No. 802,741. PATENTED OCT. 24, 1905.

J. J. DENNIS.

TRUSSED BOARD OR SUPPORT.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 26, 1903.

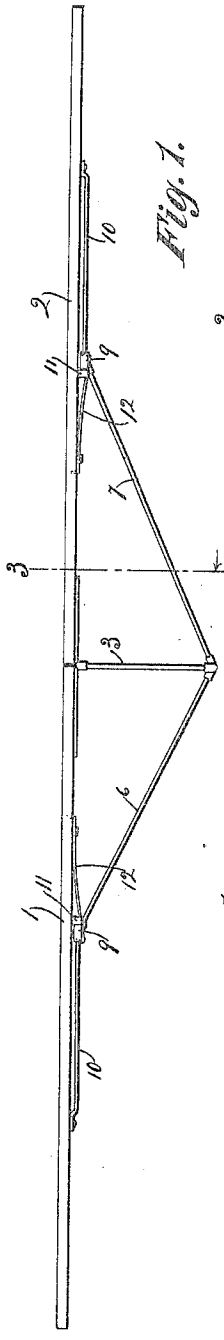


Fig. 1.

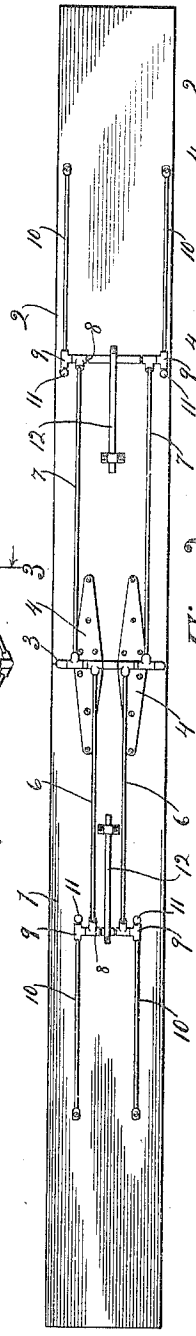


Fig. 2.

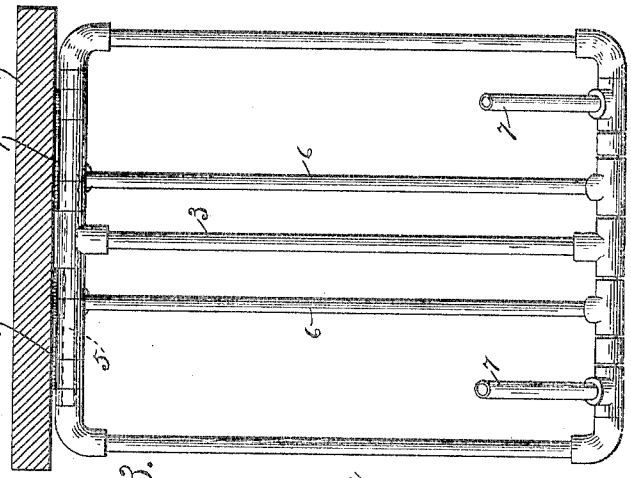


Fig. 3.

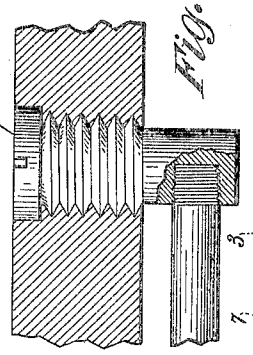


Fig. 4.

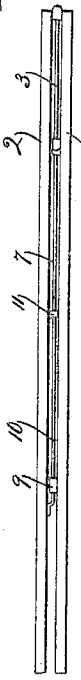
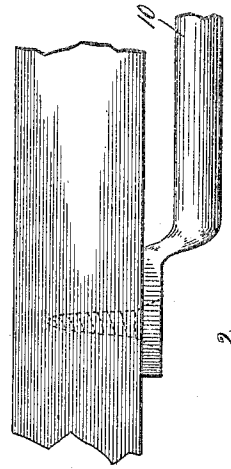


Fig. 5.



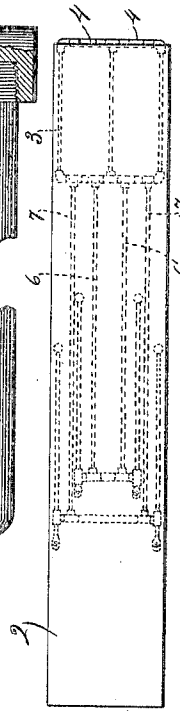


Fig. 6.

Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN J. DENNIS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO EDWARD T. FILER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

TRUSSED BOARD OR SUPPORT.

No. 802,741. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 24, 1905.

Application filed September 26, 1903. Serial No. 174,705.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN J. DENNIS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Chicago, Cook county, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trussed Boards or Supports, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a new article of manufacture consisting of a jointed truss structure particularly designed and adapted for use as scaffold-boards, circus-seats, shelves, ladders, and the like.

Primary objects of the invention are to provide a stucture for the designated and similar uses which will combine the features of great strength and lightness and which may be folded so as to occupy a comparatively small space, thus providing for conveniently carrying and storing the same.

Broadly stated, my invention may be described as a folding truss structure comprising a jointed tie member, tension and compression members pivotally connected to each other, one of which is pivoted to said tie member, and means to secure the other thereof to said tie member at opposite sides of the joint therein.

The invention also consists of the various features, combinations of features, and details of construction hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, in which my invention is shown as embodied in a scaffold-board, Figure 1 is a side view of a scaffold-board embodying my invention, showing the same extended. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view thereof. Fig. 3 is an enlarged sectional elevation on the line 3 3 of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail view. Fig. 5 is a side view of the scaffold-board in folded position; and Fig. 6 is a plan view of the said scaffold-board folded, showing the truss members in dotted lines.

A structure, scaffold-board, circus-seat, shelf, ladder, or other article embodying my invention comprises sections 1 and 2, hinged or articulated to each other, so that they may be folded together. When extended, said sections together form what may appropriately be described as a "jointed tie member" of a truss structure. Pivoted to the under side of said tie member, preferably at the hinge thereof, is a compression member 3.

In the preferable construction shown the sections 1 and 2 of the tie member are connected by hinges 4, the members of which are articulated to a rod 5 on the compression member 3. With this construction it is obvious that the sections 1 and 2 and the compression member 3 will all be pivotally movable about the same point. Pivotally connected to the outer end of the compression member 3 are tension members 6 and 7, the opposite ends of which are adapted to be connected to said tie member at opposite sides of and against movement toward the pivotal point of said sections 1 and 2.

In the preferable construction shown the outer ends of said tension members 6 and 7 are pivoted to rods 8, provided at their outer ends with sleeves 9, which engage guide-rods 10, rigidly secured to the under side of said tie member. The outer ends of the guide-rods 10 may be secured to said board or tie member in any desired manner. The inner ends thereof are threaded or otherwise secured in holes or openings formed in plugs 11, said plugs 11 being threaded to suitable holes or openings in said board or tie member so as to be rigidly secured therein and to project a desired distance at the under side thereof.

The relation of parts is preferably such that when the sections 1 and 2 of the board or tie member are fully extended the sleeves 9 will rest in contact with the plugs 11, which will thus form stops limiting the movement of the outer ends of said tension members 6 and 7 inwardly and will thus operate to support said sections 1 and 2 in extended position with their upper surfaces substantially level.

To provide for folding the sections 1 and 2 of the tie member closely together, the tension members 6 and 7 are disposed out of alinement with each other, and one of said tension members, as shown the member 7, is longer than the other, the relation being such that when the sections 1 and 2 are in folded position the tension members 6 and 7 will lie side by side and the rod 8, to which the outer end of the tension member 7 is attached, will extend beyond the outer ends of the guide-rods 10, to which the tension member 6 is connected. Suitable means are also provided to secure the sections 1 and 2 of said board or tie member in extended posi-

tion against accidental folding, as in handling. As shown, said means consist of spring-clips 12, secured to the under side of said tie member and adapted to engage the rods 8, to which the outer ends of the tension members 6 and 7 are pivoted.

I claim as my invention—

1. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board or the like, comprising a support formed of hinged sections, a compression member, pivots connecting said sections to each other and to the compression member, guide-rods secured to the sections of said support, tension members slidably connected to said guide-rods at one end and at the other pivoted to the outer end of the compression member and stops which limit the inward sliding movement of said tension members on said guide-rods, substantially as described.

2. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board or the like, comprising a support formed of hinged sections, pivotally-connected compression and tension members, said compression member being pivoted to the under side of said sectional support, guide-rods secured to said sectional support, slidable connection between said tension members and said guide-rods and stops which limit the inward sliding movement of said tension members on said guide-rods, the opposite tension members being disposed out of alinement with each other.

3. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board, or the like, comprising a support formed of articulated sections, pivotally-connected compression and tension members, said compression member being pivotally connected to the under side of said sectional support, guide-rods on said sectional support, slides mounted on said guide-rods to which the outer ends of said tension members are connected, and stop-plugs or projections attached to said support to which the inner ends of said guide-rods are secured, substantially as described.

4. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board, or the like, comprising a support formed of articulated sections, pivotally-connected compression and tension members, said compression member being pivotally connected to the under side of said sectional support, guide-rods secured to said sectional support, slides mounted thereon, connection between said slides and said tension members, and stops which limit the movement of said slides, the opposite tension members being disposed out of alinement with each other and one thereof being longer than the other, the relation being such that when in folded position the slide to which the longer tension member is connected will extend outside of the guide-rods to which the shorter tension member is connected, substantially as described.

5. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board, or the like, comprising a support formed of articulated sections, pivotally-connected compression and tension members, said compression member being pivotally connected to the under side of said sectional support, and said tension members being slidingly connected to said sectional support, stops which limit the sliding movement of said tension members inwardly, and means located adjacent to said stops to secure said tension members against outward movement, substantially as described.

6. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board, or the like, comprising a support formed of articulated sections, pivotally-connected compression and tension members, said compression member being pivotally connected with the under side of said sectional support and said tension members being slidingly connected to said board, stops which limit the sliding movement of said tension members inwardly and spring-clips secured to the under side of the support for securing said tension members against sliding movement outwardly, substantially as described.

7. As an article of manufacture, a scaffold-board or the like, comprising a support formed of hinged sections, a compression member consisting of a bent rod, the bent ends of which form the pintles of the hinges connecting the hinged sections, guide-rods secured to the sections of said support and tension members pivoted at one end to the free end of the compression member and at their other end slidably embracing the guide-rods, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I affix my signature, in presence of two subscribing witnesses, this 24th day of September, A. D. 1903.

JOHN J. DENNIS.

Witnesses:
EDWARD T. FILER,
W. H. COTTON.