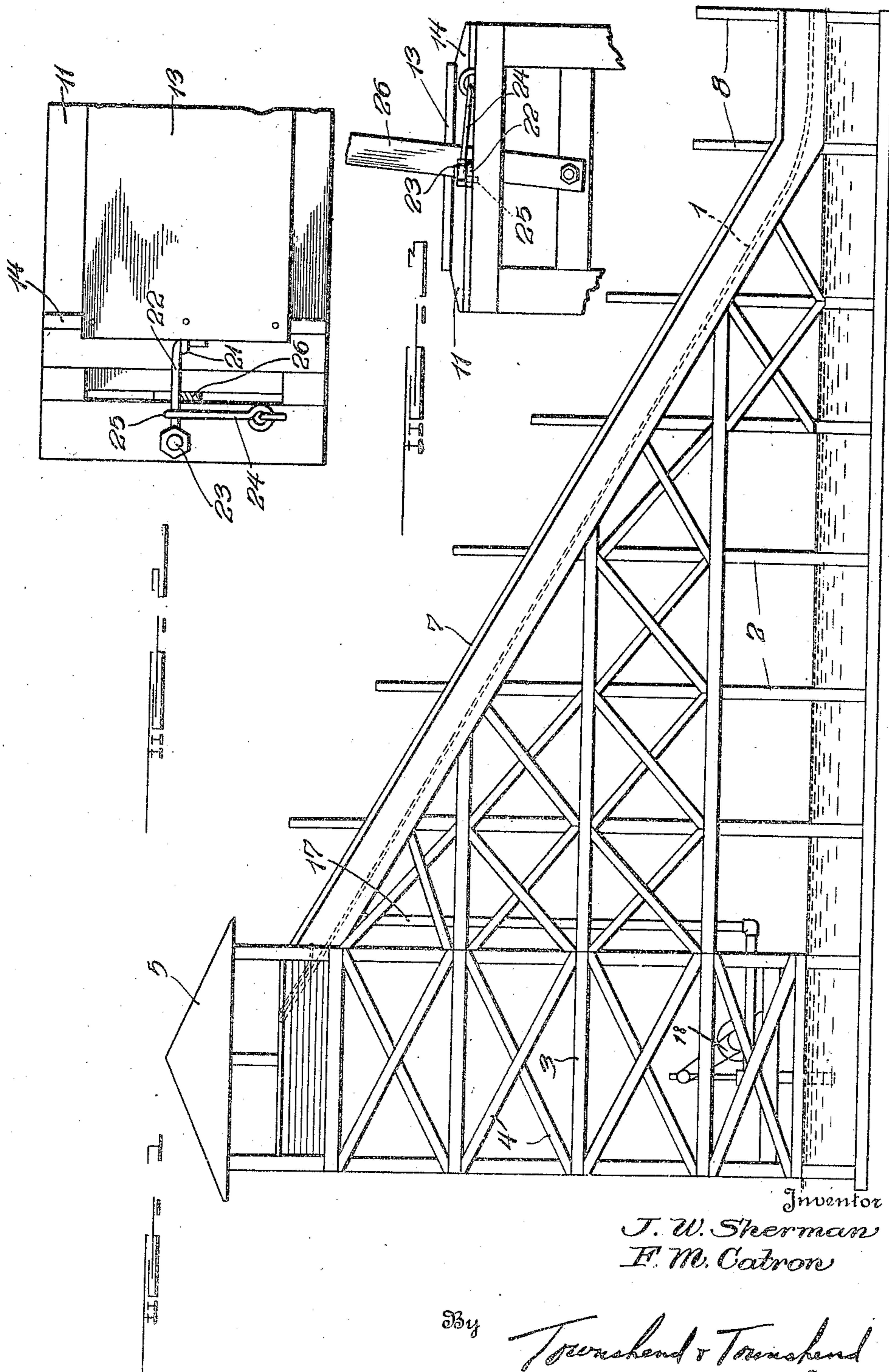


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3 SHEETS-SHEET 1

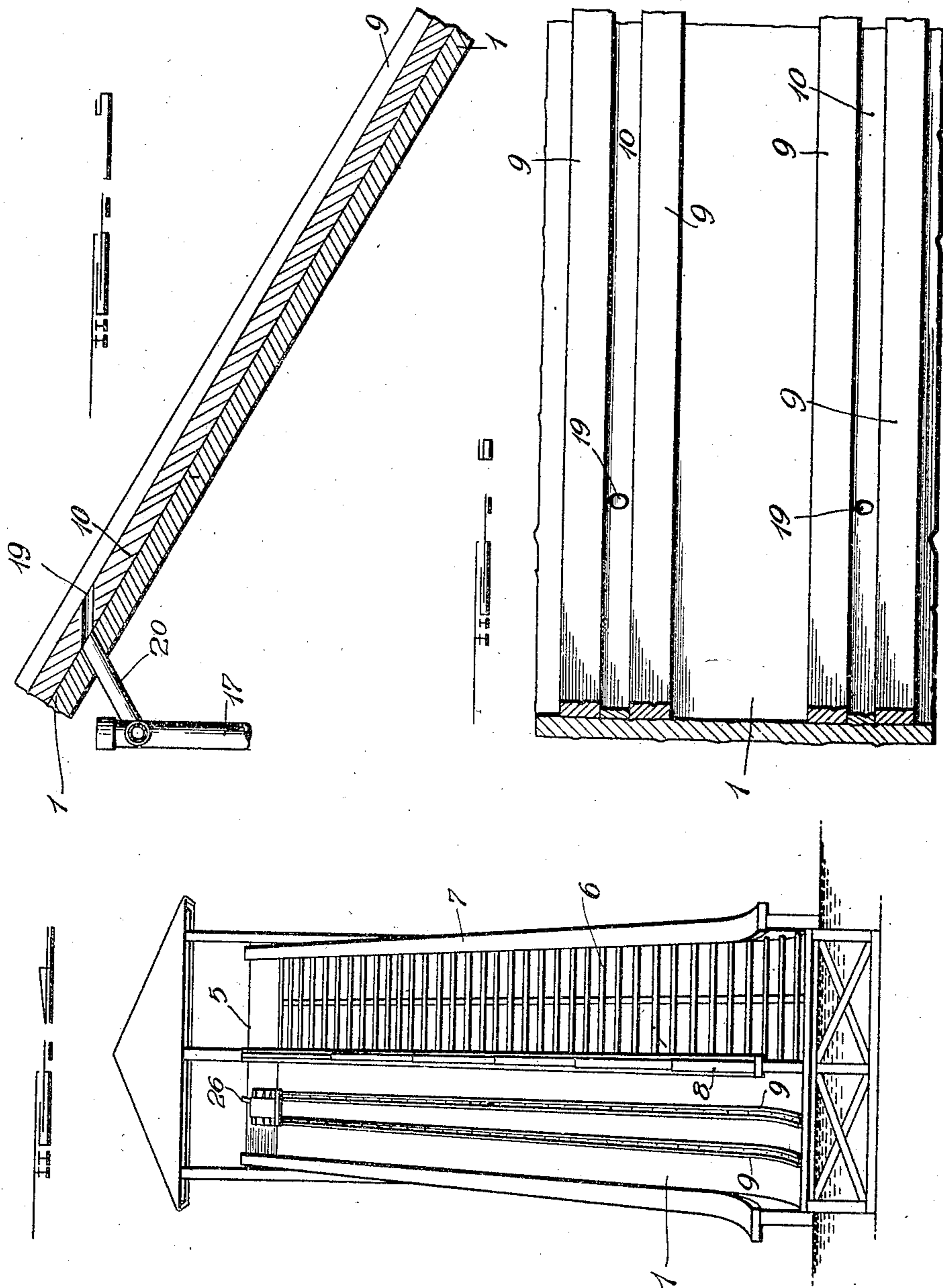


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3 SHEETS-SHEET 2



Inventor

J. W. Sherman  
F. M. Catron

By

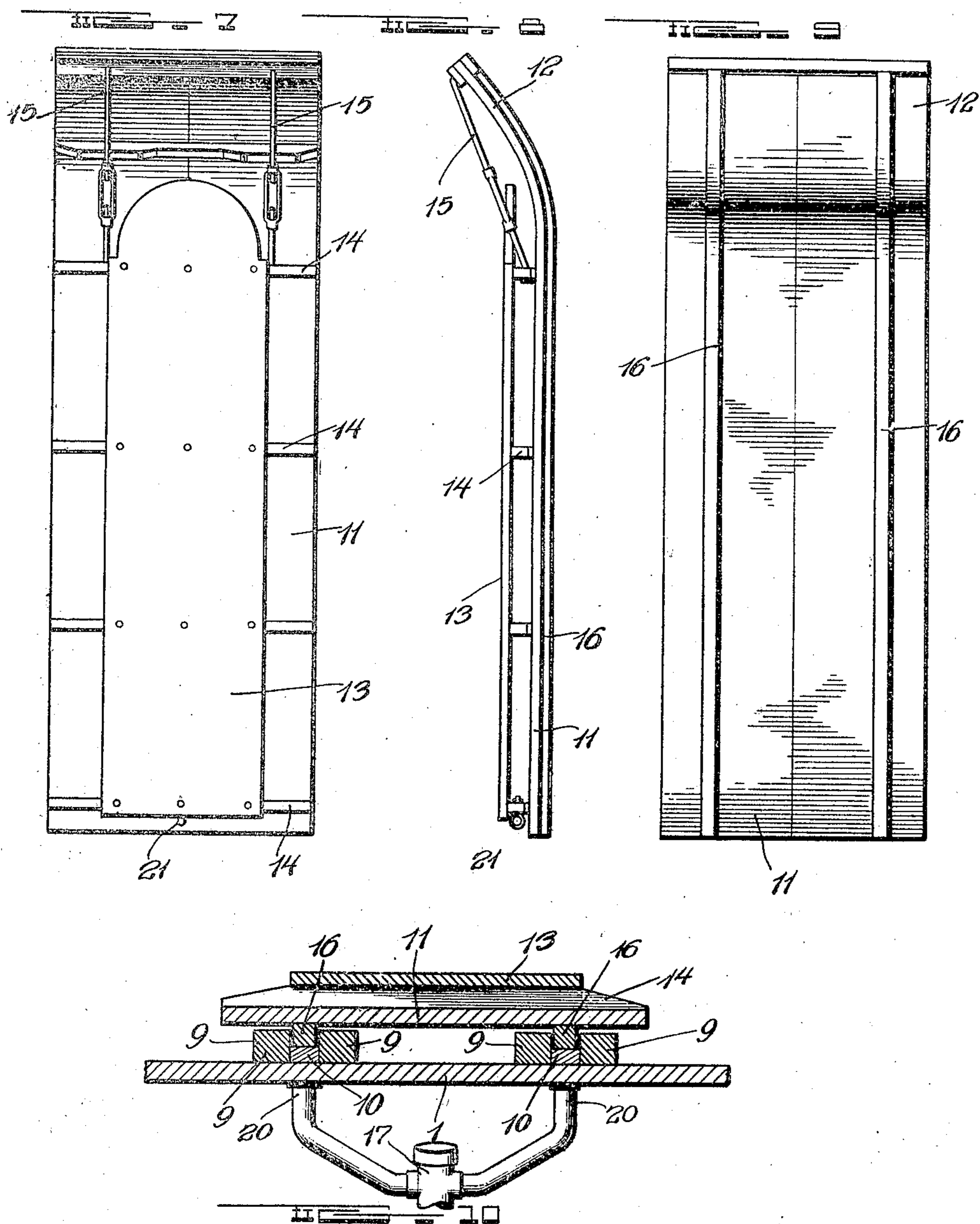
Townsend & Townsend  
Attorneys

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1,441,126

3 SHEETS-SHEET 3



Inventor  
J. W. Sherman  
F. W. Catron

By *Townsend & Townsend*  
Attorneys

## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WILLARD SHERMAN AND FLETCHER M. CATRON, OF SULPHUR SPRINGS,  
FLORIDA.

## WATER TOBOGGAN.

Application filed April 10, 1922. Serial No. 551,177.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JOHN WILLARD SHERMAN and FLETCHER M. CATRON, citizens of the United States, residing at Sulphur Springs, in the county of Hillsborough and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Water Toboggan, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to amusement devices and has particular reference to a water toboggan.

The primary object of the invention is to provide an inclined toboggan slide and toboggan constructed over a pond or the like and equipped with novel means for providing a rapid descent of the toboggan.

Another object of the invention is to provide in a device of this character novel means for retaining the toboggan in its uppermost position on the slide, and novel means for effecting a release thereof.

With these general objects in view, and such others as will be apparent from the description, our invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter described and claimed, and illustrated in the accompanying drawing, of which—

Figure 1 is an elevation of the toboggan slide;

Figure 2, a top plan view of the rear end of the toboggan in locked position at the top of the slide;

Figure 3, a rear end elevation of the toboggan and locking mechanism;

Figure 4, an end elevation of the slide;

Figure 5, a vertical section through a portion of the slideway;

Figure 6 a top plan view of the portion illustrated in Figure 5;

Figure 7, a top plan of the toboggan;

Figure 8, a side elevation thereof; and

Figure 9, a bottom plan view of the toboggan; and

Figure 10, a cross section through the toboggan and trackway.

In its preferred form we have shown the invention as constructed of an inclined slideway 1, supported on suitably spaced vertical piers 2, horizontal members 3 and interconnecting cross members 4. At the upper end of the slideway is a pavilion 5 and leading up to this pavilion from the lower end of the slideway and at one side

thereof is a stairway 6, the slideway and stairway being protected by the banister members 7, and a central dividing rail 8.

The slideway comprises an inclined plane surface gradually curved to a level at its lower end and carrying trackways consisting of longitudinal timbers 9 and 10, the timbers 9 being disposed in spaced relation and connected by the timbers 10, which form the bottoms of the trackways, as best illustrated in Figure 10.

The toboggan member which is slidable down these trackways consists of a base 11 having a gradually curved end 12 provided with a central longitudinal seat 13 supported on transverse uprights 14 which extend to the sides of the toboggan and provide foot-rests for a person using the slide. The extreme curved end 12 of the toboggan is connected to the foremost support by means of the turn-buckle adjusting rod 15 whereby the degree of curvature of the toboggan end may be adjusted and maintained in the position desired. A toboggan is wider than the trackways and is provided on its bottom with longitudinal runners 16 extending the entire length thereof and curved on the end of the toboggan as illustrated. These runners 16 are adapted to be seated in the trackways between the timbers 9 and rest on the bottom timbers 10, and the width of the runners is such that a slight clearance is maintained between the sides of the runners and the inner side faces of the timbers 9, as best illustrated in Figure 10.

As an effective means of providing a continual lubrication for the runners within the trackways, we provide a water supply system comprising an inlet conduit 17 in connection with an electric pump 18, delivering to the top of the slideway and slightly in advance of the toboggan. In each trackway are outlets 19 in connection with branches 20 of the inlet conduit 17.

With this construction it is obvious that as the pump is operated a continuous stream of water will be delivered at the top of the trackways and flow down each side, whereby an extremely efficient lubrication is at all times maintained between the toboggan runners and the trackways.

A locking and release mechanism for the toboggan consists of an eyebolt 21 carried in the rearmost support 14 of the toboggan, which is adapted to receive a hook 22

pivoted on an upright 23 mounted in the tower pavilion 5, and which is retained in engagement with the eyebolt by means of a keeper 24 pivoted to swing vertically over hook 22, and having a hooked outer end for retaining the same in position. The releasing lever 26 is pivoted in the pavilion at one side of the hook 22 so that when the keeper 24 is lifted out of engagement with the hook, same may be moved laterally out of engagement with the eyebolt 21 when the lever 26 is moved the requisite distance. It is obvious that when the parts are in locked position as described, the toboggan will be securely retained at the top of the slide, and on manipulation of the hooks and lever, will be released, to descend in the trackways at a greatly accelerated speed due to the lubrication provided by the water system as set forth.

The present invention contemplates the use of timber in all parts of the construction, the toboggan being made of light birch, white oak, hickory, or any other suitable material, in order that it may easily be carried by one person. The depth of runners 16 is sufficient to engage in the trackways effectually to prevent accidental dislodgement therefrom. The toboggan is of the conventional type used on snow or ice, being further provided with runners. It is not a boat and does not function as one, being used by bathers, and its light construction permits it easily to be carried up the stairway to the tower platform.

While we have illustrated and described certain details and materials forming this embodiment, we desire it to be understood that they are not limitations, but any such may be used as fall within the scope of the claims.

We claim:

1. A device of the character described including an inclined trackway terminating in

a body of water, a track comprising trough shaped parallel rails extending the length thereof, a toboggan, runners on the toboggan adapted to slide in said rails, and means for supplying water to the rails to provide lubrication for the toboggan runners.

2. The combination with a tower having a platform at its top and an inclined trackway extending from the platform and terminating in a body of water, a stairway parallel with said trackway, of a track including trough shaped parallel rails extending the length of the trackway, a toboggan, runners on the toboggan adapted to slide in said rails, a water supply system having an inlet in the body of water and outlets through the trough shaped rails, and a pump in said system to supply sufficient water to the rails to lubricate the toboggan runners.

3. In a device of the character described, an inclined trackway, a toboggan member slidable down said trackway, an eye bolt carried by said toboggan, a hook secured at the uppermost portion of the trackway structure and adapted to engage said eye bolt to retain the toboggan in uppermost position, a locking member for said hook, and a lever for moving said hook out of engagement with said eye bolt to release the toboggan.

4. In a device of the character described, an inclined trackway, a toboggan member slidable down said trackway, an eye bolt carried by said toboggan, a hook pivoted in the trackway structure to engage said hook to move the same out of engagement with said eye bolt in the release of the toboggan, and a keeper pivoted in the trackway structure to engage over said hook and maintain the same in locked position.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures.

J. WILLARD SHERMAN.  
F. M. CATRON.