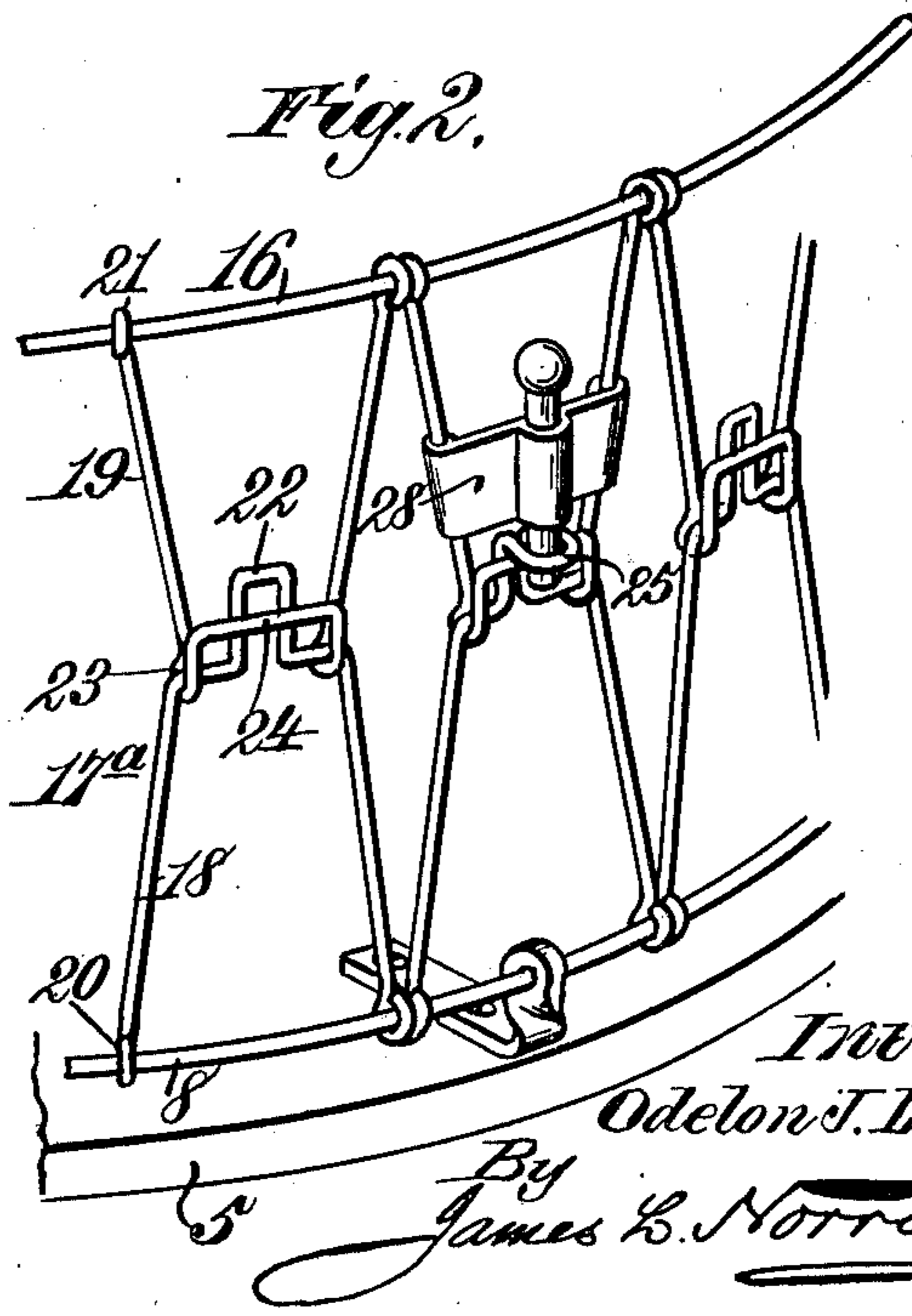
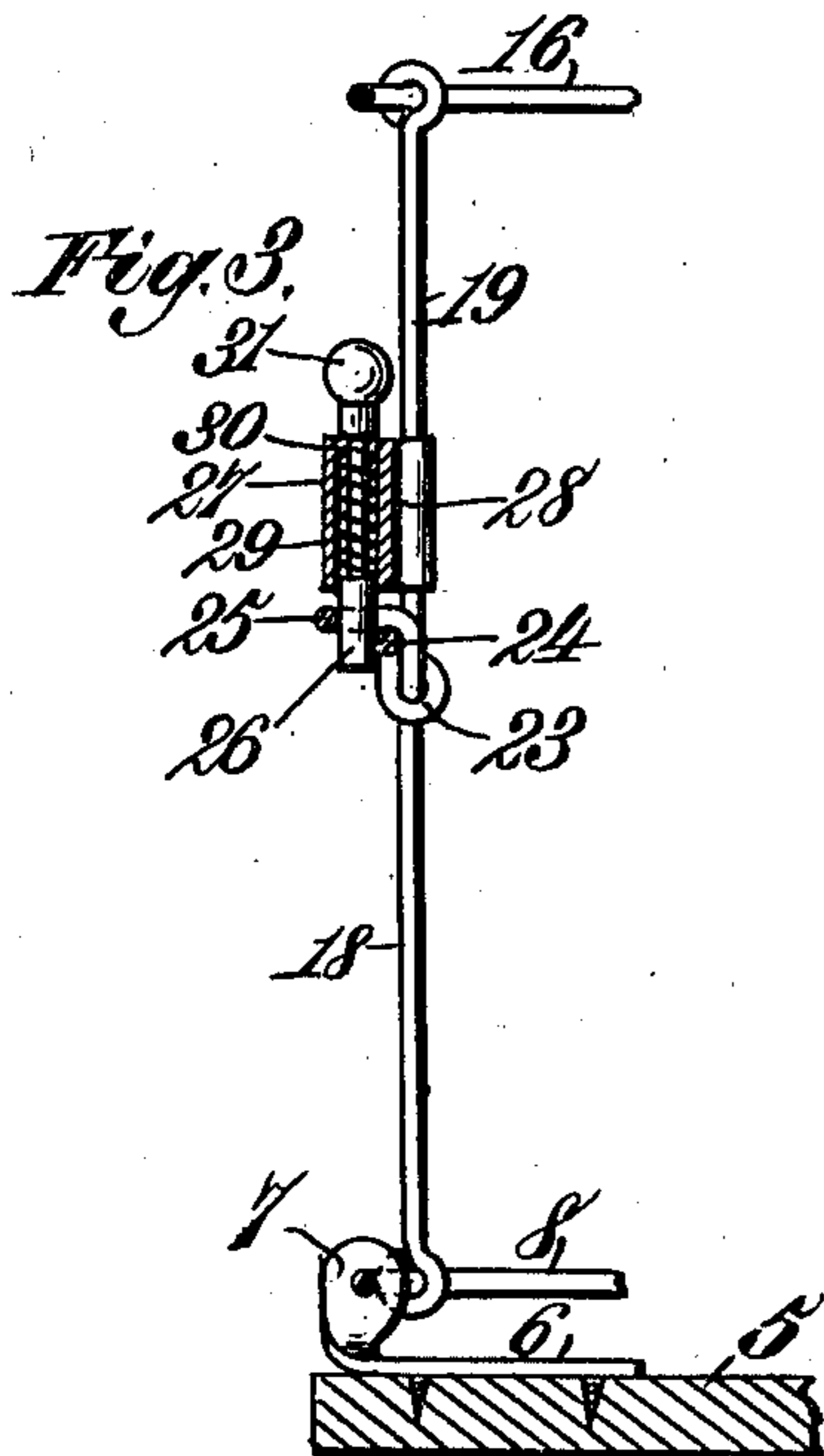
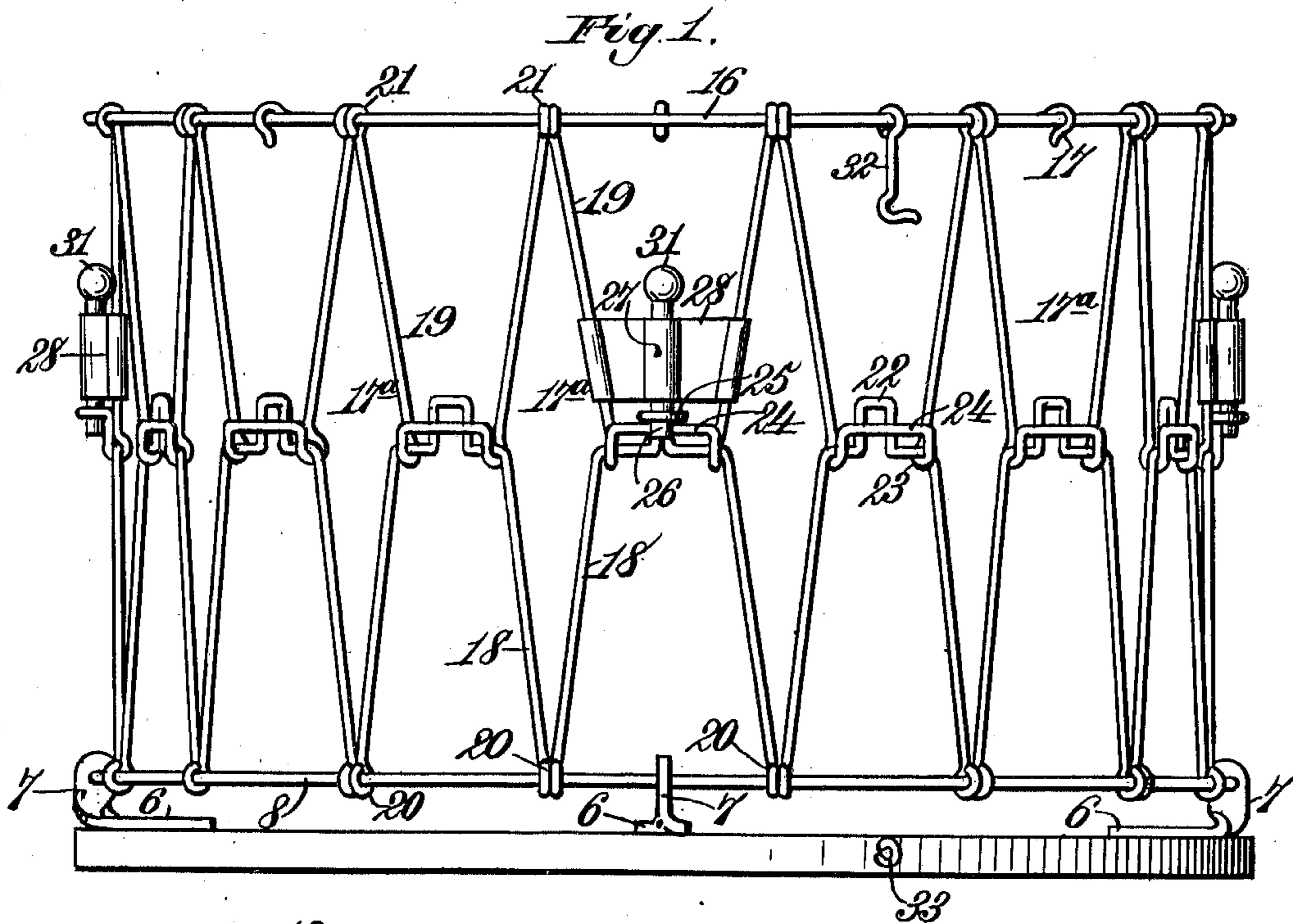


O. J. LA BAUVE.
COOP OR CRATE.
APPLICATION FILED AUG. 17, 1909.

957,069.

Patented May 3, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses.
Robert Everett,
J. B. Keady

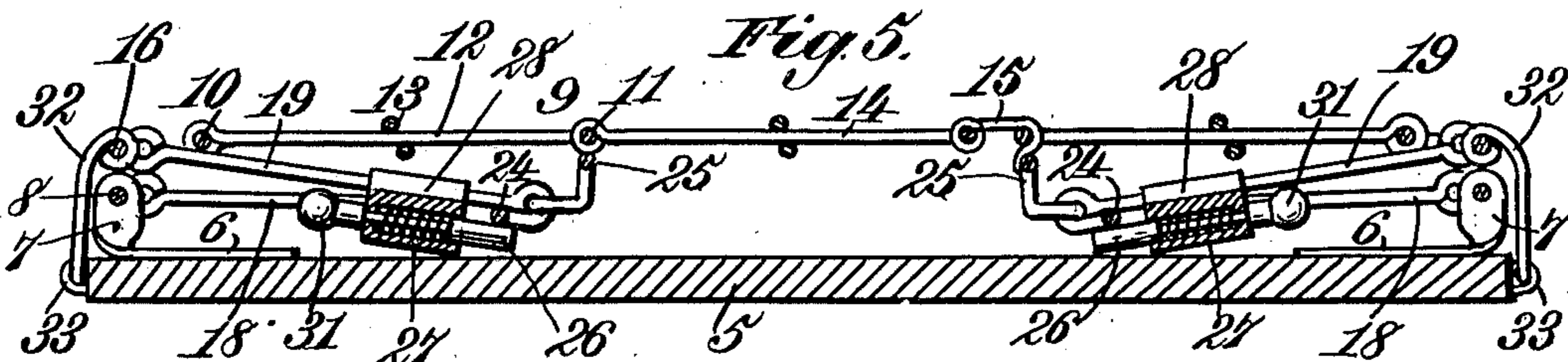
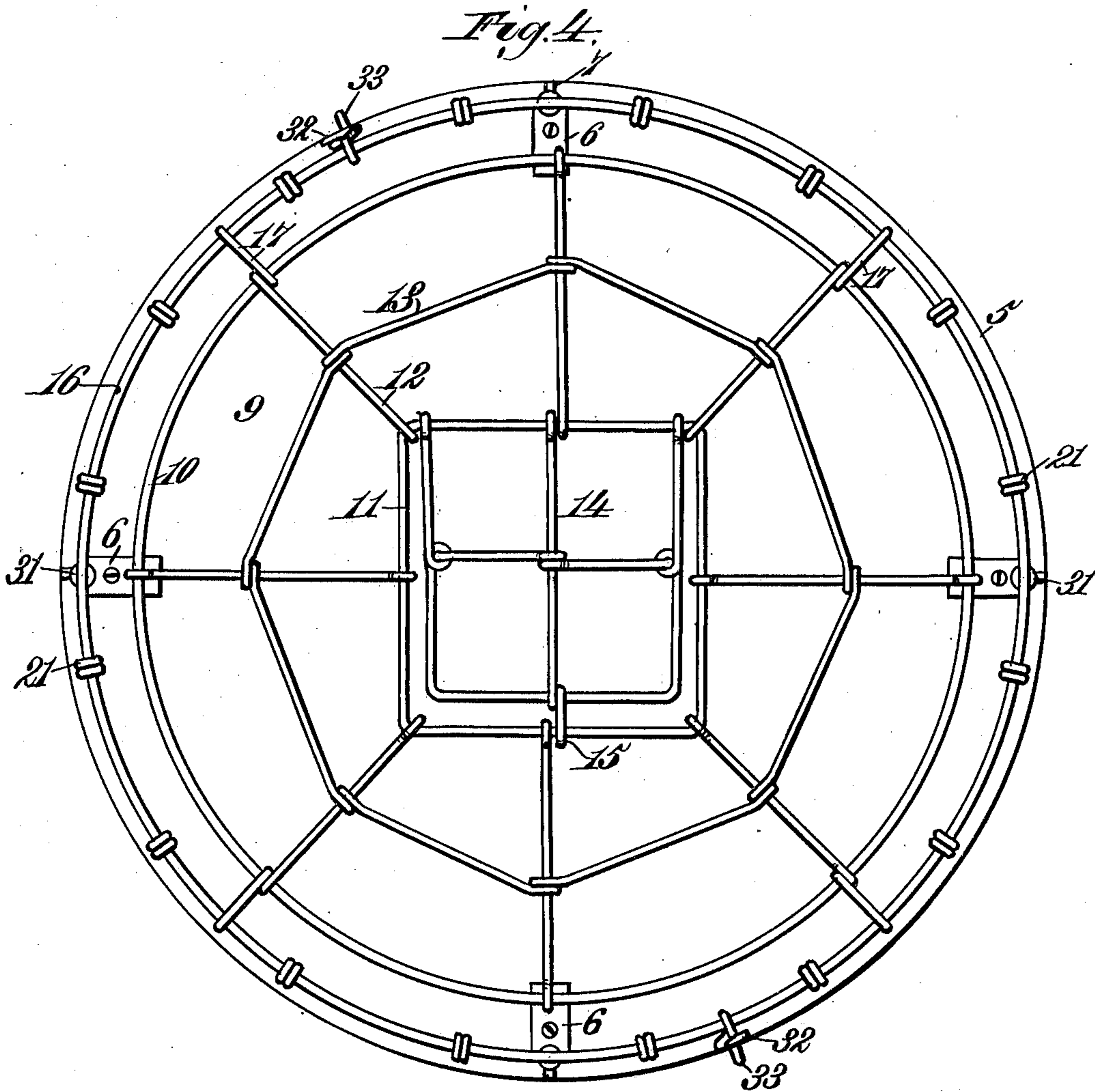
Inventor.
Odelon J. La Bauve.
By James B. Norris.
Atty.

O. J. LA BAUVE.
 COOP OR CRATE.
 APPLICATION FILED AUG. 17, 1909.

957,069.

Patented May 3, 1910.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



Witnesses.

Robert Everett.

[Signature]

Inventor.

Odelon J. La Bauve.

By *James B. Norris*
[Signature] Att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ODELON J. LA BAUVE, OF EDNA, TEXAS.

COOP OR CRATE.

957,069.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 3, 1910.

Application filed August 17, 1909. Serial No. 513,297.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ODELON J. LA BAUVE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Edna, in the county of Jackson and State of Texas, have invented new and useful Improvements in Coops or Crates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to coops or crates for transporting or shipping poultry or small stock and particularly to that class of devices which have a downwardly folding association without requiring an infolding of side or end members prior to a full collapse as in well known coop or crate constructions. The improved coop or crate may be readily erected in operative position by simply drawing upwardly on the top portion thereof and secured to prevent the parts from accidentally collapsing.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a coop or crate of a comparatively simple construction and arrangement and reducible to compact form when empty for return shipment and also embodying other features of convenience and which will be more fully hereinafter specified.

In the drawing: Figure 1 is a side elevation of a coop or crate shown erected in operative position and embodying the features of the invention. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of a portion of the coop or crate particularly illustrating the manner of locking the parts thereof when erected against accidental collapsing movement. Fig. 3 is a transverse vertical section through the part of the crate as shown by Fig. 2 and particularly illustrating one of the spring locking bolts or latches. Fig. 4 is a top plan view of the coop or crate. Fig. 5 is a transverse vertical section through the complete coop or crate in collapsed condition.

The numeral 5 designates a bottom which is preferably of circular form and constructed of wood or any other suitable material. Secured at intervals on the upper surface of the bottom 5 are brackets 6 having upwardly projecting eyes or ears 7 at their outer ends in which a frame ring 8 of wire of suitable gage is mounted and adapted to have the side members of the coop or crate movably associated therewith. The coop or crate is also provided with an open top 9 comprising a ring 10 and a central gate frame 11, radial tie members 12 extending from the gate frame to the ring 10 and re-

inforcing and closing members 13 terminally connected to the radial members 12 between the gate frame 11 and ring 10. All of the parts 10, 11, 12 and 13 are also constructed of wire of suitable gage, and within the frame 11 a hinged gate 14 is mounted and provided with a suitable catch 15, the said gate serving to give access to the interior of the coop or crate. It is obvious that the reinforcing and closing members 13 may be increased in number, or instead of one series continuing around the top 9 as shown, another series may be used, which would be an obvious addition if it was desired to decrease the dimensions of the meshes of the said top 9. The frame 11 and gate 14 are also shown as being of rectangular form, but this contour is not essential as the said frame and gate could be of other shape. The top 9 is attached to an outer frame ring 16 in which it is disposed by clips 17 arranged at intervals, the frame ring 16 being of the same diameter as the ring 8 below and serving as the upper means for association with the side members of the coop or crate.

The side of the coop or crate between the rings 8 and 16 is composed of a plurality of movably associated members 17^a, each comprising wire loops 18 and 19, the loops 18 having eyes 20 at their extremities loosely engaging the frame ring 8, and the loop 19 having similar eyes 21 loosely engaging the frame ring 16. The loops 18 and 19 diverge toward their respective rings 8 and 16 and the reduced inner closed extremity of the loop 18 is formed with a straight bearing tongue 22 and the inner reduced extremity of the loop 19 is suitably bent as at 23 to form a hinge connection with relation to the inner extremity of the loop 18 and also formed with a transverse bearing bar 24, the tongue 22 being inside of the bar 24 and bearing against the latter when the side members 17 are distended or the coop or crate erected in operative position. At intervals a portion of the tongues 22 are terminally bent outwardly in a horizontal plane to form sockets 25 to receive securing devices, which will be presently explained, the sockets 25 extending outwardly far enough beyond the adjacent bearing bars 24 to permit the securing or locking devices to engage the said bars and hold the members 17 as thus constructed in immovable position

and sustain all of the side members in erect position and prevent the coop or crate from accidentally collapsing.

Various means might be used for locking a portion of the side members or for engaging the sockets 25 to sustain all the side members in positive erected position, but a very simple and practical form of locking means has been found to consist of a spring pawl or latch 26 slidably mounted in an outwardly struck housing or casing 27 at the center of a plate 28 terminally secured to the loop 19 above the outwardly bent socket 25 of the said loop. The bolt or latch 26 is engaged by a spring 29 which normally holds the said bolt in downwardly projected position, the spring 29 being inclosed within the housing or casing 27 and surrounding a reduced portion or stem 30 of the bolt, as clearly shown by Figs. 3 and 5. The upper end of the bolt or latch 26 is provided with a pull-head or enlargement 31 which projects far enough above the upper edge of the plate 28 to render the said bolt or latch easily operative. The frame ring 16 also has hooks 32 movably attached thereto at intervals to engage eyes 33 secured in the edge of the bottom 5 to hold the parts of the coop or crate in collapsed condition, and it will be understood that as many of these hooks and eyes may be used as found necessary and in accordance with the dimensions of the coop or crate.

From the foregoing it will be understood that it is preferred to make all the parts of the coop or crate of wire and all of the side members comprising the loops 18 and 19 are of similar construction except the loops carrying the locking means and having the tongues 22 bent outwardly to provide sockets 25 for the reception of the locking means.

When it is desired to collapse the coop or crate the sliding bolts or latches 26 are released from their sockets 25 and the side members carrying the locking means are slightly bent inwardly to throw the said sockets 25 out of alinement with respect to the bolts or latches. All of the side members including the loops 18 and 19 may then be folded inwardly by pressing downwardly on the top of the coop or crate, outward movement or irregular collapse of the side members being prevented by the formation of the tongues 22 and guard bars 24. After the coop or crate has been fully collapsed as shown by Fig. 5, the parts may be secured in this condition by means of the hooks 32 and eyes 33 for convenience in return shipment.

When it is desired to erect the coop or crate from collapsed condition the hooks 32 are released and the top 9 is drawn upwardly while the bottom or base 5 is held fixed and the locking bolts or latches 26 are caused to engage their sockets 25, as shown by Fig. 2, and thus hold the entire coop or crate struc-

ture in rigid condition or against accidental collapse. The gate 14 may then be readily opened to permit introduction of poultry or small stock within the crate and subsequently closed and secured by the latch 15.

It is proposed to construct the loops 18 and 19 of the side members by any suitable means and primarily the loops 18 will all be of the same contour and thus adapted to cooperate with the locking means by changing the angles of the tongues 22 of a portion of the loops to form the sockets 25 in the manner hereinbefore explained. In other words, the tongues 22 where necessary may be bent outwardly and shaped to receive the locking means, with advantages in economy of manufacture. Furthermore, a number of the members between the two ring frames 8 and 16 may be increased or decreased, as desired, and the said ring frames may be spaced apart varying distances in crates or coops of different proportions and dimensions. The wire that is used will be preferably of a non-corrosive nature and will be varied as to its gage in accordance with the dimensions of the coop or crate.

What is claimed is:

1. In a coop or crate, the combination of a bottom, a frame ring held over the bottom, an upper frame ring above the former ring, a top supported within the upper ring, and inwardly folding connecting members between the rings and movably attached to the latter, the connecting members between the rings being associated by means of hinge joints and some of the connecting members at a distance from the joints being provided with locking means projectable into portions of the joints in planes at right angles to the latter.

2. In a coop or crate, a bottom, a frame ring held over the bottom, an upper frame ring having a top disposed therein, and intermediately jointed connecting members interposed between and movably attached to the rings, some of the connecting members being provided with projectable locking means to extend over and engage a portion of the joints in planes at right angles to the latter.

3. In a coop or crate, a bottom, frame devices mounted over the bottom, connecting members interposed between and loosely associated with the frame devices and provided with intermediate hinge joints, a portion of the hinge joints having projecting members, and locking means carried by some of the connecting members at a distance from the joints thereof and projectable into engagement with the said projecting members in planes at right angles to the latter.

4. In a coop or crate, a bottom, frame devices mounted over the bottom, connecting members interposed between and loosely associated with the frame devices, each of

the connecting members having an intermediate joint and the parts thereof respectively provided with a bearing tongue and a bearing bar on which the tongue is adapted to bear to obstruct outward movement of the connecting members beyond a predetermined extent, and locking means carried by some of the connecting members and projectable across the joints of the latter for sustaining the unfolded condition of the remaining members and the frame devices, the locking means operating in planes at right angles to the joints.

5. In a coop or crate, a bottom, a frame ring held over the bottom, an upper frame ring, a top supported within the latter and provided with a gate, and intermediately jointed connecting members interposed between and movably associated with the rings, some of the connecting members being provided with spring-actuated means projectable into the adjacent joints to prevent movement of the latter and of the remaining members.

6. In a coop or crate, a bottom, frame devices mounted over the bottom, connecting members interposed between and loosely associated with the frame devices, the connecting members each comprising two loops intermediately jointed and one having a tongue and the other a bearing bar against which the tongue engages when the loops are unfolded, a part of the tongues being bent outwardly to form sockets, and movable locking means supported by the upper loops of some of the connecting members to engage the sockets of the said members and hold the latter in immovable position to sustain the crate organization in unfolded condition.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ODELON J. LA BAUVE.

Witnesses:

M. S. PICKARD,
L. F. WELLS.