

No. 734,650.

PATENTED JULY 28, 1903.

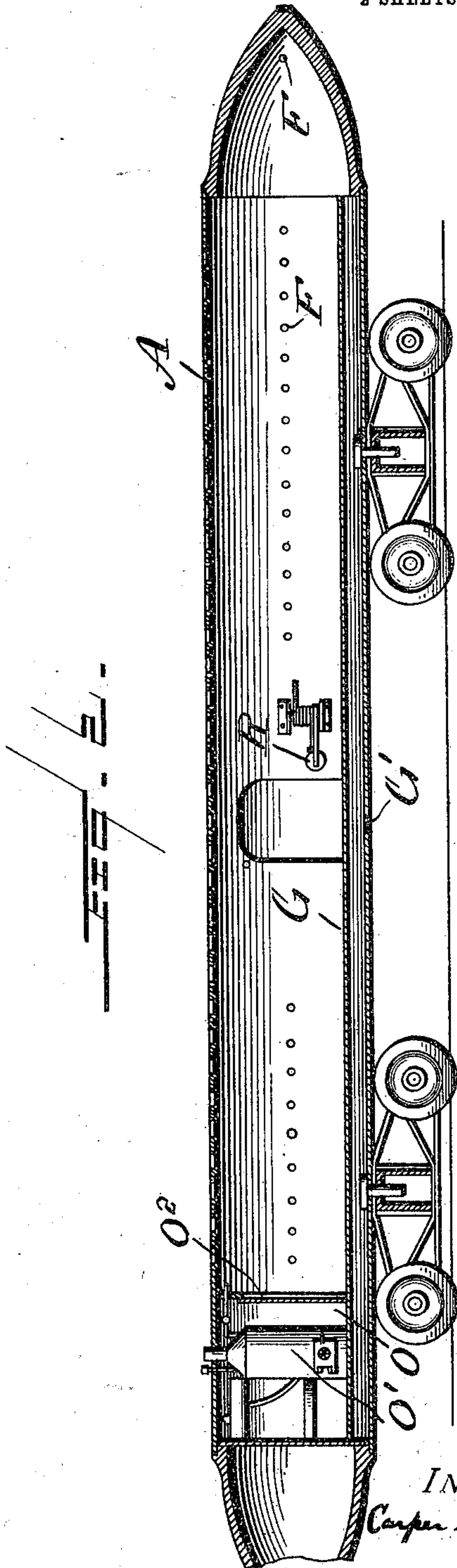
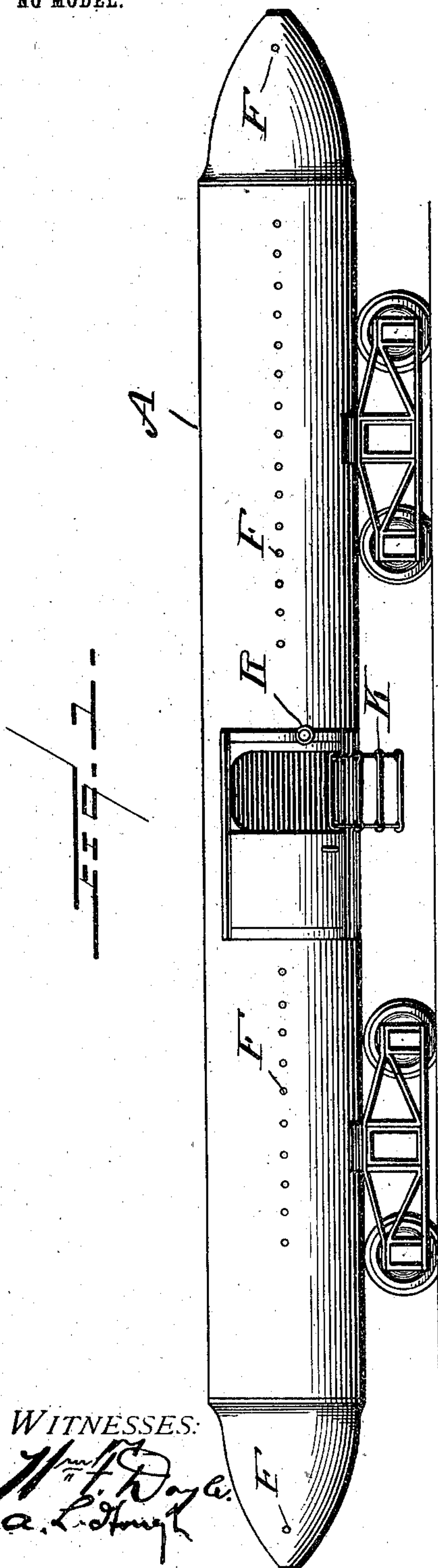
C. ZIMMERMAN.

BURGLAR PROOF MAIL AND EXPRESS CAR.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 3, 1903.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

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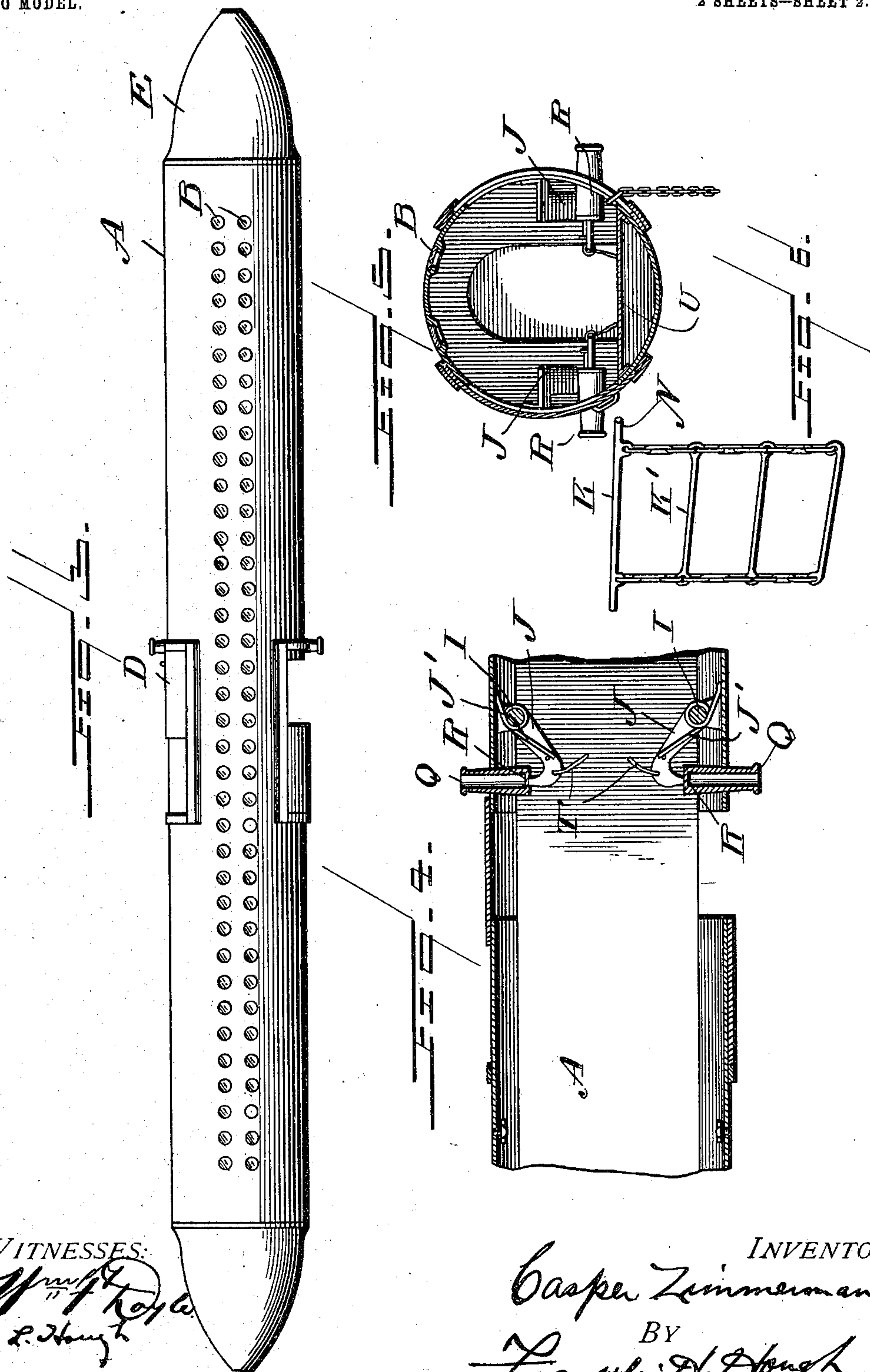
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CASPER ZIMMERMAN, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF
TO CHARLES ANDERSON AND JOHN M. KNADLE, OF VIENNA, SOUTH
DAKOTA.

BURGLAR-PROOF MAIL AND EXPRESS CAR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 734,650, dated July 28, 1903.

Application filed April 3, 1903. Serial No. 150,983. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CASPER ZIMMERMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Burglar-Proof Mail and Express Cars; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in burglar-proof mail and express cars, and comprises a car having a body portion, preferably cylindrical in outline, made of plate metal, having ends which are tapering and made of cast-steel, the car having windows in its highest portion instead of the sides, and in the provision of cannon, which are mounted in the car and provided with hammers, which may be sprung in order to fire the cannon when attacked by would-be robbers.

Another feature of the invention resides in the provision of a compartment of the car having a steam-boiler, which may be used for the purpose of generating steam for giving a signal in case the car is attacked or of allowing the steam to escape to form a cloud about the car to blind the vision of would-be robbers.

The invention consists, further, in various details of construction and in combinations and arrangements of parts, which will be hereinafter fully described and then specifically defined in the appended claims.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved burglar-proof mail and express car. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the car. Fig. 3 is a top plan view. Fig. 4 is an enlarged section through a portion of the car. Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view, and Fig. 6 is a detail view, of the folding steps.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates the body

portion of the car, which is made, preferably, of cylindrical shape and of boiler-plate or other metal and is provided with series of windows B in the highest portion of the car instead of at the sides, and at locations diametrically opposite are the sliding doors D, and each end of the car comprises a tapering shell E, which is hollow and made, preferably, of cast-steel, provided with an annular shoulder at its base, over which the end of the shell of the car fits, as shown. Along the body portion of the car at points diametrically opposite are the port-holes F, and in each tapering end of the car is also provided a similar port-hole F', through which the occupants of the car may open fire upon intruders, and K represents a chain ladder having bars K', connected together by means of the chains, as shown, and N designates a bar the ends of which are designed to engage the inner face of the body portion of the car adjacent to the door-opening. Said chain ladder is provided for the purpose of allowing the same to be withdrawn into the car when not in use.

The car is preferably provided with a floor U, of metal, and has its opposite longitudinal edges flanged and designed to be secured to the shell of the car, as clearly shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings.

Opening in opposite directions through port-holes Q in the sides of the car are the cannon R, which in the drawings are shown as stationary, but which, if preferred, may be pivotally mounted in order to increase the range of fire. Each cannon is provided with a percussion-cap, and a hammer J is pivotally mounted upon a pin I, carried by a bracket-arm projecting from the shell of the car, and a spring J', wound about said pin, bears against the hammer and is adapted to throw the same forcibly against the percussion-cap to discharge the cannon. A handle T is provided upon each hammer, whereby the hammer may be easily drawn back and when released be thrown forcibly by the spring against the cap.

In one end of the car I have shown a compartment O, having a steam-boiler O' therein, and a door O² opens in said compartment, said boiler being provided for the purpose of

generating steam for various purposes, either for heating the car or for having steam in reserve to give a signal by means of a whistle in case of an attack by intruders, or in case
 5 it is desired the steam from the boiler may be turned into the space underneath floor G and allowed to escape through the port G' for the purpose of surrounding the car in a cloud of steam to obscure the whereabouts of
 10 any persons who may be in the vicinity of the car.

From the foregoing it will be observed that by the provision of a burglar-proof and fire-proof car for mail and express purposes embodying the features of my invention a greater
 15 security for the transmission of valuables is afforded.

By making the car of metal and having the ends made of cast metal and tapering the liability of the telescoping of cars is eliminated,
 20 while effective means is provided to the occupants of the car for defending the valuables and themselves by means of the ordnance provided.

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

1. A burglar and fire proof express and mail car, comprising a cylindrical body portion of
 30 metal and having windows in the highest portion thereof and port-holes along the sides, cannon mounted through openings in the shell of the car, and spring-actuated hammers mounted upon the wall of the car and adapted
 35 to spring against the percussion-caps upon the cannon, as set forth.

2. A burglar-proof express and mail car,

comprising a body portion of metal having windows in the highest portion thereof, port-holes at positions diametrically opposite
 40 along the body portion of the car, brackets mounted upon the inner face of the car, hammers pivotally mounted upon said brackets, springs bearing against said hammers, and cannon mounted at port-holes in the car and
 45 adapted to be fired by said hammers, as set forth.

3. A burglar-proof mail and express car, comprising a cylindrical body portion of metal having tapering hollow-shell ends, windows
 50 being formed in the highest portion of the car, a compartment in one end, a steam-boiler therein, a space underneath the floor of the car, and a port leading from said space to the atmosphere whereby steam may be al-
 55 lowed to escape from said space to the atmosphere, as set forth.

4. A burglar-proof mail and express car, comprising a body portion of a cylindrical metal and provided with series of windows
 60 along its highest portion, concaved doors slidingly held within the car, tapering shells of metal forming the ends of the car, a floor of metal having longitudinally-flanged edges which are secured to the body portion of the
 65 car, and a chain ladder and bar connected thereto which latter engages the wall of the car adjacent to the door-opening, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

CASPER ZIMMERMAN.

Witnesses:

A. L. HOUGH,
 FRANKLIN H. HOUGH.