J. COMPTON.

HARNESS HAMES.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 13, 1909.

954,499.

Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 2.

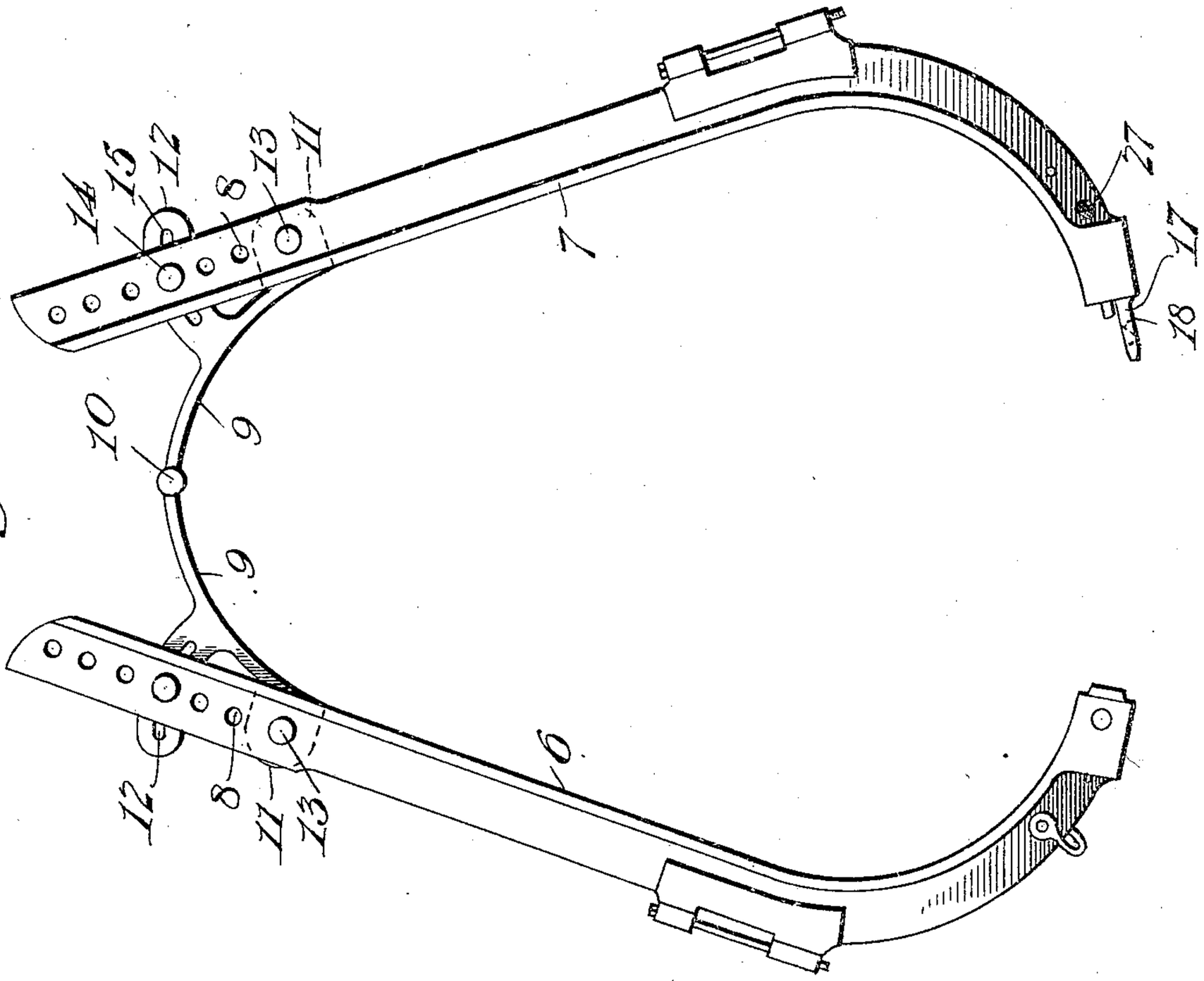
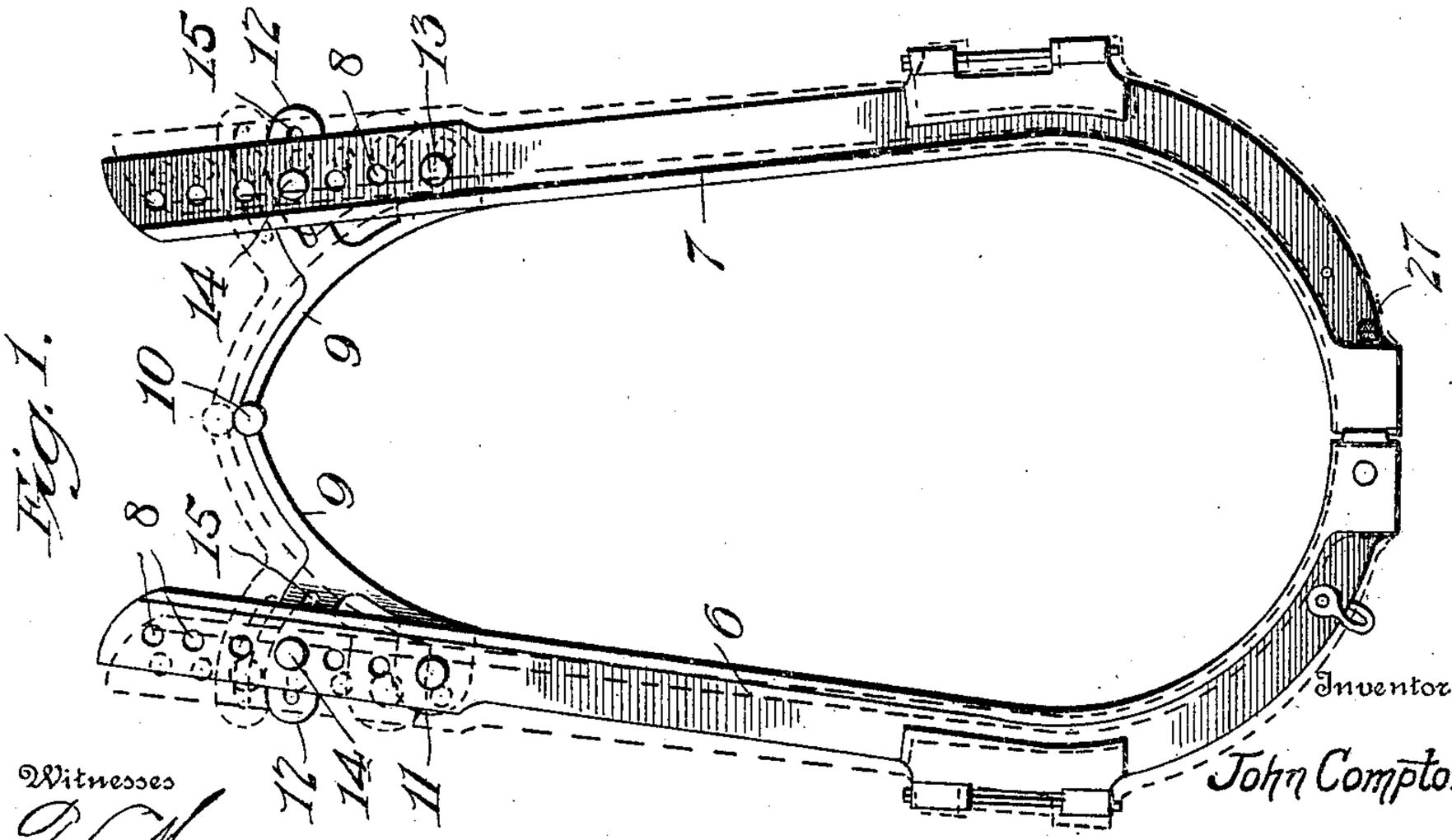


Fig. 1.



Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

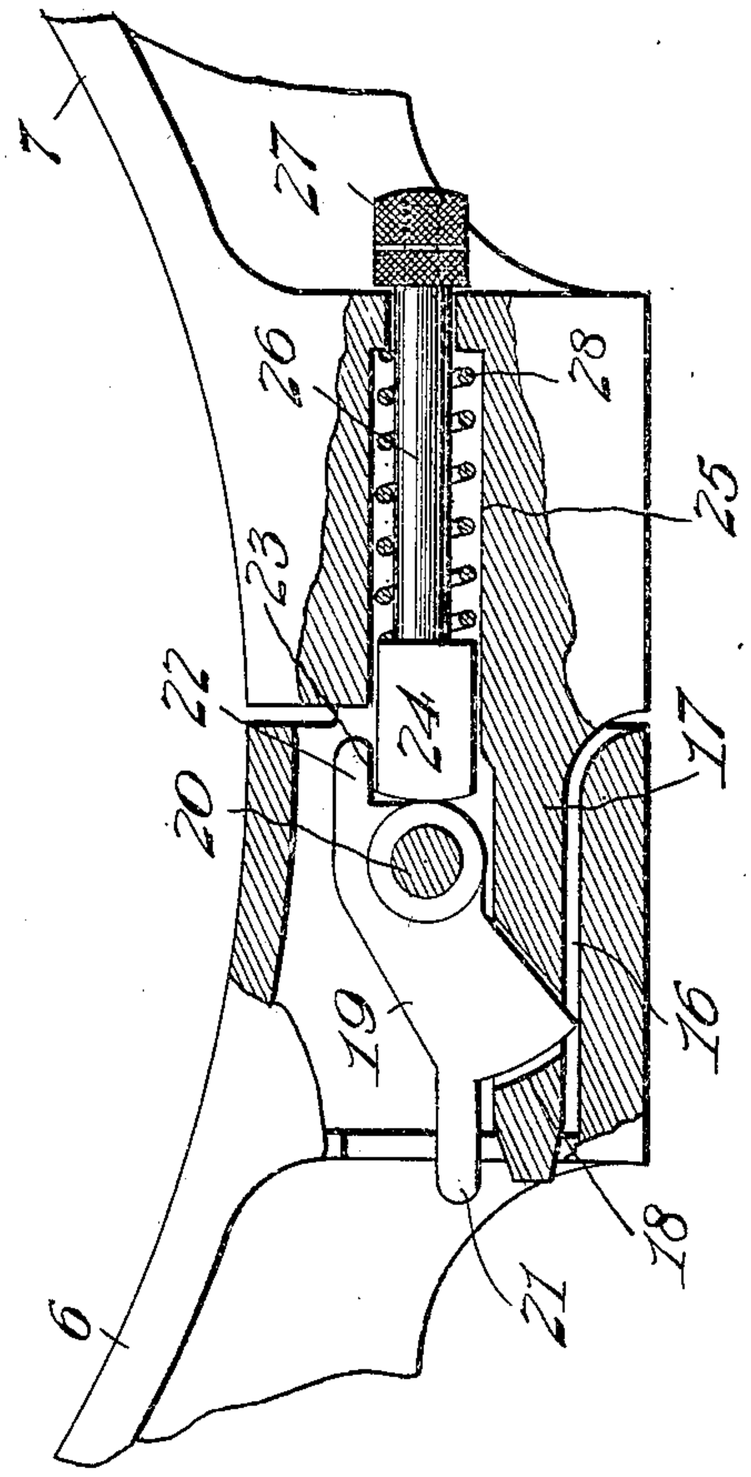


Fig. 5.

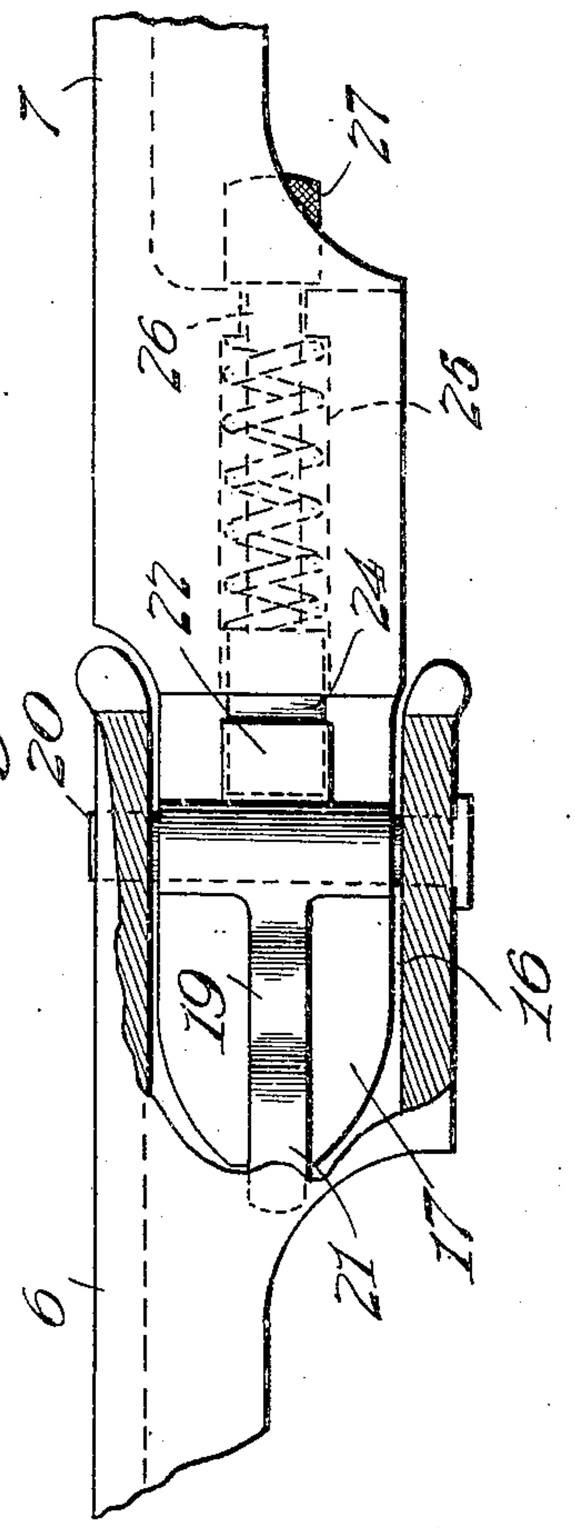
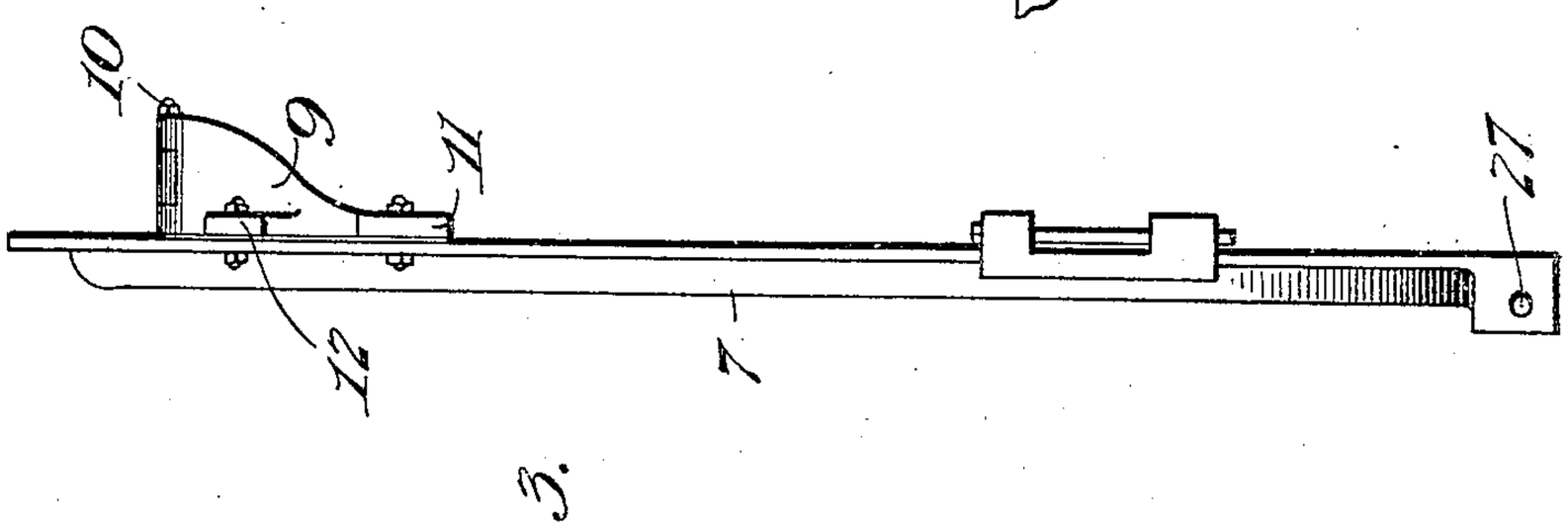


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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HARNESS-HAMES.

954,499. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Apr. 12, 1910.

Application filed April 13, 1909. Serial No. 489,670.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN COMPTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Atchison, in the county of Atchison and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Hames, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates more particularly to that class of hames ordinarily employed by fire departments, police patrols, and the like, where what is ordinarily termed "quick hitch harness," is necessary.

One of the primary objects of the present invention is to provide a novel pivotal connection between the upper ends of the hames that will permit said upper ends to be spaced different distances apart, and will also permit the adjustment of the pivot axis longitudinally of said hames without in any manner affecting the means for locking the lower ends of the hames together.

Still another object is to provide novel locking means of a simple and effective nature, that will automatically secure the hames together, when they are swung into operative position, and will positively prevent their accidental unlocking.

The preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of the hames, showing the same locked together. Fig. 2 is a similar view, but showing the hames open. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view on an enlarged scale, showing the locking means for the lower ends of the hames. Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view therethrough.

Similar reference numerals designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

In the embodiment illustrated, the hames are designated respectively by the reference numerals 6 and 7, and may be of any suitable character, each, however, being preferably formed of a single piece of angle metal, bowed, as shown. The upper ends of the hames have longitudinally disposed sets of openings 8, and connecting said upper ends, is a hinge member, comprising leaves or elements 9 pivoted together, as shown at 10. Each leaf or element has at its outer end, an outstanding ear 11, and above said ear, an outstanding curved finger 12, the fingers and ears being disposed transversely of the hames, as illustrated. Pivot bolts or pins 13 pass through the ears 11, and are arranged to be passed through certain of the openings. Clamping bolts or other suitable devices 14 pass through other of said openings 8, and through longitudinally disposed slots 15 formed in the fingers 12, each slot 15 being arranged concentrically to the pivot axis of one of the pins or bolts 13.

For the purpose of securing the lower ends of the hames together, the following mechanism is preferably employed. One of the hames, as 6, is provided with an open-ended pocket 16, preferably formed integral with the hame, while the other hame is provided with an integral finger 17 that is movable into and out of one end of said pocket, as shown clearly in Fig. 4. This finger 17 has a downwardly tapered recessed seat 18, and a latch 19 located and pivoted within the pocket, as shown at 20, is arranged to engage in the seat when the finger is in the pocket. This latch 19 has an outstanding finger piece 21 that projects from the end of the pocket opposite to that through which the finger 17 enters. This latch also has an oppositely projecting lug 22 forming a lower shoulder 23. A reciprocatory plunger 24 operates in a socket 25 formed in the lower end of the hame having the finger 17, this plunger being located just above the finger. It is provided with a stem 26 that projects from the enlargement in which the socket is formed, the projecting end having a finger knob 27. A coiled spring 28, surrounding the stem 26, abuts against the plunger and urges it into projecting position, as shown in Fig. 4. This plunger is arranged to engage beneath the lug 22 when the latch 19 is in the seat 18, thus positively locking the latch in its operative position.

There are a number of decided advantages for this structure. In the first place, referring to the pivotal connection between the upper ends of the hames, it will be obvious that the arrangement permits the lengthening of said hames and also allows the distance between them to be changed. A perfect adjustment can thus be secured and said adjustment does not interfere with the relative positions of the lower ends of the hames, but permits such lower ends to swing in the same arc of a circle, regardless of the length to which the hames may be adjusted by the hinge connection. As a result, therefore, the lower ends of said hames will always meet in proper relation to insure the

locking action, and this is a feature of great importance. The locking means for said hames also has advantages. In the first place, it is exceedingly simple, is entirely automatic in its locking action, and cannot accidentally unlock, inasmuch as the latch is positively held in its operative position. However, the hames can be readily unfastened by withdrawing the bolt or plunger 24, and lifting the latch, whereupon the hames can be swung to a very wide open position.

From the foregoing, it is thought that the construction, operation and many advantages of the herein described invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art, without further description, and it will be understood that various changes in the size, shape, proportion and minor details of construction, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

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

1. In a structure of the character set forth, the combination with hames, of pivotally connected hinge leaves pivoted respectively to the hames and having offset slotted fingers disposed and slidable transversely of the hames, and means passing through the slots for securing the fingers and hames against relative movement.

2. In a structure of the character set forth, the combination with hames, of means pivotally connecting the hames at one end, said means comprising pivotally connected elements pivoted to the hames, means for securing the elements against pivotal movement on the hames, said elements being adjustable longitudinally along the hames, and means for locking the free ends of the hames together.

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

JOHN COMPTON.

Witnesses:
Z. E. Jackson,
Cora N. Terry.