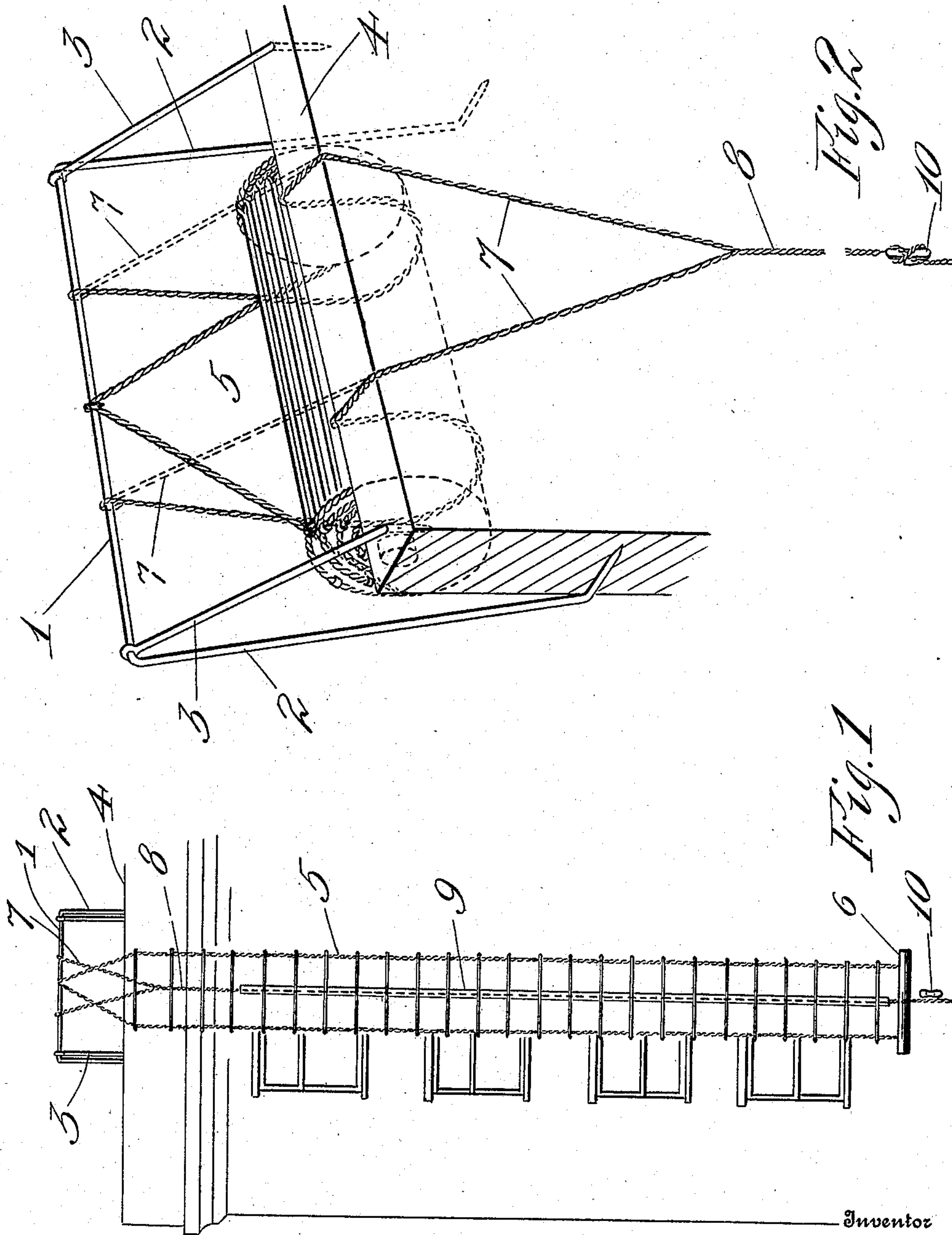


G. L. MUELLER.
FIRE ESCAPE.
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908,024.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.



Witnesses

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GUSTAV L. MUELLER, OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.

FIRE-ESCAPE.

No. 908,024.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Dec. 29, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GUSTAV L. MUELLER, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the city of Seattle, in the county of King and State of Washington, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fire-Escapes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of a flexible ladder which can be secured and normally arranged in a compact form on top of a building or other desirable location, and released by novel means so that it will fall by gravity to an extended position.

A further object is to provide a construction which is simple and comparatively inexpensive to manufacture.

Other objects will be set forth as the description progresses and those features of construction and combinations of parts in which the invention resides, succinctly pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring now to the accompanying drawing, in which like numerals of reference indicate like parts throughout: Figure 1 is a view illustrating my invention as applied to a building, the ladder having been lowered, and Fig. 2 is a fragmentary view in perspective, on enlarged scale, showing the ladder arranged as in its normal position, and illustrating by dotted lines the flexible means 7 drawn taut.

In the drawing I have illustrated my invention as comprising a suitable frame consisting of a horizontally disposed bar 1 forming a support, adapted to be rigidly held in position by downwardly and outwardly extending arms 2 and 3, above another support, as 4 preferably arranged on top of the building at the edge thereof.

Reference numeral 5 indicates a flexible ladder arranged in compact form, by being rolled on a roller 6 fixed to one end of the ladder, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 1, between the supports 1 and 4.

Ladder 5 is secured at one end to support 1 and is illustrated as being supported by flexible means 7. It can however be supported in any other desired manner, as will be readily understood in view of the following.

Flexible means 7 preferably consist of a pair of ropes secured at their upper ends to support 1 at points well spaced apart, and being passed down under the ladder, then

up over support 4 where they are connected to a single pull rope 8 which may extend through a tube as 9 to any suitable point where it can be conveniently reached.

Reference numeral 10 indicates a cleat to which the free end portion of pull rope 8 can be made fast.

In operation, to release the ladder so that it will lower to an extended form, as illustrated in Fig. 1, the operator pulls rope 8 so that that portion of flexible means 7 disposed between supports 1 and 4, will be drawn taut to form inclined guides down which the free portion of the ladder will roll over the lower of said supports.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States of America, is:

1. An apparatus of the character described comprising spaced supports one of which has its upper portion arranged below the other, a flexible means secured to the upper portion of the higher support and extending over the other whereby when drawn taut it will assume an inclined position between said supports, said flexible means being normally held so that that portion thereof between said supports will be loose, and a flexible ladder resting on said flexible means between said supports and having one end secured, for the purpose specified.

2. An apparatus of the character described, comprising spaced supports one of which is arranged above the other, a flexible ladder secured to said last named support and having its free portion rolled and arranged between said supports, flexible means on which the rolled portion of said ladder is mounted, said flexible means consisting of spaced flexible members extending over the lower of said supports and having their upper ends secured to the upper of said supports, and a single pull rope connected to the lower end portions of said flexible members for drawing the same taut, whereby the rolled portion of said ladder will roll thereon over the lower of said supports.

Signed at Seattle, Washington this 6th day of March 1908.

GUSTAV L. MUELLER.

Witnesses:

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