

No. 855,347.

PATENTED MAY 28, 1907.

F. J. SCHMITT.
BUTCHER'S CHOPPING BLOCK.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1907.

Fig. 1.

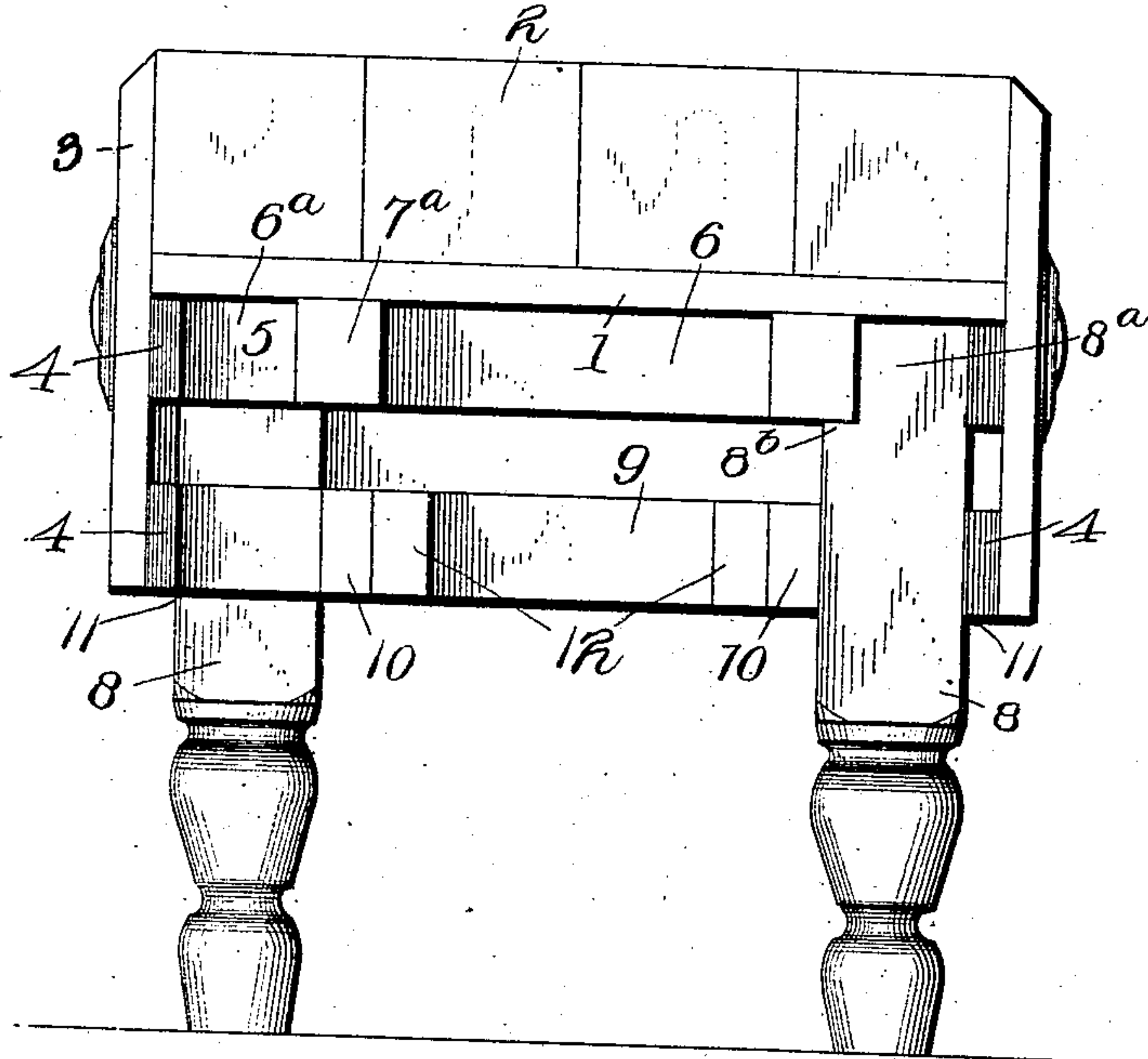
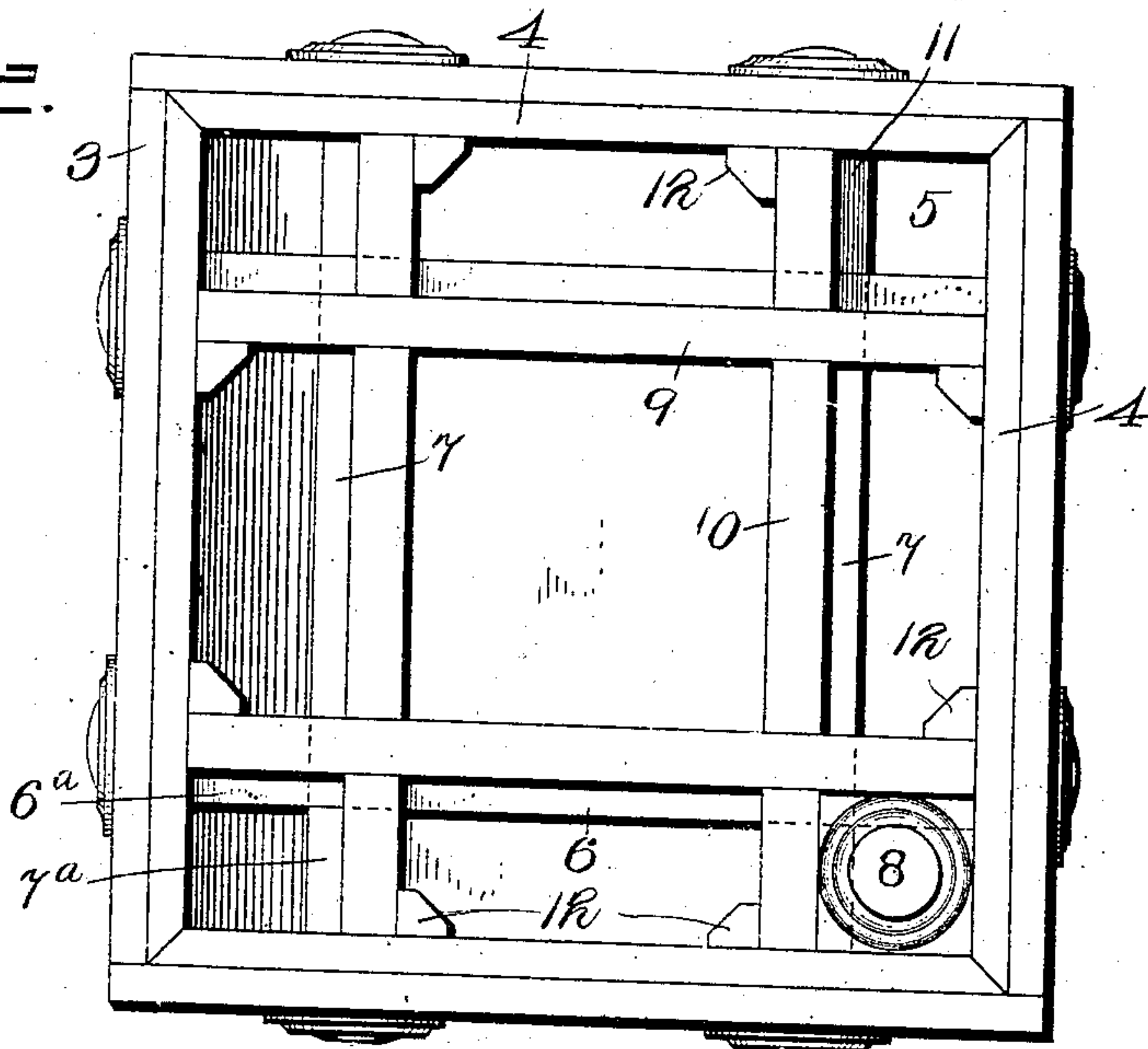


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BUTCHER'S CHOPPING-BLOCK.

No. 855,347.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 28, 1907.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FREDERICK J. SCHMITT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Petoskey, in the county of Emmet and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Butchers' Chopping-Blocks; and I do hereby 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.

This invention relates to improvements in butchers' chopping blocks, and is primarily designed to produce a chopping block which will be reduced in weight and yet at the same time will be very strong and sufficiently heavy for all purposes and rigidly supported against wobbling. It is found to be a great disadvantage in the manufacture of these blocks that the weight of the normal block is so great that the freight in shipping them throughout the country is quite an important item. Another disadvantage in the forms of blocks at present constructed is that in order to ship these blocks, it is necessary to ship the legs and block proper disassociated from each other, and in order to make the leg detachable from the block, it is customary to bore a hole in the block and to form on the leg a dowel pin. From experience, it has been proven that these dowels, owing to climatic changes, frequently swell or shrink, and great trouble is experienced in properly assembling the parts by the customer when the block is to be set up. Also with that construction, the legs being secured to the block simply by the dowel pin, after some usage, the block tends to become wobbly. Also in blocks as generally constructed, the top or chopping surface is formed of a plurality of blocks glued together, and it is a frequent occurrence for these blocks to separate at the ends owing to the temperature or moisture in the air affecting the glue at the ends, so that the spaces formed collect dirt and grease, and this feature is very objectionable. In the present form of invention, it is attempted to overcome these several objections as well as providing for other advantages, and in carrying out the invention broadly I have designed a block having a false bottom, comprising a compartment formed from depending sides inclosing the edges and ends of said top blocks, in combination with legs detachably secured within

said compartment to said top blocks and at another position secured from lateral or wobbly motion by auxiliary braces at the lower portion of said compartment.

For the purpose of disclosure, reference is had to the accompanying drawings, illustrating a practical embodiment of the invention, in which like letters designate the same parts in the several views, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the assembled block, with one of the facing plates removed and showing the interior arrangement of the false bottom or compartment, with one of the legs omitted to show the pockets formed for the reception thereof, and Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view, showing the interior of the compartment and the bracing frames therein.

1 designates a base member surmounted by a plurality of blocks 2 forming the chopping surface, and these blocks 2 are closely fitted and glued together and also may be glued to the base member 1.

3 designate facing members which may be ornamented and which are securely affixed to the sides and ends of the blocks 2 and project downwardly a considerable distance below the base member 1 to form a false bottom for the chopping block comprising a hollow base or compartment. The inside face of the facing members 3 may be provided with a suitable reinforcing member illustrated in the drawings as comprising the strips 4 glued to inside faces of said members 3. At the base of said top blocks or chopping surface are a plurality of recesses or pockets 5, and these may be formed in any suitable manner. In the drawings, these are shown as being formed by a bracing frame affixed in any suitable way within said compartment adjacent the base member 1, and said bracing frame comprises intersecting cross bars 6 and 7 forming at their adjacent ends (as at 6^a, 7^a) with said facing members or their reinforced strips the sockets 5 hereinbefore mentioned. It will be observed that the ends of these intersecting cross bars 6 and 7 abut against the facing members or their reinforced strips bracing or trussing the walls of said compartment. These sockets 5 are adapted to receive the top of the legs 8 for supporting the block, which leg tops are recessed on two sides to form the squared head 8^a and the ledges 8^b, the squared head 8^a being adapted to fit within the sockets 5 and the ledges or

shoulders 8^b adapted to rest beneath and engage the adjacent edges of the intersecting bars 6 and 7.

In order to provide further rigidity to the support of the block and to take the strain off of the dowel or reduced end 8^a of the legs, the legs are further braced at the lower end of the compartment. The means shown for accomplishing this is illustrated in the drawings as comprising a second bracing frame located at the base of the compartment and comprising intersecting bars 9 and 10, the ends of which may be suitably affixed as by gluing to the facing members or their reinforced portions and forming with same the pockets 11 of greater width than the sockets 5 and adapted to receive and brace the body portion of the legs. This bracing frame, it will be observed, also braces or trusses laterally the lower portion of the walls of the false bottom or compartment and where the ends of these cross bars are secured to the sides of the compartment by means of gluing, it may be desirable to use interposed glued corner blocks 12.

By the construction illustrated, it will be seen that the legs may be readily detached from or assembled with the block and when so assembled the block, greatly reduced in weight, is rigidly supported. It will also be observed that if it is desired to raise the block, for instance owing to the top of the chopping surface being worn away, this may be readily done by interposing small blocks in the sockets 5 and allowing the upper end of the squared head 8^a of the legs to rest underneath said inserted blocks. This will not militate against the stability of the chopping block inasmuch as the legs are also braced at another point, to-wit at the base of the false bottom or compartment.

While not essential, if desirable, any suitable form of screw or pin may be inserted through the walls of said base compartment into the legs.

Having thus described the invention what I claim is:—

1. In a butchers' chopping block, the combination with the top or chopping surface provided with parallel opposed depending sides forming a false bottom therebelow comprising a deep rectangular compartment, of legs therefor, and means for detachably securing said legs to said chopping block within said compartment, with said legs at two of their sides substantially abutting against the inside faces of said depending sides, substantially as described.

2. In a butchers' chopping block, the combination with the top or chopping surface provided with parallel opposed depending sides forming a false bottom therebelow comprising a deep rectangular compartment, of legs therefor, means for detachably securing said legs to said top within said compart-

ment, with said legs at two of their sides substantially abutting against the inside faces of said depending sides and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the base of said compartment, substantially as described.

3. In a butchers' chopping block, the combination with the top or chopping surface provided with sockets on its underneath face and having parallel opposed depending sides forming a false bottom comprising a deep rectangular compartment, of legs detachably fitting within said sockets, with said legs at two of their sides substantially abutting against the inside faces of said depending sides and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the bottom of said compartment, substantially as described.

4. In a chopping block, the combination with the top or chopping surface provided with sockets on its underneath face and having depending sides forming a false bottom comprising a deep compartment, of legs detachably fitting within said sockets, and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the bottom of said compartment, comprising corner braces secured to said sides and forming therewith pockets inclosing said legs, substantially as described.

5. In a chopping block, the combination with the top or chopping surface provided with sockets on its underneath face and having depending sides forming a false bottom comprising a deep compartment, of legs detachably fitting within said sockets, and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the bottom of said compartment, comprising a frame work formed from cross bars abutting at their ends against opposite sides of said compartment and at their adjacent ends forming with said sides pockets for the reception of said legs, substantially as described.

6. In a chopping block, the combination with a base, of a top or chopping surface mounted on said base and formed of blocks glued together, facing members secured to the sides and ends of said blocks for protecting them against separation and depending below said top forming a false bottom comprising a compartment, a bracing frame comprising intersecting bars secured within said compartment adjacent said base and forming sockets with said facing members, legs fitting in said sockets, and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the bottom of said compartment, substantially as described.

7. In a chopping block, the combination with a base, of a top or chopping surface mounted on said base and formed of blocks glued together, facing members secured to the sides and ends of said blocks for protecting them against separation and depending below said top forming a false bottom compris-

ing a compartment, a bracing frame comprising intersecting bars secured within said compartment adjacent said base and forming sockets with said facing members, legs fitting
5 in said sockets, and means for bracing said legs against lateral movement at the bottom of said compartment, comprising a second frame formed from intersecting cross bars and forming with said facing members pockets for the reception of said legs, substantially as described.
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8. In a chopping block, the combination with a base, of a top or chopping surface mounted on said base and formed of blocks
15 glued together, facing members secured to the sides and ends of said blocks for protecting them against separation and depending

below said top, forming a false bottom comprising a compartment, a bracing frame comprising intersecting bars secured within said
20 compartment adjacent said base and forming sockets with said facing members, legs having squared ends recessed to form a tenon fitting said sockets, and a second bracing frame secured within said compartment at the bottom thereof and forming with said facing members pockets for the reception of said legs, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof, I affix my signature, 25
in presence of two witnesses.

FREDERICK J. SCHMITT.

Witnesses:

W. F. HOPKINS,
LEON CHICHESTER.