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PATENTED OCT. 23, 1906.

H. C. BARROW.

AUTOMATIC FIRE DROP FOR STAGE SCENERY.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 12, 1906.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1

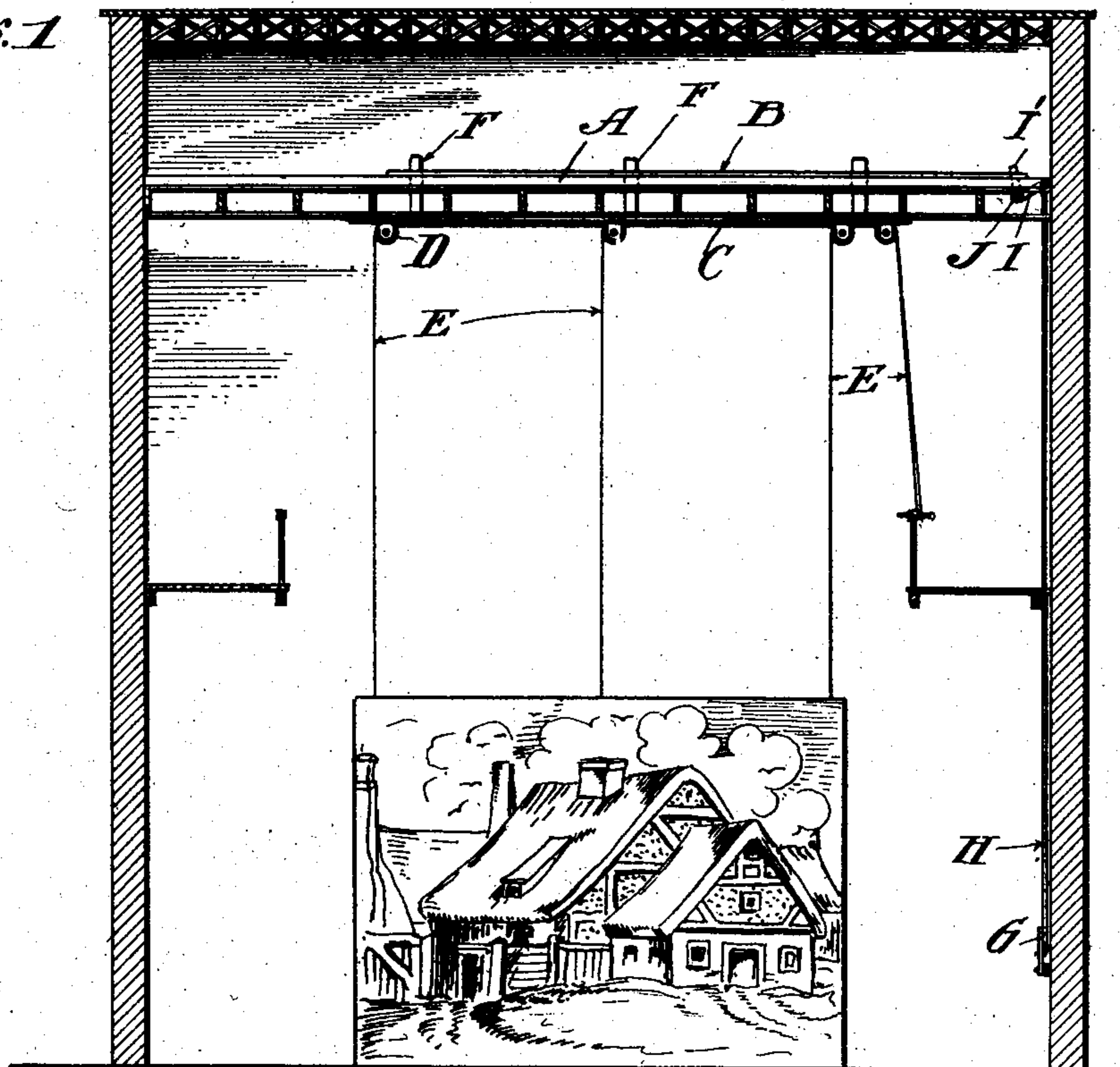
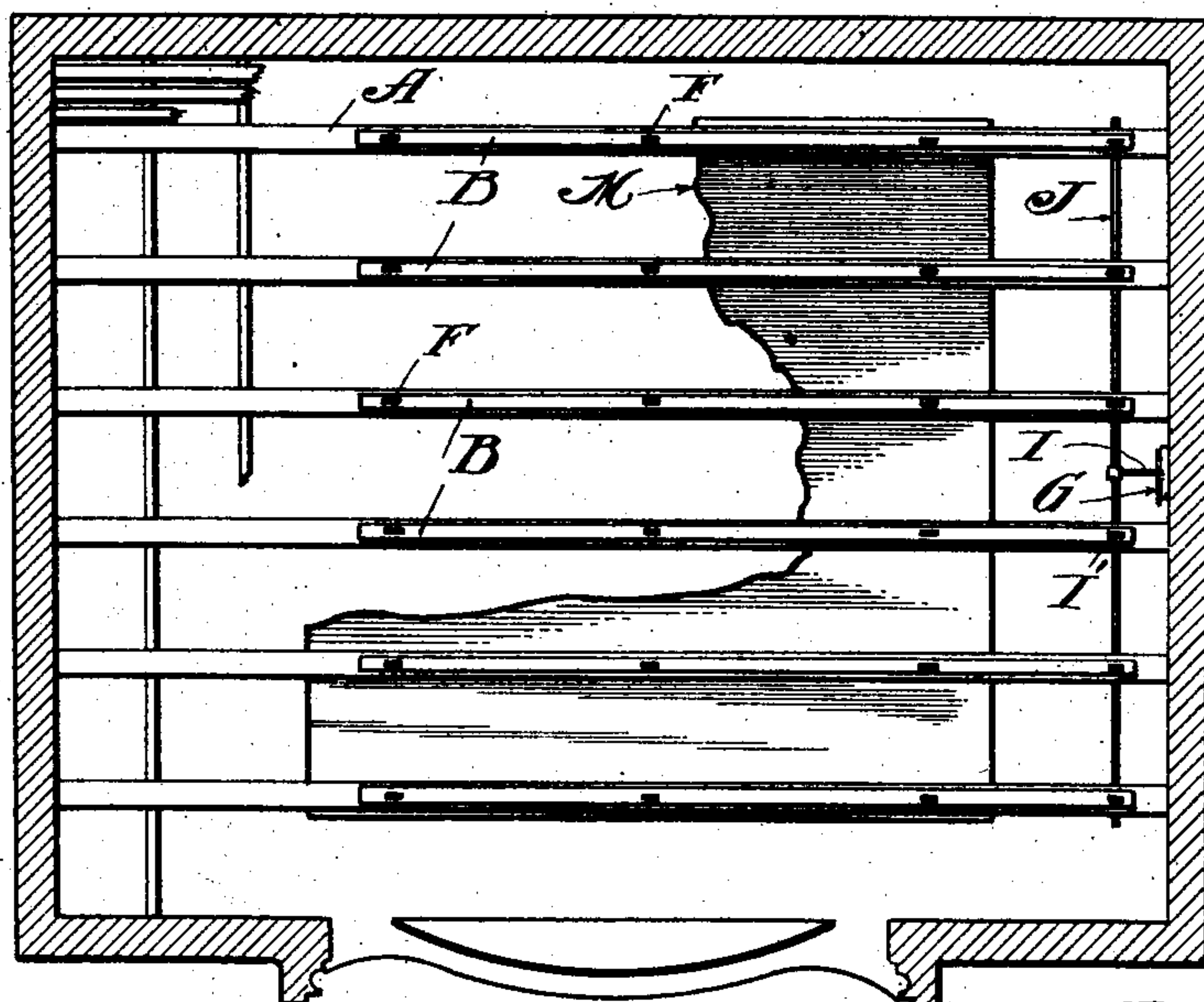


Fig. 2



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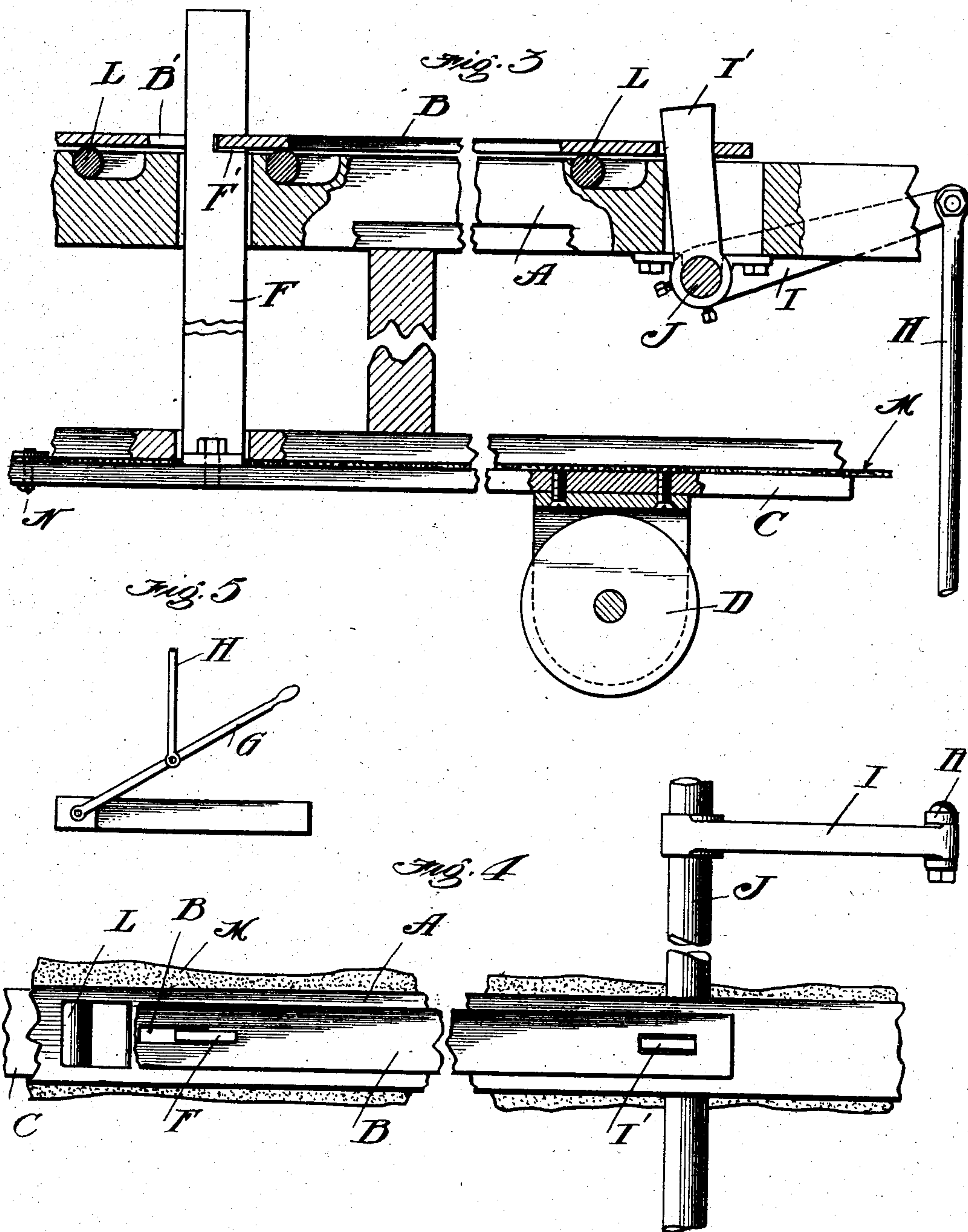
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Witnesses  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY C. BARROW, OF BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.

## AUTOMATIC FIRE-DROP FOR STAGE-SCENERY.

No.833,993.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 23, 1906.

Application filed May 12, 1905. Serial No. 260,168.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY C. BARROW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Berkeley, in the county of Alameda and State of California, have invented new and useful Means to Instantly Drop the Scenery of a Theater or other Place of Amusement to the Stage-Floor in Case of Fire or other Emergency, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates particularly to means used to put out fires in the scenery of theaters and to prevent the loss of life and injury thereby; and it provides means to instantly remove from the rigging-loft all or part of the scenery in use on the stage of a theater or other place of public amusement in case of fire or otherwise and to cover the same up and smother any fire that may remain in any of the scenery after it has fallen on the stage; and it is one of the objects of my invention to provide handy, reliable, and accessible means to instantly drop a part or all of the scenery of the stage upon the floor of the stage whenever desired so to do and to cover the same and smother any fire thereon. I accomplish these objects by means of the device described herein and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents an elevation of a rigging-loft embodying my invention with a scene supported thereon. Fig. 2 is a plan of a rigging-loft similarly equipped. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical section of a fragmentary part of a rigging-loft embodying my invention. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail showing in plan fragmentary parts thereof. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the operating-lever.

Referring to the drawings, which show in a simple form the application of my invention to the rigging-loft of a theater, I provide simple means whereby any or all of the scenes and borders suspended to the rigging-loft and the asbestos smothering-cover may be instantly dropped upon the stage, leaving only the supporting means which are preferably made of steel, iron, or any non-combustible substance, by simply manipulating an operating-lever located in some convenient and accessible place on the stage.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents the supporting-beams of the rigging-loft. Resting upon and arranged to have a sliding movement thereon is the release-bar B. This release-bar has a limited sliding movement on the supporting-beam, as will be

hereinafter explained. Suspended below the supporting-beam is the pulley-bar C, which carries pulleys D, over which the ropes and cables E are placed which support the scenery.

Rigidly secured to the pulley-bar is the catch-bar F, which projects upwardly through an opening in the supporting-beam and also through a longitudinal slot B' in the release-bar. Each of these bars is provided with notches F' (see Fig. 3) therein for the reception and engagement of the release-bar. When these catch-bars are supported by the release-bar, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, the pulley-bars will be reliably suspended in their normal position below the supporting-beam, as shown in these figures. The antifriction-rollers L have a limited movement in grooves in the supporting-bar and carry the release-bar.

To smother out any fire that may remain in any part of the scenery after it has fallen on the stage, I mount an asbestos cover M on and above the pulley-bars and secure the same thereto by any convenient means. In the drawings I have shown it bolted to these bars by securing-bolts N. When the pulley-bar drops with the scenery, it will carry with it the smothering-cover, which will be on top of everything combustible on the stage, and thereby extinguish any fire that may remain therein. The cover will prevent the scenery and supporting mechanism from falling too suddenly and injuring any person or thing on the stage when it falls, as the cover will act in the nature of a parachute and break the fall. In mounting this cover the only thing which will project therethrough will be the catch-bars F. Now in case of a fire or other emergency requiring the instant removal of the scenery from the rigging-loft the operating-lever G is thrown down. This will carry with it the connecting-rod H, pivoted on the lever at its lower end, the upper end of the connecting-rod being pivotally secured to the free end of the lever I, mounted on the rocking shaft J. This shaft has keyed thereon a number of upwardly-projecting arms I', which project through the longitudinal slots in the release-bars B and impart thereto a longitudinal movement. Now when the operating-lever G is thrown downwardly it will carry with it the connecting-rod H, and that in turn will operate the lever I, carrying the arms I' to the right, and they in turn will move the release-bars to the right until that



portion of the release-bars which enters the notches F' of the pulley-catches F move out of the notches, when the pulley-catches will be released and will drop, carrying with them the pulley-bars and all the supported scenery and the smothering-cover to the stage. The rock-shaft which runs transversely to the release-bar will carry thereon an arm I' for each one of the release-bars. The release-bars should have all their longitudinal slots B' therein uniformly located, so that all the catches will be released at the same time, and thereby drop all the scenery at once upon the stage-floor.

To prevent the accidental dropping on the stage of the scenery, the operating-lever should be locked, and upon the opening of the theater for the admission of the audience the operating-lever should be unlocked by the attendant in charge and again locked when the audience has dispersed.

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

1. Means to extinguish fires in the scenery of a stage in a theater or other place of amusement, comprising an asbestos cover disposed above the scenery and below the rigging-loft and means to drop the cover and the scenery, in an approximately horizontal position.

2. The herein-described means to extinguish a fire in the scenery of a stage or on the stage, comprising a cover of asbestos or other non-combustible substance disposed above the scenery and the borders of the stage and below the rigging-loft and means to instantly drop the scenery, borders and asbestos covers at will, in an approximately horizontal position.

3. In a theater or other place of amusement, a fire-extinguisher composed of asbestos or other non-combustible substance detachably supported to and below the rigging-loft and means to drop the extinguisher upon the stage, in an approximately horizontal position.

4. The herein-described means to drop all the scenery and cover therefor from the rigging-loft upon the floor of the stage compris-

ing in combination the supporting-beams longitudinally-movable release-bars and means to move said bars; pulleys supporting bars suspended thereby and provided with upwardly-projecting catches adapted to engage the release-bar at one part of its movement and be detached therefrom on the reverse movement thereof.

5. In a rigging-loft of the character herein described in combination with the supporting-beams A, operating-lever G, rock-shaft J carrying upwardly-projecting arm I' the release-bar B adapted to be moved longitudinally by means of the operating-lever G, the operating-lever G workably connected with the rock-shaft J the projecting arm I' adapted upon the turning of the rocking shaft to impart a longitudinal movement to the release-bar and disconnect the same from the catch F on a pulley-bar C carrying the scenery having upwardly-projecting catches E with recesses F' therein adapted to receive a portion of the release-bar at certain periods in its movements and to be released therefrom on its reverse movement substantially as hereinbefore shown and described.

6. The combination of supporting-beams, the herein-described release-bar having apertures therein, pulley-supporting bars adapted to support the stage-scenery, catch-bars rigidly secured to the pulley-supporting bars and adapted to enter the apertures in the release-bar, and means to impart longitudinal movement to the release-bar.

7. The combination with pulley-bars, a fire-extinguishing cover supported thereby and pulleys rotatably supported by the pulley-bars, of catch-bars connected with the pulley-bars and a release-bar for disengaging the catch-bars whereby the pulley-bars and their connected parts are detached and lowered from their support.

In witness that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto subscribed my name this 6th day of May, 1905.

HENRY C. BARROW.

Witnesses:

MYRTLE A. JONES,  
G. E. HARPAM.