

No. 749,981.

PATENTED JAN. 19, 1904.

J. R. CLANCY.
THEATRICAL SCENERY TRIMMER.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 8, 1902.

NO MODEL.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

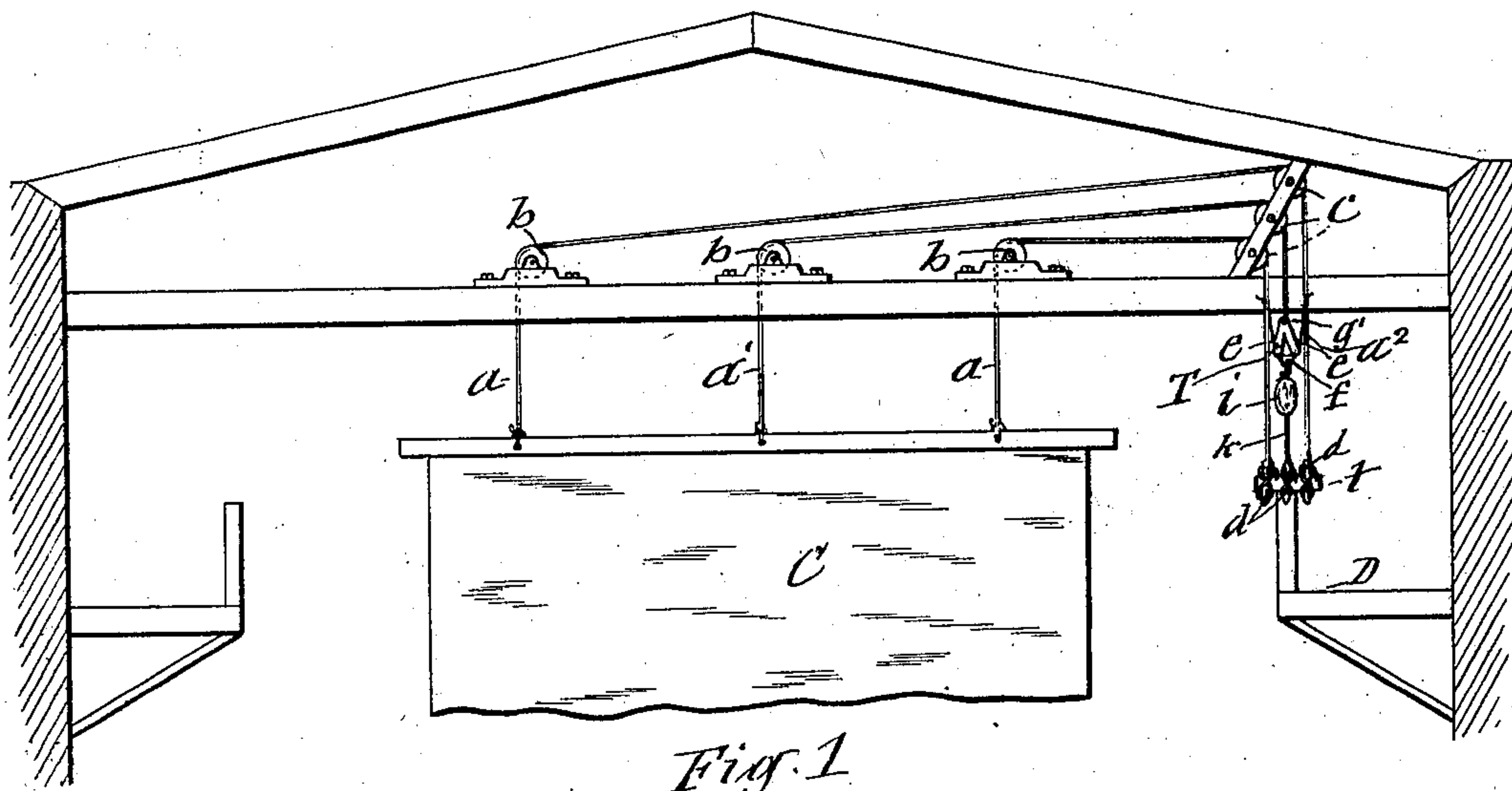


Fig. 1

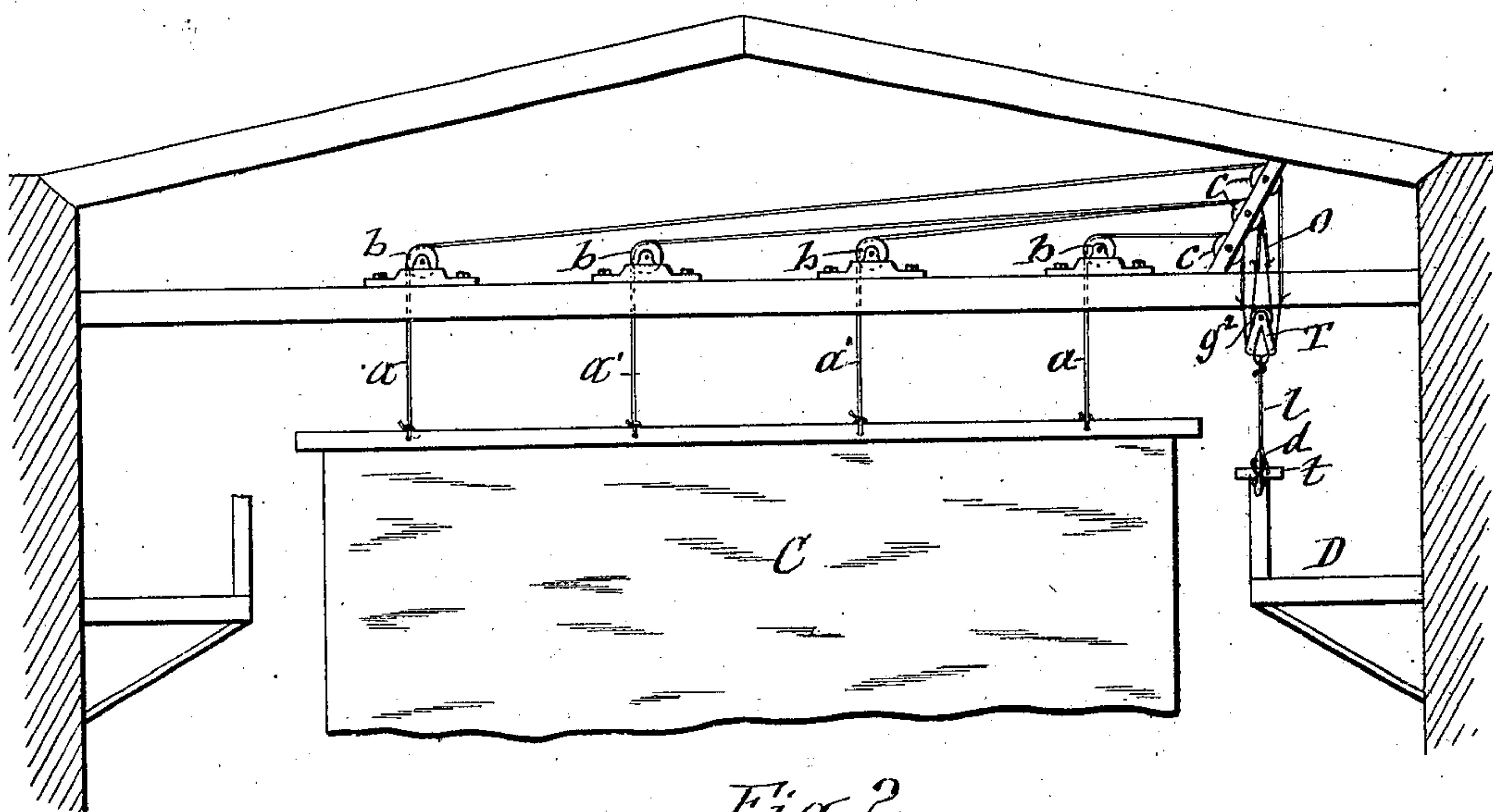


Fig. 2

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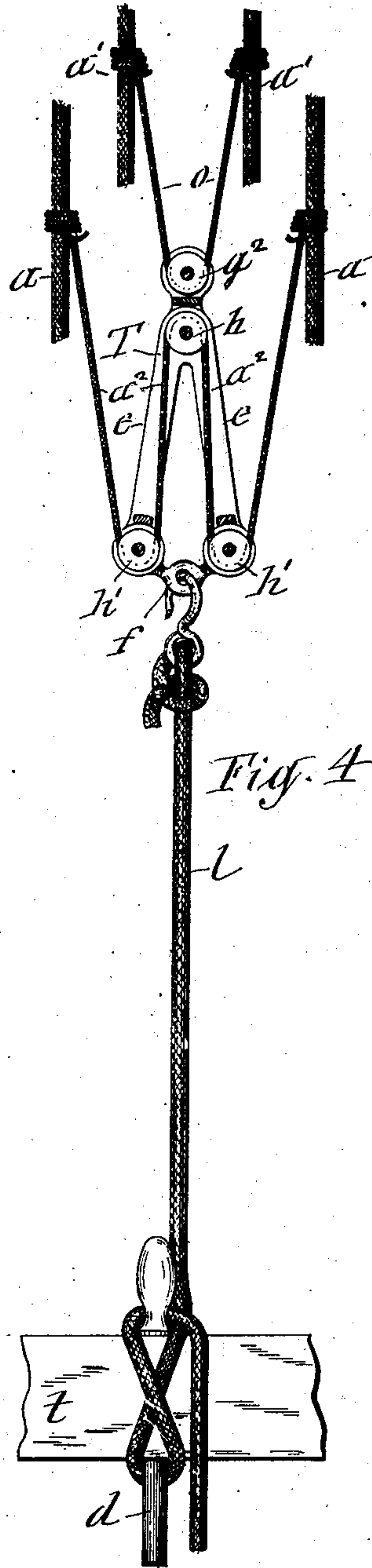
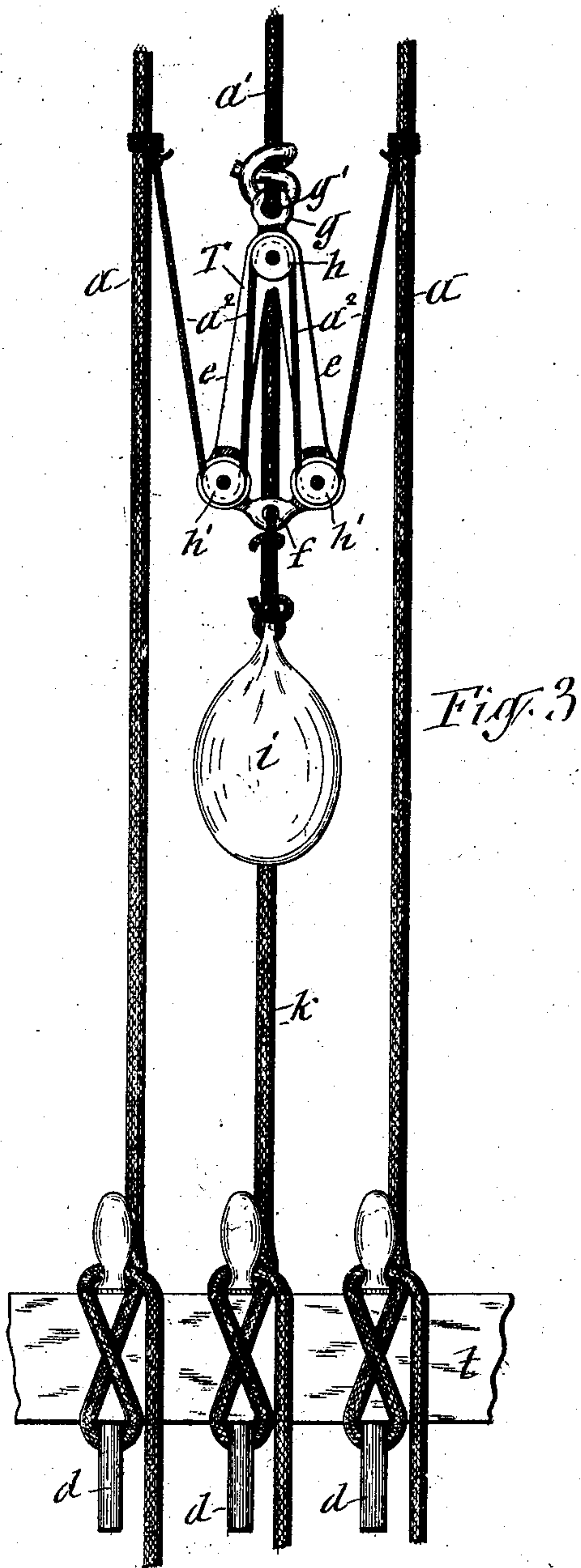
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN R. CLANCY, OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

THEATRICAL-SCENERY TRIMMER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 749,981, dated January 19, 1904.

Application filed December 8, 1902. Serial No. 134,284. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN R. CLANCY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Syracuse, in the county of Onondaga, in the State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Theatrical-Scenery Trimmers, of which the following, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to devices employed in theaters for raising and lowering heavy scenery suspended from ropes running over pulleys and operated by hands of the so-called "flyman." To facilitate this operation, it has been customary to apply to the said ropes a counterweight, usually of the form of a sand-bag tied to the entire set of the ropes. This method, however, of tying the ropes together in applying the counterweight thereto prevents the flyman from operating any one of the ropes separately so as to trim the scene into proper position, said trimming being required to compensate for the variations in the shrinkages of the ropes of different lengths due to varying degrees of humidity in the atmosphere.

The object of this invention is to provide simple, inexpensive, and efficient means for obviating the said inability of trimming the scenery; and to that end the invention consists in novel features of the details of the scenery-trimming device, all as hereinafter more fully described, and set forth in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figures 1 and 2 present front views of theatrical scenery equipped with my invention for trimming said scenery, and Figs. 3 and 4 are enlarged detached face views of my preferred form of the tackle which constitutes the salient feature of my invention.

In the said drawings, C represents the theatrical scenery, which is movable vertically to and from the stage.

$a a'$ denote the plurality of ropes or lines which are connected to the top of the scenery at different points in the width thereof and carry the scenery in suspended position, said lines running upon overhead pulleys $b b b$ and head-blocks $c c c$ and having their manipulating ends extending to the fly-gallery D, where they are tied to the usual belaying-pins d .

My invention resides in the employment of a suitable tackle T, which is applied to the lines $a a'$ for the purpose of compensating for the varying lengths of said lines. My preferred construction of said tackle consists of a rigidly-constructed metallic frame formed of two arms $e e$, which converge upwardly and are joined at their upper ends. The lower ends of the two arms are united by a cross-bar, which is formed with an eye or becket f . The junction of the upper ends of said arms is formed with an upward extension g , which may be of the shape of a becket g' or have pivoted to it a pulley g^2 , as shown, respectively, in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings. In the upper junction of the arms $e e$ is pivoted a pulley h , and in the lower end of each of said arms is pivoted a pulley h' . In using the said tackle on a scenery of moderate dimensions I tie or fasten by means of suitable clips the upper becket g' of the tackle to the center line a' at a short distance beneath the head-block c and tie to the lower becket f a suitable counterweight i , as represented in Fig. 1 of the drawings. Through the tackle T passes a rope a^2 , which I designate the "compensating" rope in contradistinction to the other ropes herein referred to. This compensating rope runs upon the top of the upper pulley h and from thence down to the inner and under sides of the lower pulleys $h' h'$, from whence it extends and is attached to the carrying-ropes $a a$, usually termed "prompt" and "opposite-prompt" lines, respectively. The tackle T may also be used without the aid of the counterweight i by fastening the ends of the compensating rope a^2 to the ends of the prompt and opposite-prompt lines $a a$. In this case the end of the central line a' is attached to the upper becket g' of the tackle, and a rope or fall k is attached to the lower becket f and secured to the pin-rail t at the fly-gallery D or to suitable fastening devices on the floor or wall of the building.

In many large theaters four carrying ropes or lines are sometimes used. In that case the upper becket of the tackle would be made of the form of a pulley g^2 , pivoted to the upward extension g and riding upon a rope o , which unites the central lines $a' a'$ beneath the head-blocks $c c$, so as to practically form a continuous rope, as illustrated in Fig. 4 of

the drawings. To the lower becket f is attached a fall or operating rope l , the lower end of which is connected to the pin-rail t . The compensating rope a^2 passes through the
5 tackle T in the manner hereinbefore described and is connected at its ends to the prompt and opposite-prompt lines $a a$, which may be terminated a short distance beneath the head-blocks $c c$, and thus leave only the rope l to be
10 manipulated by the flyman.

Either of the described connections of the tackle T to the carrying ropes or lines of the scenery will permit each or all of said ropes to be easily operated, so that the scenery can
15 be properly trimmed and adjusted either by manipulation of the ropes or by the allowance of automatic compensation for the expansions and contractions of the ropes due to atmospheric changes causing greater variations in the lengths of the longer ropes than
20 in those of the shorter ropes.

What I claim as my invention is—

1. The combination with a suspended theatrical scenery and a plurality of ropes connected

respectively to the central and the end portions 25 of said scenery, of a tackle-frame suspended from the central rope, a plurality of pulleys pivoted to different parts of said frame, and a compensating rope traversing said pulleys and connected to the end ropes as set forth. 30

2. The combination, with a theatrical scenery and a plurality of carrying-ropes suspending said scenery, of a tackle-frame provided at its upper and lower portions with pulleys pivoted to said frame and with a becket above 35 the upper pulley and a becket on the bottom of the frame, means for fastening the upper becket to the central carrying-rope, a fall or manipulating rope connected to the bottom becket, and a compensating rope passing from 40 the top of the upper pulley to the inner and under sides of the lower pulleys and attached at its ends to the ropes carrying the ends of the scenery as set forth.

JOHN R. CLANCY.

Witnesses:

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