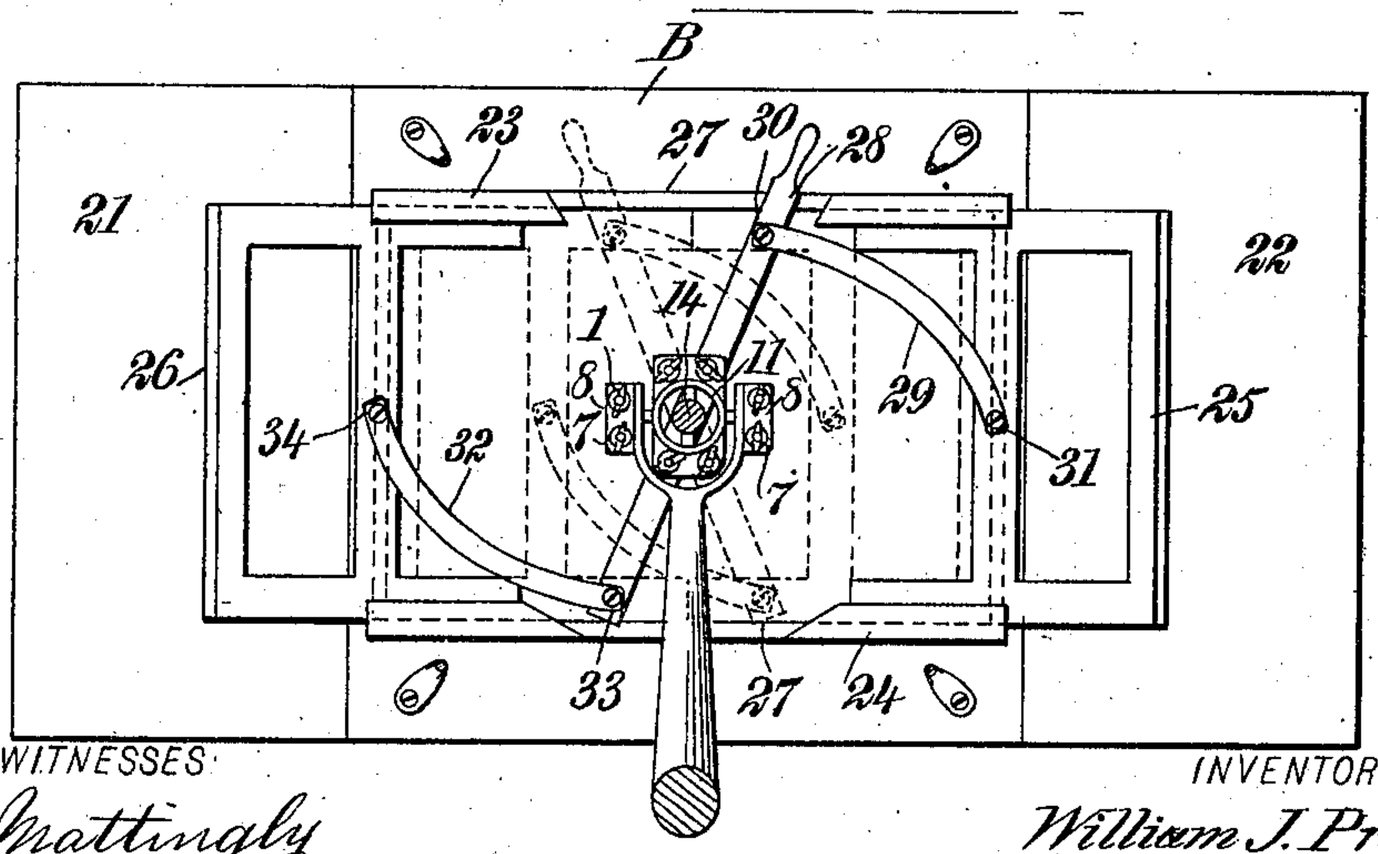


Fig. 2.



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NO MODEL. 2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

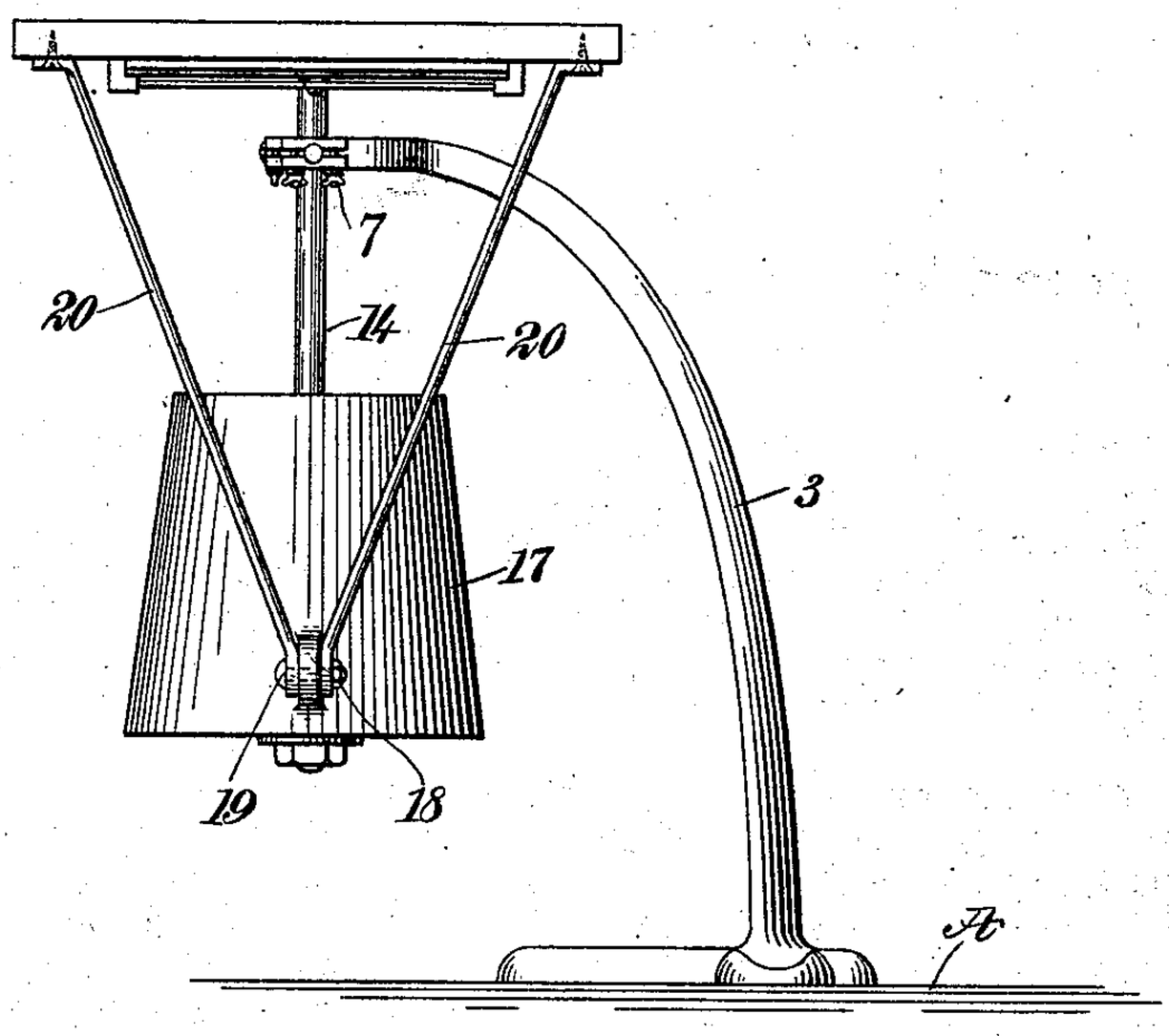

Fig. 4.

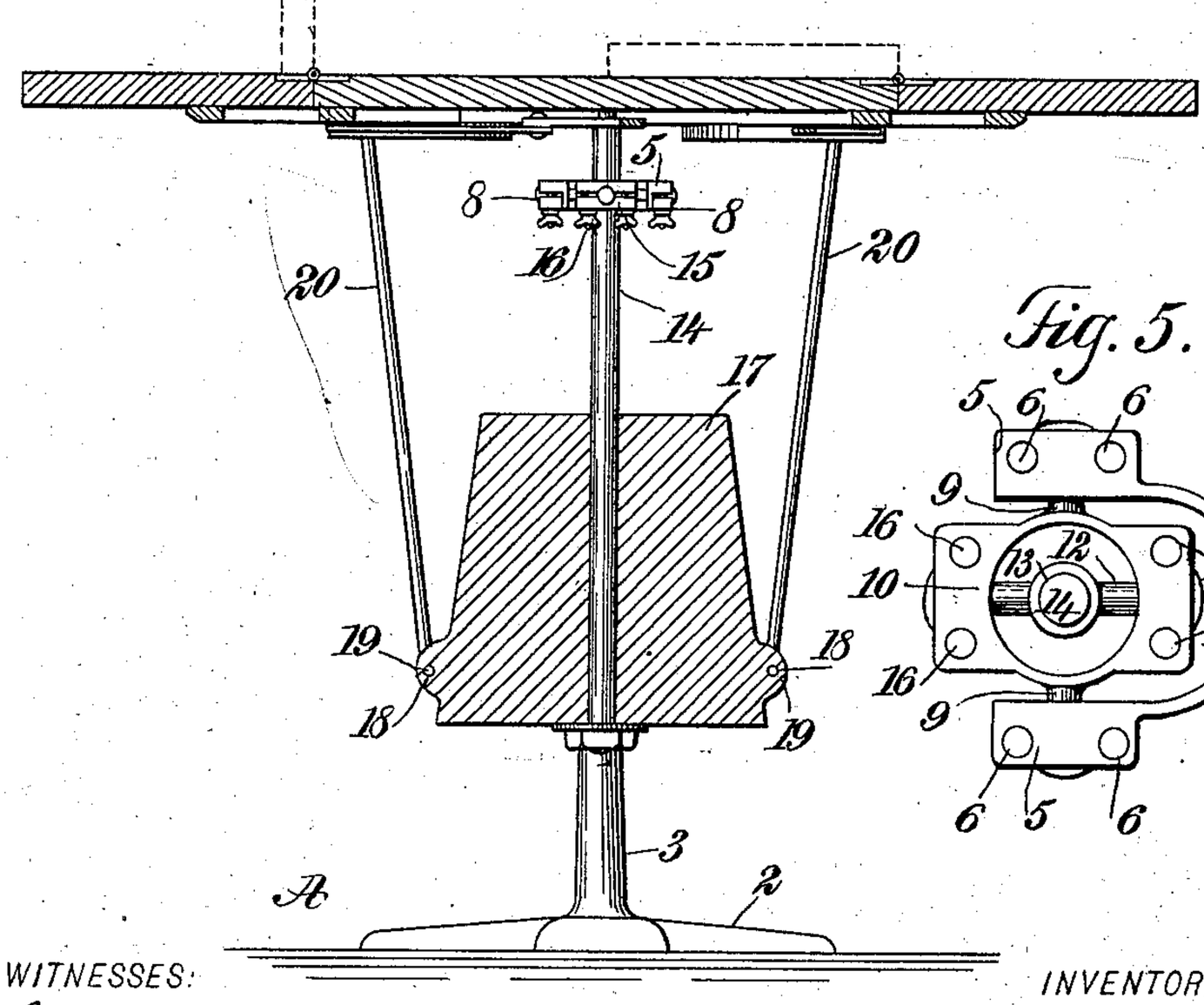

Fig. 5.

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SHIP'S TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 726,752, dated April 28, 1903.

Application filed December 18, 1902. Serial No. 135,723. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM J. PREATER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Elizabeth, in the county of Union and State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Ships' Tables, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to certain novel and useful improvements in ship furniture, and has particular application to the construction of a table adapted to be secured to the deck or to the walls of a room of a vessel.

In carrying out the present invention I have particularly in view the construction of an article which shall embody the essential feature of simplicity—that is to say, be composed of relatively few parts and at the same time be durable and not liable to be deranged or rendered unfit for use by the motion of the vessel.

This improvement is also directed to a table the top of which shall always be preserved or rest in a horizontal plane irrespective of the pitch or the motion of the vessel, and the means employed for accomplishing this purpose is so arranged that it will in no way interfere with the use of said table. I have also in view the provision of means whereby the table-top may be extended or folded outward when it is desired to use the table for a large number of persons, as when serving a meal, such extension or increase in the size of the table being easily and quickly accomplished through the medium of lever-connecting means arranged beneath the top of said table.

With these and other objects of a similar nature in view my invention consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter described in this specification, delineated in the accompanying drawings, and set forth in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a table embodying my improvements, the top thereof being shown in its extended position. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the same, showing the extensible frame for supporting the folding leaves of the table, the contracted position of such extensible frame being illustrated in dotted lines. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the improvement. Fig. 4 is a central longitudinal vertical sectional view taken through the table, and Fig. 5 is a detail view of the swiveled connection or mounting of the table and a portion of the bracket supporting the same.

In the accompanying drawings, wherein I have shown an embodiment of my invention, A designates any suitable portion of a vessel, such as the deck or a side wall, to which is rigidly secured, by screws or bolts 1, a base portion 2, having extending upwardly therefrom a relatively long curved arm or standard 3.

At the end of the aforesaid standard 3, as is clearly shown in Fig. 5, is formed a bifurcation or yoke portion 4, the ends of the arms forming the yoke being widened and flattened into bearing-plates 5 5. These bearing-plates are provided with suitable apertures to permit the engagement therewith of the ends of the set-screws 7, which screws also pass through lower bearing-plates 8, the construction being such that the lower plates may be adjusted by means of these set-screws relative to the plates formed on the yoke of the standard. These upper and lower bearing-plates are adapted to form a support for the horizontally-extending shafts 9, formed on opposite sides of the collar-bracket 10, such bracket in the present instance being shown of rectangular form, with an approximately circular orifice formed in the center thereof, an annular flange or collar 11 surrounding said orifice on the under side of the bracket. For the purpose of enabling the aforesaid shafts 9 to rest securely between the bearing-plates hereinbefore referred to the lowermost plates 8 have preferably seats or slight depressions formed therein in which said shafts rest.

A second shaft 12 is journaled in the bracket 10 and hinged approximately at right angles to the aforesaid short shafts 9, the shaft 12 being in the same horizontal plane with said shafts 9 and having a collar 13 formed in-

termediate its ends, such collar being situated at or near the center of the orifice formed in the bracket, and a rod or post 14 is secured in such collar, the ends of the shaft 12 being supported in the bracket in a manner similar to the way in which the shafts 9 are supported—that is to say, a lower bearing-plate 15 is connected with the upper plate 10 through the medium of set-screws 16, said lower bearing-plate having depressions formed at opposite ends thereof to permit the seating of the ends of the shaft 12, and said screws permit the adjustment of the lower plates relative to the upper portion of the bracket, whereby the shafts may be accommodated.

From the description thus far it will be observed that the rod 14 is so supported that it has practically a universal movement—that is, it may swing in any direction in the yoke 4 of the standard 3.

At the lower end of the rod 14 is mounted a relatively large weight 17, made of lead, iron, or other suitable heavy material, such weight having apertures, ears, or lugs 18 formed thereon, said lugs being adapted to have connected therewith through the means of screws 19 the lower ends of the brace-rods 20, such rods diverging as they extend upwardly and being secured at their uppermost ends to the under side of the table-top B, the central or main leaf of said table-top being supported or mounted upon the top of the rod 14.

To the main leaf or portion of the table B are hinged the supplemental leaves 21 22, which leaves when not in use may be folded over on the table-top, so that the square surface of the table is approximately equal to the main leaf; but when it is desired to open or use the leaves I make use of a supporting-frame mounted beneath the table-top, which frame I will now proceed to describe.

Mounted beneath the table-top are two parallel guideways 23 and 24, having grooves formed along their inner longitudinal edges, in which grooves are adapted to slide the frame or supporting sections 25 and 26. The central portions of the guideways 23 and 24 are cut away for some distance, as shown at 27, which permits of the movement or swinging of a lever 28 upon its axis, such lever being held centrally on the upper end of the rod 14, which extends through an aperture formed therein. A segmental strip 29 is connected at one end, as at 30, with the portion of the lever near the handle thereof, the other end of said segmental strip being fastened, as at 31, to the movable frame-section 25. A second segmental strip 32 is similarly connected with the lower part of the lever, as will be seen at 33 in Fig. 2, and with the sliding frame-section 26, as shown at 34. By this construction it will be seen that when the lever 28 is swung or shifted in an arc in the cut-away portions or open grooves of the guideways 23 and 24 the supporting frame-sections 25 and 26 will be moved inward or outward. When the lever is in the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the frame-section will be drawn inward and the leaves may be folded upon the table, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 4; but when it is desired to utilize all the top surface of the table by opening the folding leaves the lever is shifted, as shown in full lines in Fig. 2, the frame-sections 25 and 26 are thrown outward, and the supplemental hinged leaves 21 and 22 may be thrown outward and supported upon the extended frame-sections.

The employment and operation of my improved table will be readily understood from the above description, so that it is unnecessary to mention the same here in detail. It will further be observed that there are many advantages incident to my improvement which will immediately suggest themselves to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains. This table will be found especially adaptable to use on yachts, tugboats, or other small vessels which are susceptible to the motion of the waves and which pitch violently when encountering heavy seas.

The table may be easily placed in position and can be enlarged or reduced in size without removing or inserting any additional or separate parts, such an advantage being especially appreciated on shipboard.

While I have herein shown and described one particular embodiment of my invention, it is of course to be understood that I do not limit myself to the precise details of the construction shown herein, as modifications and variations in some respects may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention or sacrificing any of the essential features which fall within the scope thereof.

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

1. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard having a yoke formed at one end thereof, a bracket movably supported by said yoke, a weighted rod movably mounted in said bracket, and a table-top supported on said rod, substantially as set forth.

2. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard, bearing-plates carried at one end of said standard, a bracket movably supported in said bearing-plates a shaft movably supported by said bracket, a weighted rod connected with said shaft, and a table-top carried by said rod, the construction and arrangement being such that the table-top will always assume a horizontal position unaffected by any movement of the surface to which the standard of the article is secured, substantially as set forth.

3. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard, a weighted rod movably supported thereon, a table-top supported on said rod, supplemental leaves hinged to said table-top, whereby said leaves may be folded over upon the main portion of the top, extensible supporting-frames slidably mounted beneath the table for supporting the sup-

plemental leaves, and means pivoted on the weighted rod beneath the table-top for moving said frames, substantially as set forth.

4. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard, a rod supported from said standard, a table-top movably mounted on said rod in such manner that said top will always retain a horizontal position, supplemental leaves hinged to said table, said leaves being adapted to be folded over on the main portion of the top, extensible frames mounted beneath the table-top, and means pivoted on the aforesaid rod and connected with the extensible frames for moving the latter into and out of their extended positions, substantially as set forth.

5. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard having a yoke formed at one end thereof, a bracket supported by said yoke, a weighted rod mounted in said bracket, a table-top supported on said rod, supplemental foldable leaves hinged to said top, grooved guideways secured to the under side of said top, a lever pivoted centrally on the rod beneath the surface of said top, the walls of the aforesaid grooves of the guideways limiting the movement of the lever, and a rigid connection between the lever and the frame, whereby the frame can be moved outward to support the supplemental leaves when the latter are in their open or extended position, substantially as set forth.

6. In an article of the class described, comprising a main standard, adjustable bearing-plates at one end of said standard, a bracket movably supported on the standard by means of shafts formed on the bracket and resting between said bearing-plates, a second shaft movably supported in said bracket at approximately right angles to the shafts of the bracket, a rod carried by the second-mentioned shaft of the bracket, a table-top supported at the upper end of said rod, a weight at the lower end of the rod, brace-rods extending from the weight to the table-top, supplemental leaves hinged to said top, whereby said leaves may be folded over upon the main portion thereof, and extensible supporting-frames movably mounted beneath said top, whereby the leaves may be supported in their open extended position, substantially as set forth.

7. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard, a yoke formed at one end thereof, adjustable bearing-plates carried by said yoke, an adjustable bracket supported in said bearing-plates, a shaft carried by said bracket, a weighted rod connected with said shaft, and a table-top carried by the rod, substantially as set forth.

8. An article of the class described, comprising a main standard, adjustable bearing-plates carried at one end thereof, an adjustable bracket movably supported in said bearing-plates, a rod swingably mounted on said bracket, a weight depending from said rod, a table-top mounted on said rod, and brace-rods connecting the table-top with said weight, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM J. PREATER.

Witnesses:
TOM PREATER,
R. B. CAVANAGH.