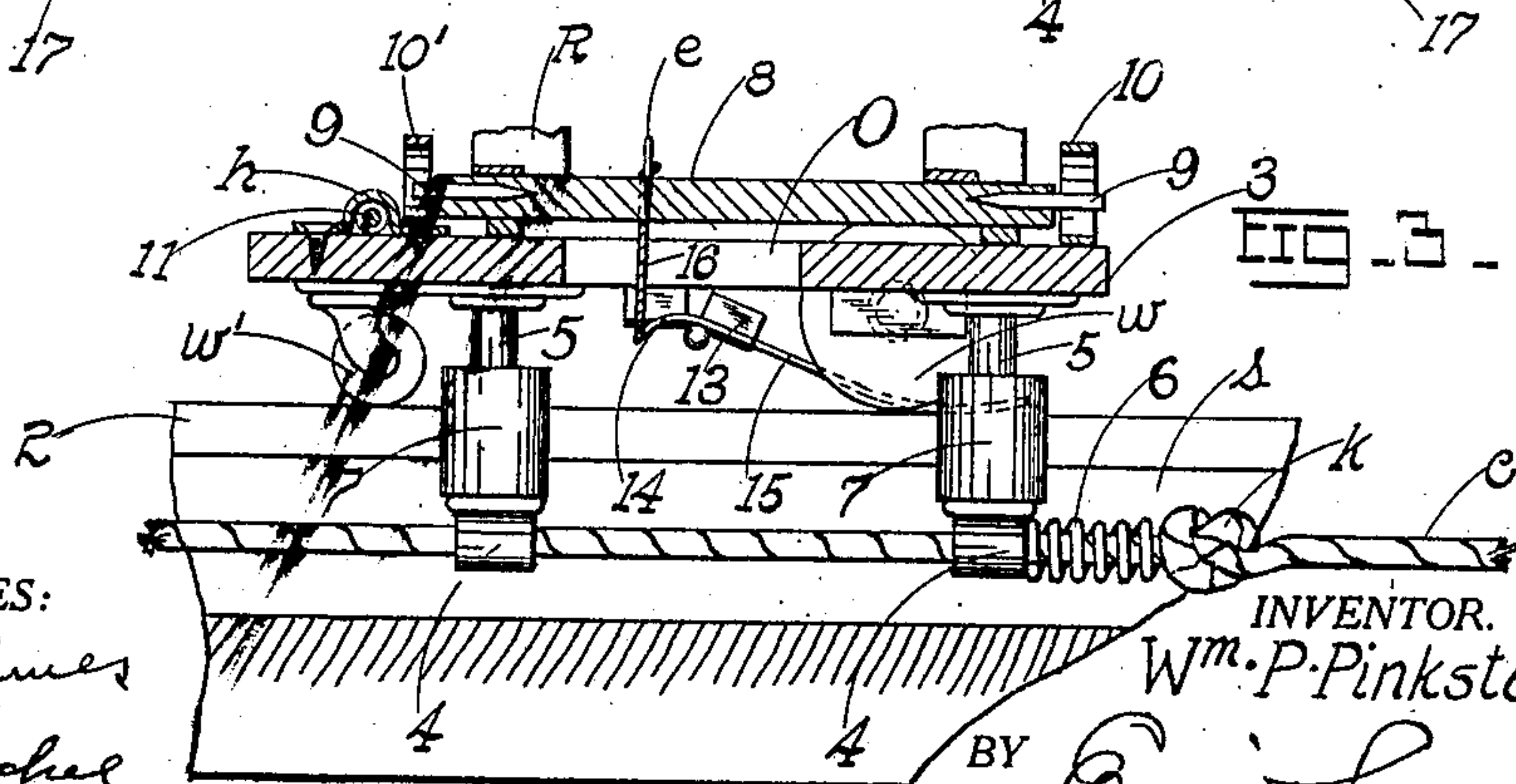
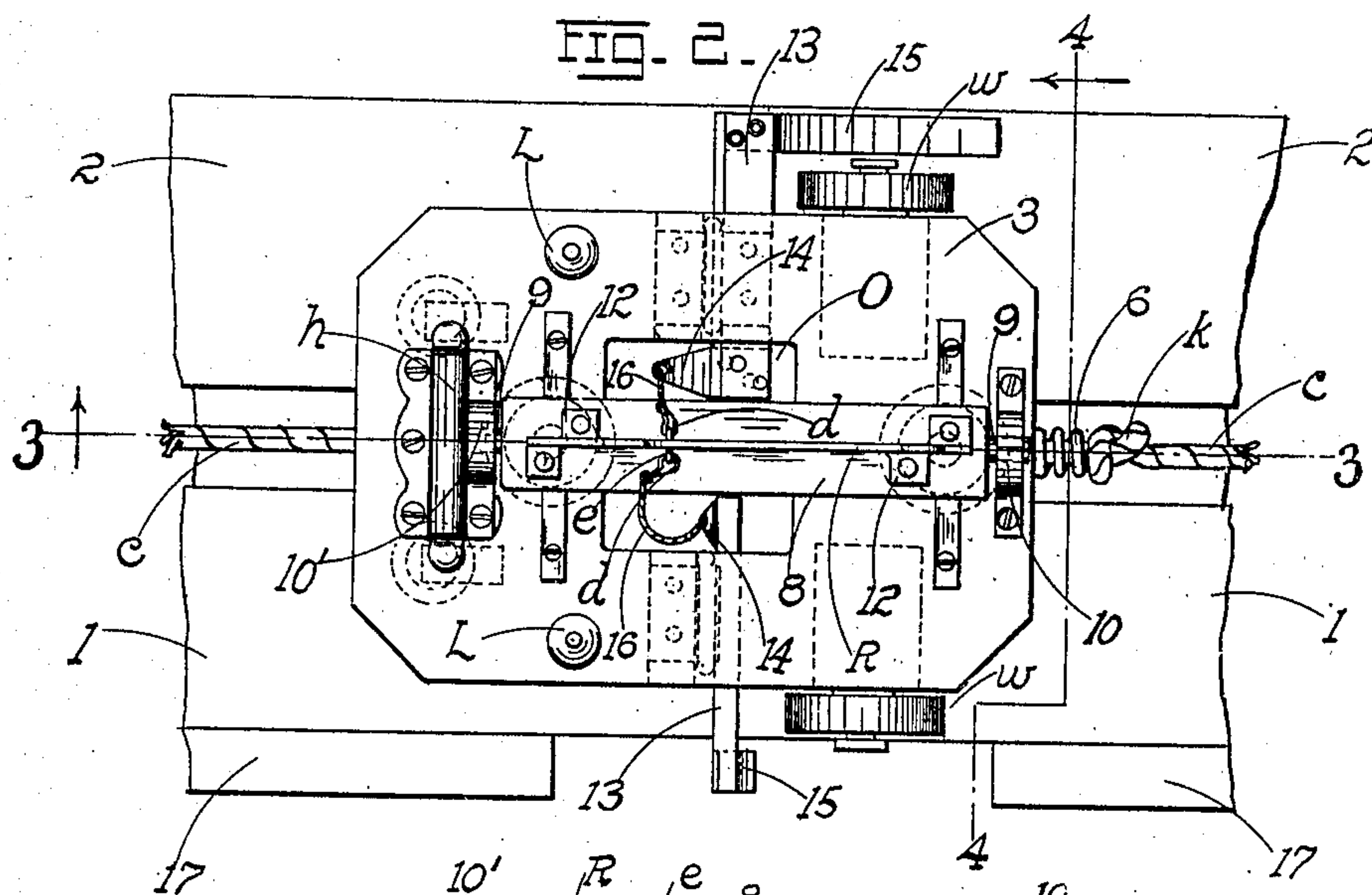
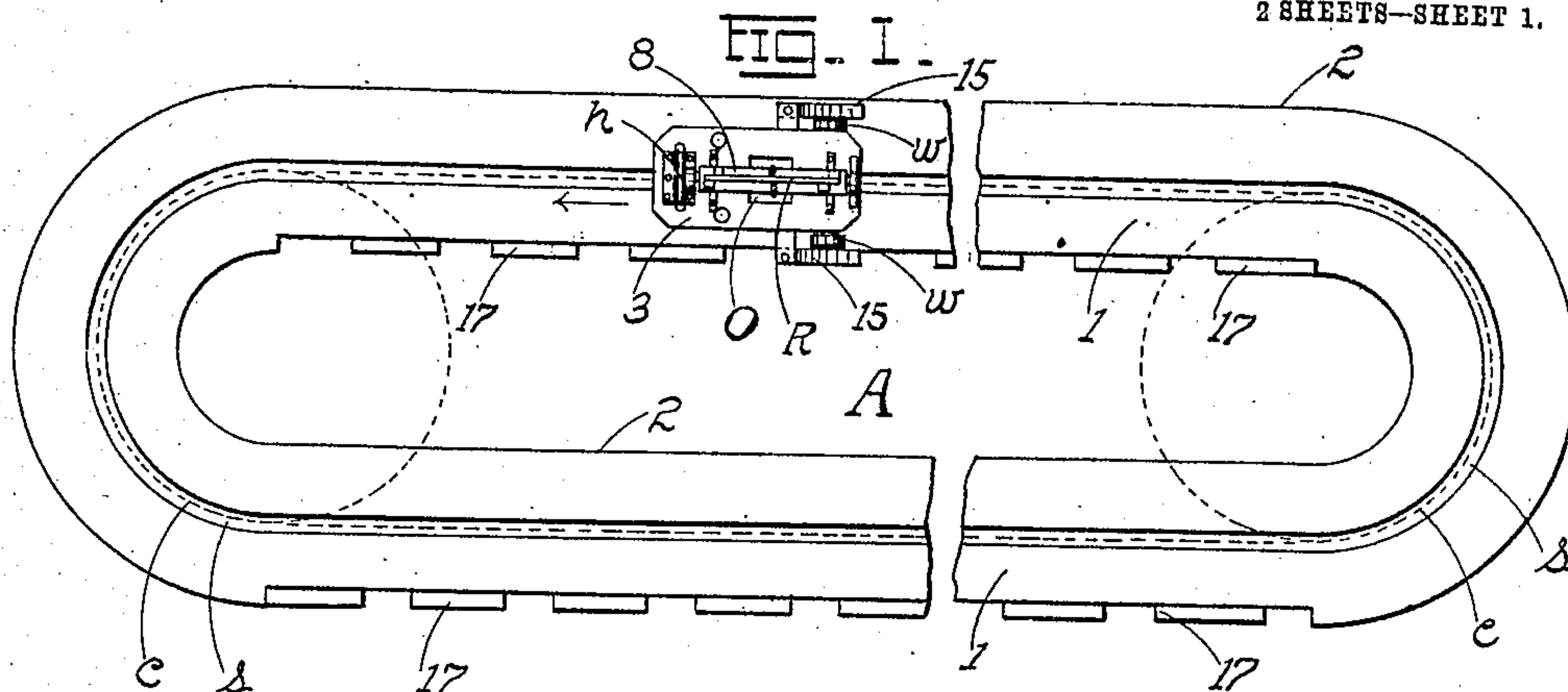


919,378.

2 SHEETS--SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

Harry A. Beimes
Joramches

INVENTOR.

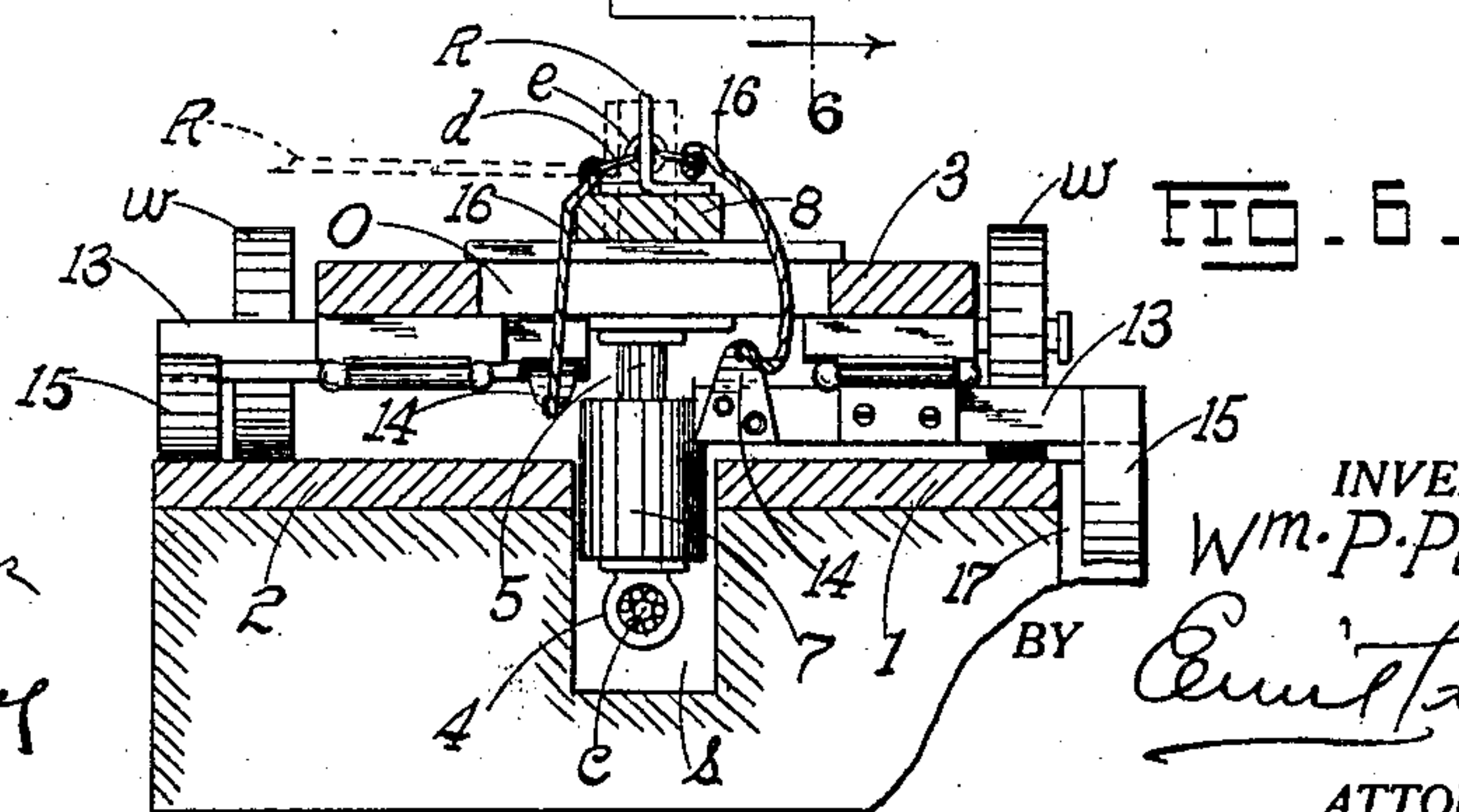
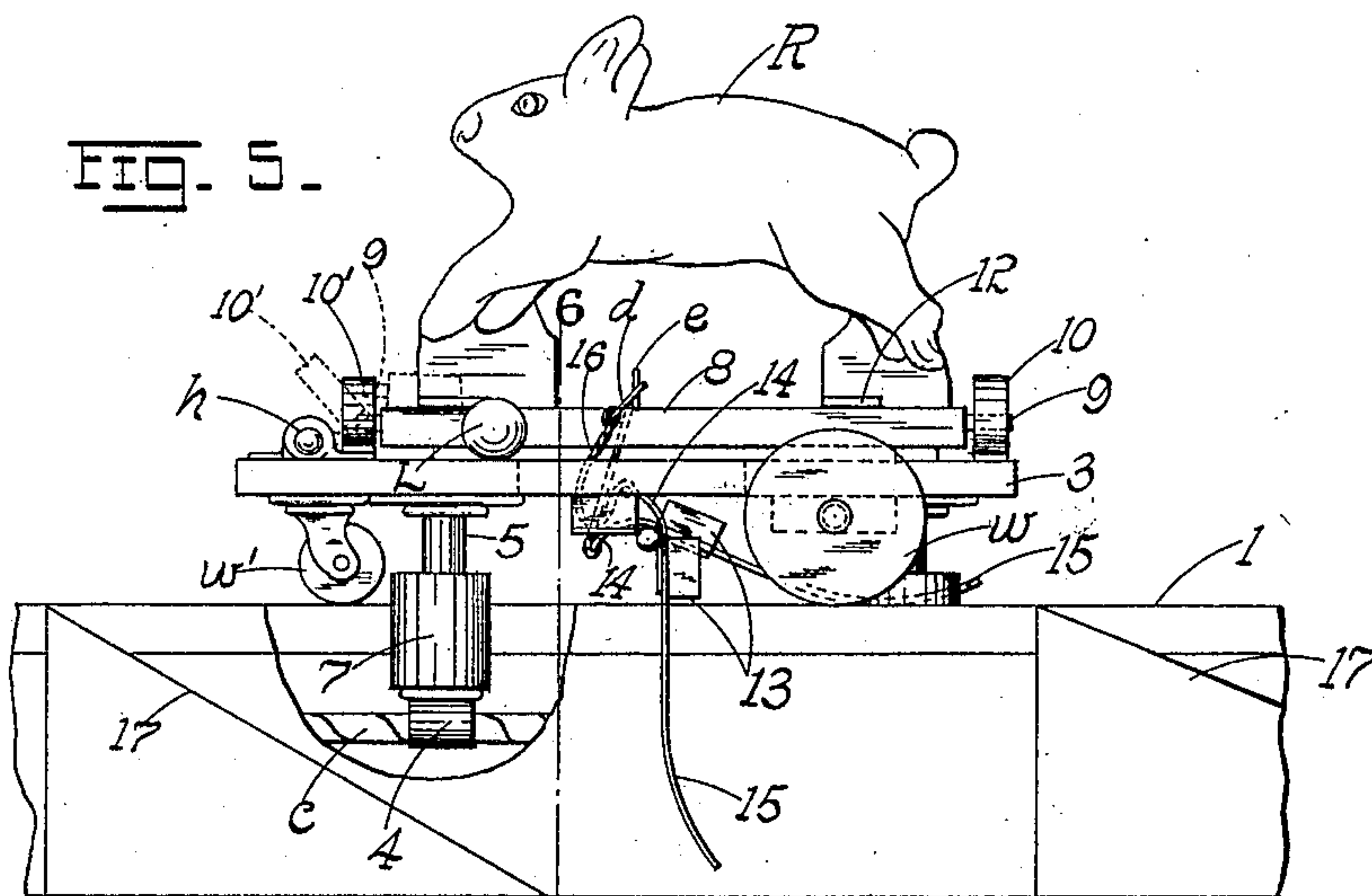
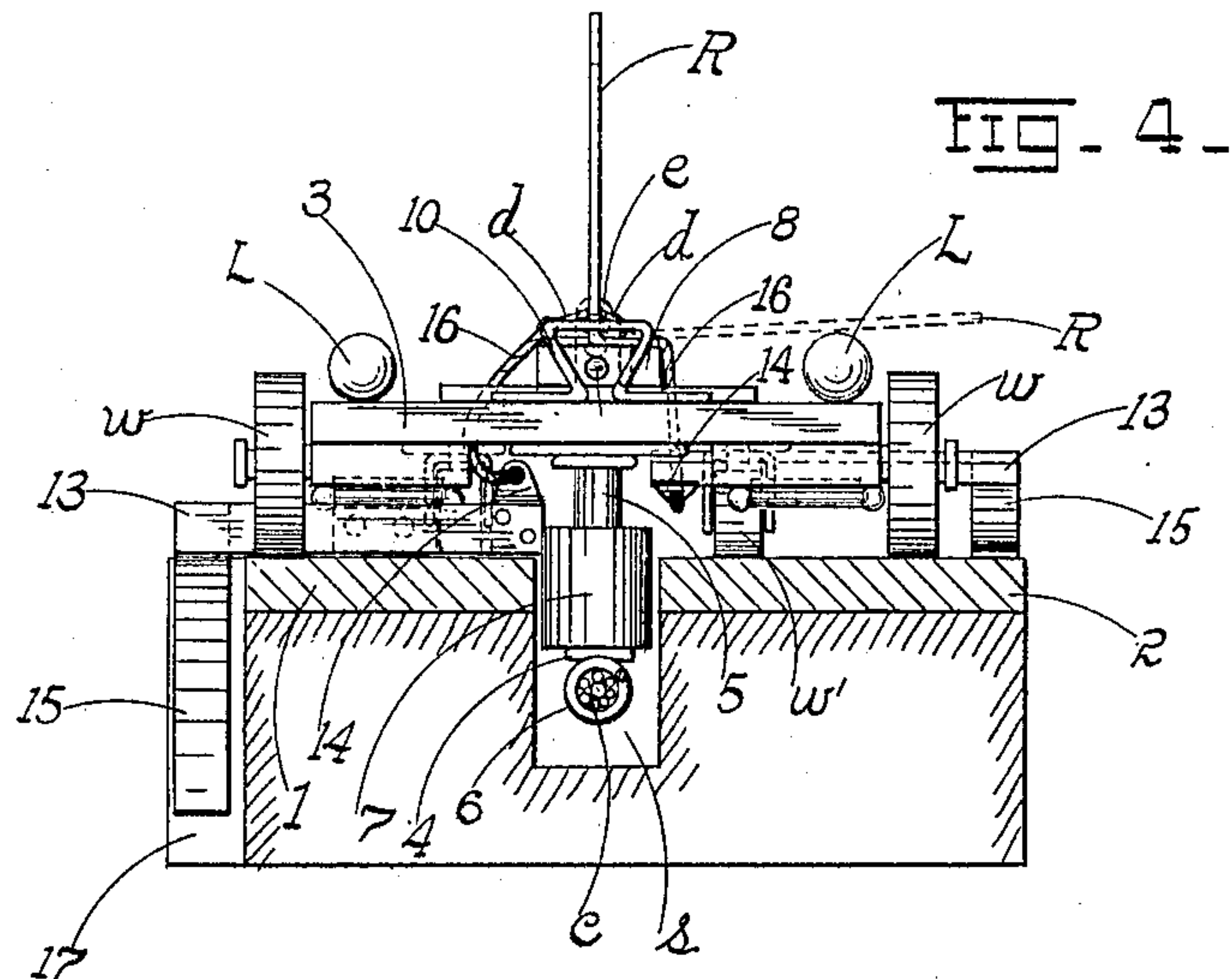
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2 SHEETS--SHEET 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM P. PINKSTON, OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.

TARGET-CARRIER.

No. 919,378.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 27, 1909.

Application filed February 15, 1909. Serial No. 478,121.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM P. PINKSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at St. Louis, State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Target-Carriers, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof.

My invention has relation to improvements in target carriers; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of parts more fully set forth in the specification and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a plan of a race-way over which the dummy animal or other target is supposed to travel, the carrier being shown in top plan; Fig. 2 is a top plan of the truck and rails or track on a larger scale; Fig. 3 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2; Fig. 4 is a vertical transverse section on the line of 4—4 of Fig. 2; Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the truck and target looking from the position of the marksman; and Fig. 6 is a vertical transverse section on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5.

The object of my invention is to substitute for the prevailing form of belt conveyers for targets, a convenient form of truck which can be made to support a target of any size, and where the target is on the order of a dummy animal such as a deer, bear and the like this dummy may be constructed of a size to resemble the natural animal. Conveyer belts have the disadvantage in that the size of the target capable of being secured thereto is limited.

A further object is to construct a truck on which the target may be mounted in such a way that the target will topple over or fall always from the audience or marksman whereby the righting of it or the automatic restoring of the target to an upright position for the next projectile or bullet is rendered certain, such righting being effected by devices disposed along the line of travel of the truck.

The advantages of the invention will be best apparent from a detailed description thereof which is as follows:—

Referring to the drawings, A represents a race-course of any conventional form over which the target R (in this instance a rabbit) is constantly running. In the present instance the course is composed of a pair of rails 1, 2, spaced a suitable distance apart,

the rail 1 being the narrower of the two. Over these rails runs a truck 3 having a pair of rear wheels *w* and a front smaller pair of wheels or casters *w'*. The truck is impelled or drawn by an endless cable *c* which is passed through the terminal eyes 4, of a pair of rods or stems 5, depending from the bottom of the truck into the slot or cable-way *s* formed between and below the adjacent edges of the rails, the cable having a knot *k* formed behind the rear stem 5 of any truck, said knot bearing against the adjacent end of a cushioning spring 6 coiled about the cable. The opposite end of the spring bears against the adjacent loop 4 and as the draft is exerted on the cable the truck is drawn along the track composed of the rails 1 and 2. The spring 6 being yielding removes any jar in the drawing of the truck about the race-way. To reduce the friction especially when making a turn, I preferably provide the stems 5 with anti-friction rollers 7.

Disposed over the longitudinal center of the platform of the truck is a tumbling bar or rocker bar 8 terminating in spindles 9, 9 about which the bar is free to rock, the spindles being loosely received in the loops or bearings 10, 10', the former bearing 10 being fixed, and the latter bearing or loop being hinged to the platform, the hinge *h* being hinged and provided with a self-closing spring 11 (Fig. 3) on the order of a door-spring such as used on screen-doors. When the hinged loop 10' is swung open it permits the removal of the tumbling bar 8 (Fig. 5) for purposes of packing or disassembling of the truck and its target. To the tumbling bar the target R is secured, being a sheet of metal suitably painted and cut to the profile of the animal which it is intended to represent. The target is secured by means of screws passed through the basal flanges or feet 12 bent from the metal.

Cut in the platform of the truck beneath the tumbling bar 8 is an opening O, on each side of which and to the bottom of the platform is hinged a leaf or plate 13 to the inner end of which is secured an arm 14, the outer ends of said hinged plates being provided with flexed pendent arms 15, 15 as shown. The free ends of the arms 14 are each provided with a cord or chain 16 whose outer end is fastened by means of a snap-hook *d* to an eye or loop *e* on the tumbler bar 8. If the leaf 13 is left to itself it will hang down as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, in which event the

arm 14 will point upward toward the opening O of the truck platform and loosen the cord 16. If however the pendent arm 15 is raised or lifted as it necessarily must be when riding over the rail 2, it swings the leaf 13 upward thereby depressing the arm 14 which depression tightens the cord 16. Obviously this result follows from the fact that the arm 14 points from the hinge axis of the leaf in a direction opposite to the arm 15 so that as one arm is raised the other is depressed and vice versa.

Now, in the operation of the target, and as the truck is drawn over the rails 1, 2, it so happens that one of the pendent arms 15 always rides over the wide rail 2, that being the rail farthest from the audience or marksman, whereas the opposite pendent arm 15 projects beyond the narrow rail and hangs loose, thereby leaving the cord 16 attached to the arm 14, of its immediate leaf 13, loose. So that the cord 16 which is drawn taut is the one from the rifleman or from the audience. The cord 16 being taut thus prevents the rocking of the tumbler bar 8 toward the audience, since the tautness of the cord determines the limit of oscillation for the tumbler bar in that direction. It therefore follows that when the target R is struck it can only fall away from the rifleman or toward the wide rail 2. Of course the falling of the target will tighten the opposite cord 16 or that attached to the arm 14 of the loosely hanging leaf 13. In order to right the target for the next shot I distribute at intervals along the sides of the narrow rail 1, a series of wedges or inclined blocks 17. When the animal R has fallen, and as the truck advances, the arm 15 adjacent the narrow rail 1 will intermittently ride over the wedges 17 which rise to the level of the rail 1, whereby the cord 16 tightened by the fall of the target will now be drawn upon with the gradual depression of the arm 14 coupled to the leaf 13 which is being raised by reason of the elevation of the pendant 15 by the inclined face of the wedge 17, and by the time the arm 15 has passed over the top of the wedge the tumbler bar and its target have been righted. By this time the pendant 15 on the side of the narrow rail, has passed off the wedge, loosened its immediate cord 16, restoring the parts to their first position, the cord 16 identified with the arm 15 operating over the wide rail 2 being made taut by the restoration of the parts to their normal position.

For an endless course like that shown in Fig. 1, it is obvious that what is the outer rail for the target going in one direction becomes the inner rail for the target going in the opposite direction, since the wide rail must always be away from the rifleman, the object sought being to have the target drop or fall away from the person shooting. At the ends of such a continuous course no

shooting is done as the targets are not in proper position. To bring about the change in the rails as above outlined, for an endless course, a slight offset must be made at the point of transition from one rail width to the other (Fig. 1). The cable 3 of course, may be propelled by any system of pulleys driven from a shaft, all of which is well understood and known in the art and requires no description in this connection. The truck may be provided with cushioning knobs L if desired. The pendants 15 of course, travel on their convex sides so as to readily pass over their respective surfaces, viz., the rail 2 and wedges 17.

Having described my invention, what I claim is:—

1. In a target carrier, a traveling truck, a target hinged thereto, a pair of rails for the passage of the truck thereover, means interposed between one of the rails and target for holding the latter against falling toward the opposite rail, and intermediate devices between said last rail and target for righting the target after it has dropped under impact of the bullet.

2. In combination with a pair of rails spaced a suitable distance apart, a truck traveling thereover, a cable between the rails for propelling the truck, a target hinged on the truck between the rails, devices interposed between the target and one of the rails for preventing the falling of the target toward the opposite rail, and devices interposed between said opposite rail and target for righting the latter when it has fallen under impact with the bullet.

3. In combination with a pair of rails spaced a suitable distance apart, a truck traveling thereover, a tumbler bar or rocker disposed in the general direction of travel of the truck mounted on the truck, a leaf or plate hinged to the truck on each side of the tumbler bar, terminal pendent arms at the outer ends of the leaves, arms at the inner ends of the leaves projecting in a direction opposite to the pendants, cords connecting the arms to the tumbler bar, the pendant of one of the leaves permanently riding over the adjacent rail and tilting the leaf in proper direction to pull taut the cord leading from the inner arm of the leaf to the tumbler bar, whereby the tumbler bar is prevented from rocking toward the opposite rail, a target secured to the tumbler bar, and a series of blocks or wedges disposed along the sides of the opposite rail and engaging the pendant of the opposite leaf thereby tilting the leaf to draw on the cord and right the tumbler and target after the latter has dropped toward the opposite rail.

4. In combination with a track, a truck traveling thereover, an oscillating target mounted on the truck, devices on one side of the target cooperating with the track for

holding the target against falling toward the opposite side, and devices on said opposite side cooperating with the track for righting the target after the latter has fallen.

- 5 5. In combination with a pair of rails spaced a suitable distance apart, a truck traveling thereover, an oscillating target mounted on the truck, devices cooperating with one of the rails and target for holding
10 the latter against falling toward the opposite rail, and means disposed adjacent said oppo-

site rail and adapted to be brought periodically into cooperation with the target for righting the target after the latter has dropped under impact with the bullet.

15

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

WILLIAM P. PINKSTON.

Witnesses:

EMIL STAREK,
JOS. A. MICHEL.