

No. 836,708.

PATENTED NOV. 27, 1906.

H. N. RIDGWAY.
AMUSEMENT DEVICE.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 17, 1904.

Fig. 1.

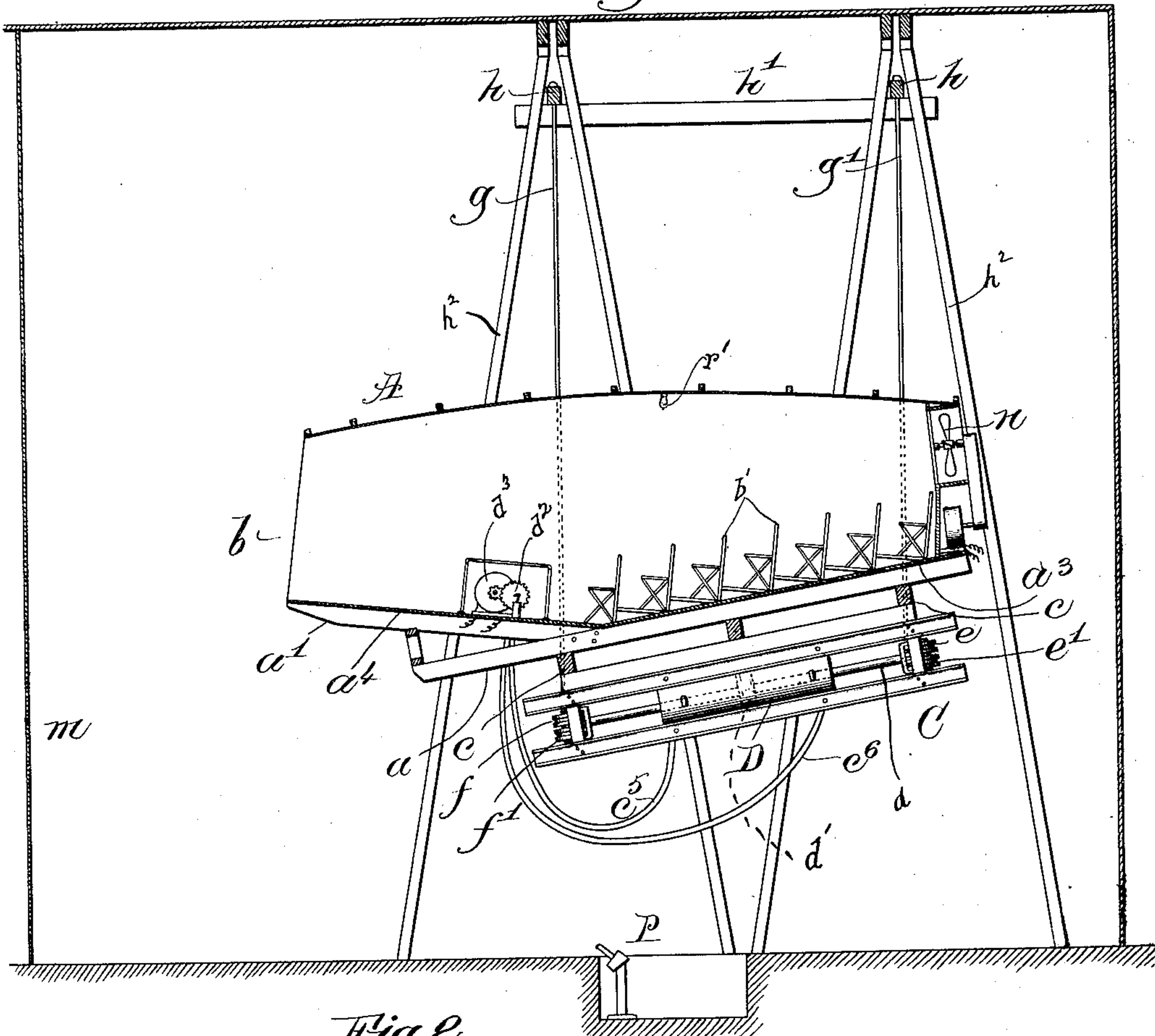


Fig. 2.

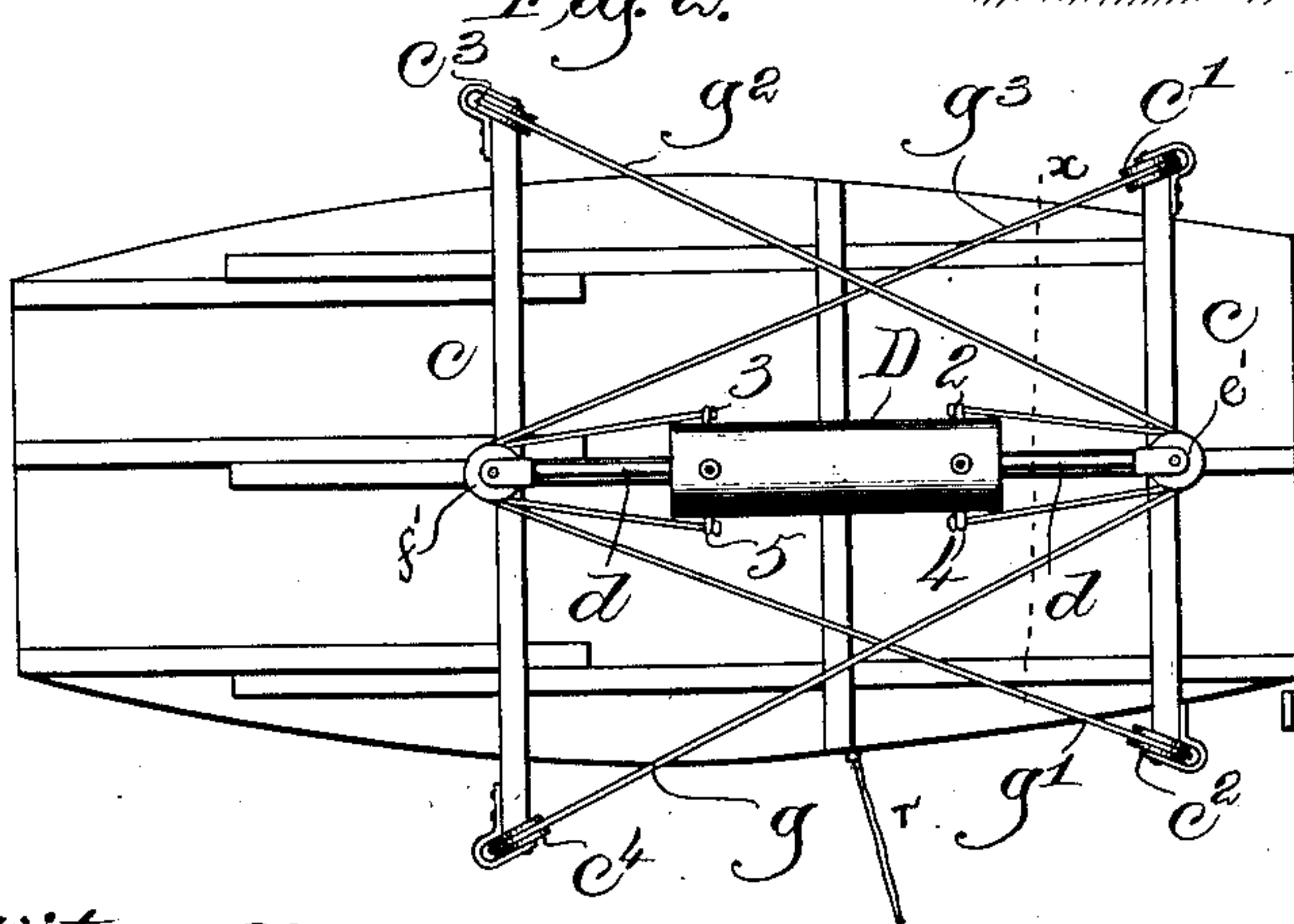
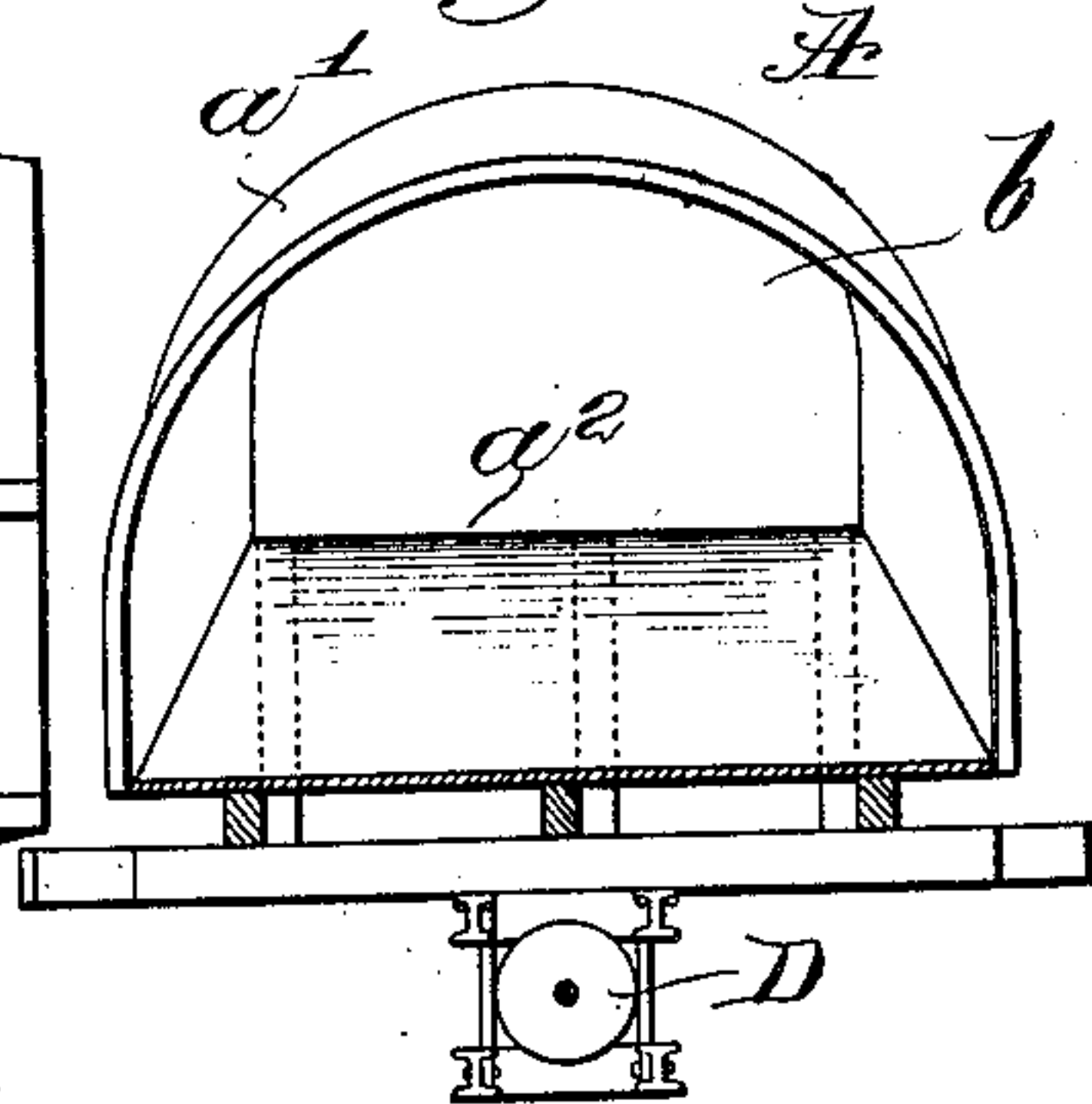


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

No. 836,708.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 27, 1906.

Application filed November 17, 1904. Serial No. 233,079.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT N. RIDGWAY, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Winthrop, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Amusement Devices, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like characters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object the production of a novel amusement device which will give to the occupant the sensation of taking a trip in a balloon or flying-machine.

My device comprises a suspended car having an open end through which the occupants of the car look outwardly onto a screen on which are portrayed things to be seen on the proposed trip of the balloon—such as cities, natural objects, clouds, &c.—the car having coacting therewith devices whereby the car may be tipped that the open or outlook end of the car may sweep up and down or laterally with relation to the screen, down as when a city or land was to be viewed and upwardly when supposedly ascending into the clouds in going from one place to another.

Figure 1 shows my novel amusement device with the car in longitudinal section, the connections of the suspending-cords with the cylinder being omitted for clearness of illustration. Fig. 2 is an under side view of some of the parts shown in Fig. 1, chiefly to illustrate the cording; and Fig. 3, a section in the line x looking to the left, some of the parts being omitted for clearness.

The car A comprises sills a a' , sustaining an outer wall a^2 , herein represented as curved, as shown, and bottom a^3 a^4 , one end of the body being open and drawn in or contracted, as at the left, Fig. 1, and as shown in Fig. 3, to form an outlook-space b , at the rear of which are seats b' for the occupants of the car.

The sills a are connected by timbers c , forming part of a swinging platform C. The cross-timbers c sustain at their ends sheaves c' , c^2 , c^3 , and c^4 , and the platform or timbers below the car sustain a cylinder D, containing a piston-rod d , having a piston-head d' . (Shown by dotted lines.)

The cylinder at its under side has connected therewith inside its heads two pipes c^5 c^6 , through either of which may be forced water from a pump d^2 , run by an electric motor d^3 , the water under pressure entering said

cylinder at one or the other side of said piston-head and moving said piston-rod in one or the other direction in said cylinder.

The piston-rod is forked at each end and receives two pulleys or sheaves e e' f f' . The car is sustained by four ropes or cables, two of which, g g' , are shown in Fig. 1, two at each side of the car. These ropes or cables are connected at their upper ends with suitable strong cross-timbers h h' , resting on timbers h^2 , connected with suitable uprights h^3 . The rope g surrounds the sheaves c^4 and e' and is connected at 2 to the cylinder near one end. The second rope g' is carried about the sheaves c^2 and f' and is attached to the cylinder at 3. (See Fig. 2.) The other two ropes g^2 g^3 at the opposite side of the car are passed one about the sheaves c^3 and e and connected with the cylinder at 4 and the other about the sheaves c' and f and connected to the cylinder at 5.

From the foregoing it will be understood that when water is let into the cylinder to push the piston-head and piston to the right, Figs. 1 and 2, the sheaves e and e' will be moved and drawing on the ropes g g^2 will cause said ropes, acting on the sheaves c^3 c^4 , to elevate the outlook end of the car, so that the occupants may look upwardly onto cloud effects portrayed on the screen m , and when moved in the opposite direction will cause the ropes g' and g^3 to elevate the rear end of the car and lower the outlook end that passengers may through the outlook end of the car look downwardly onto a picture displayed at the lower portion of the screen m —as, for instance, a city or other natural object—which might be visible by looking over and down from the basket of an ordinary balloon or flying-ship.

The rear end of the car has an electrically-operated fan n , that will create a breeze through the car as if in the air.

The views or pictures will be displayed on the screen, preferably a stationary sheet, by suitable stereopticons p , set on the floor of the building containing the device. The stereopticon will be capable of throwing onto the screen bird's-eye views of any city—as Boston, New York, Washington, St. Louis, &c.—and any natural wonders—as Niagara Falls, the big lakes, &c., Pikes Peak. The sky-views may represent clouds in various conditions and daylight or moonlight, &c.

During the time that passengers are in the car the car may be swung from side to side or

be made to sway more or less by a cord r , connected to the platform and held by an attendant outside the car. The car will be suspended in a dark place and will have one or more electric lights r' , that may be turned off during a supposed trip, which owing to the motion of the car is very realistic and affords much pleasure of a novel order to both children and grown people. The cords g g' g^2 g^3 constitute flexible suspensions.

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

1. In an amusement device of the class described, a suspended car having an open end for an outlook, a picture-screen in front of said open end, a fixed support for the car, and means attached to a point fixed relatively to the support for tipping said car up and down that its open end may be moved with relation to the screen to present different parts of the screen to the occupants of the car.

2. An amusement device of the class described, comprising a picture-screen, a car having sides, a top and an open end for an outlook, flexible suspenders for supporting said car from a non-movable support, and means acting on said suspenders to tip the car to thereby raise or lower the outlook end

of the car that the occupant of the car may view different parts of the screen.

3. An amusement device comprising a screen, means for throwing various pictures on different parts of said screen, a car provided with sides, a top, and an open end directed toward the screen, said car having seats for passengers, flexible suspensions for said car, and means coacting with said suspensions to tip the car to thereby raise and lower the open end of the car that the occupants thereof may see the different views thrown on the screen.

4. In a device of the character described, a car having an open end for an outlook, a picture-screen in front of said open end, a fixed support, suspending means for the car connected at fixed points to said fixed support and means for tipping the car up and down that its open end may be moved with relation to the screen to present different parts of the screen to the occupants of the car.

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

HERBERT N. RIDGWAY.

Witnesses:

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