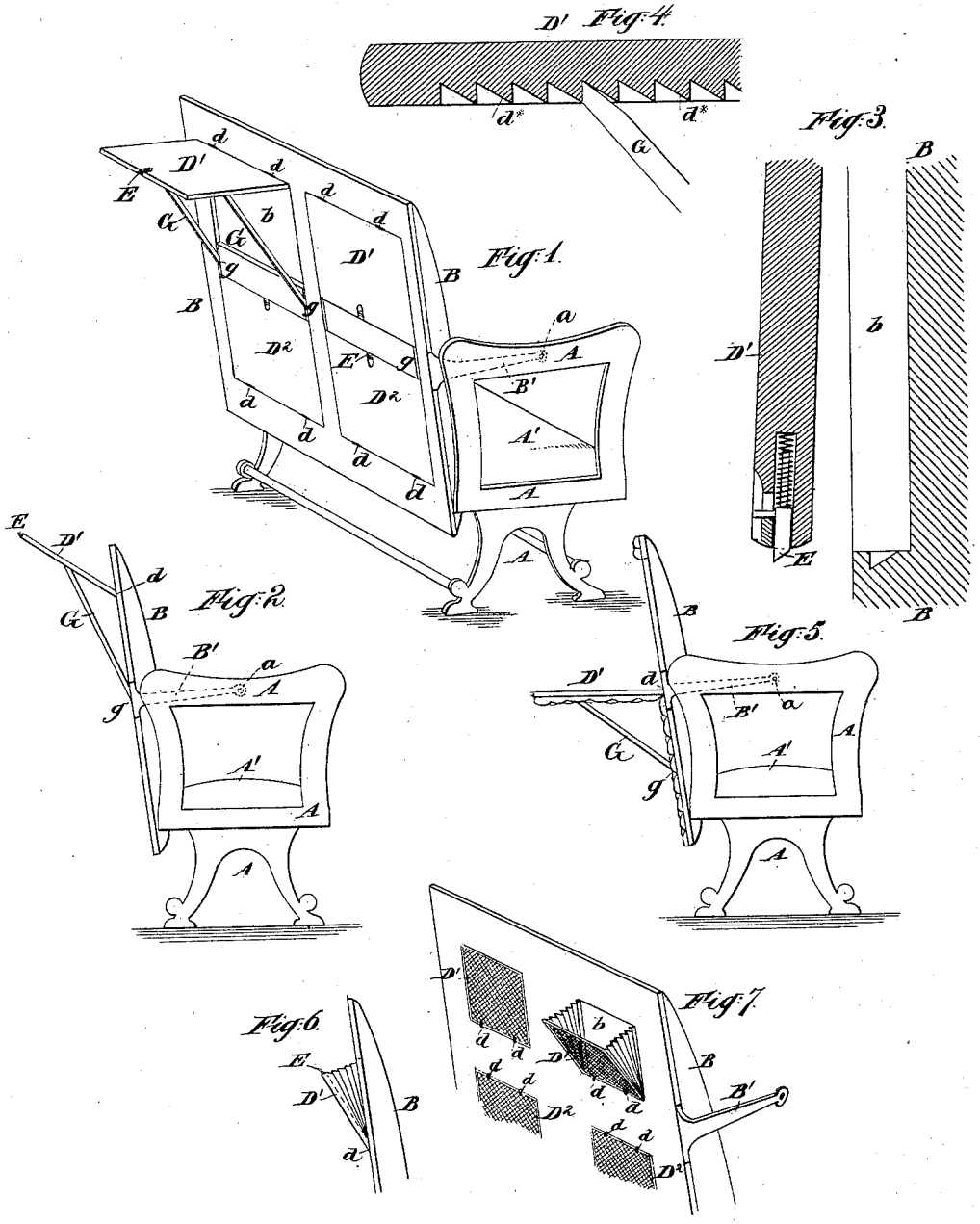
(No Model.)

R. F. HANDY.

RAILROAD CAR FURNITURE.

No. 333,853. Patented Jan. 5, 1886.



WITNESSES:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD F. HANDY, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

RAILROAD-CAR FURNITURE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 333,853, dated January 5, 1886.

Application filed September 4, 1884. Serial No. 142,171. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD F. HANDY, of New York city, in the State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Railroad-Car Furniture, of which the following is a specification.

I provide seat-backs which are reversible and capable of performing all the usual functions, and which contain parts that may be folded to be of no effect, extended to serve as desks or tables, or adjusted to serve as narrow pockets sufficient to contain opera-glasses or gloves and other small articles.

The accompanying drawings form a part of this specification, and represent what I consider the best means of carrying out the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing one of the pieces, which I term "tables," adjusted horizontally and all the others folded out of use. Fig. 2 is a side elevation showing one of the tables inclined upward to serve as a pocket. Figs. 3 and 4 are sections through a portion on a larger scale. The remaining figures show modifications. Figs. 5 and 6 are side elevations. Fig. 7 is a perspective view.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures where they occur.

A is the fixed framing; A′, the seat proper, and *a* the pivots which engage with the arms B′ of the back B. This back is somewhat wider than the ordinary back, but serves in the same way, swinging over from one side to the other of the seat A′, according as the car is to traverse in one direction or the other. There may be the ordinary provisions for locking the arms B′ against the shifting over of the back by unauthorized persons.

The seat A′ and the inner face of the back B may be made with hair-cloth, plush, or any other ordinary or suitable material, and padded or upholstered to any thickness required. The back side of the back B is peculiarly equipped.

D′ and D² are hinged pieces of hard wood or other suitable material adapted to be folded into recesses *b*, provided in the seat-back B. I will term these pieces "tables." Each is pivoted at one edge to the back, as indicated at *d*, and is of a width matching the adjacent recess *b*. The edge of each table opposite its axis *d* is equipped with a spring-bolt, E, having a beveled end adapted to engage with a corresponding keeper on the edge of the recess *b*, and hold the table securely in the closed position when required.

G G are braces turning on pivots or axes *g*, mounted at the mid-height of the back B. The under side of each table is deeply recessed, forming a series of ratchet-teeth, *d**. When not required for use, the braces G are sunk in suitable recesses in the back of B (not shown) and held by any suitable spring-catch. There are two short tables D′ side by side, and two short tables D² side by side, each equipped with its proper ratchets, and with the corresponding braces, G. This allows two occupants of the seat directly in the rear to each provide himself or herself with a table, or either one to have a table and the other keep the space free, according to circumstances or inclination. Each table D′ is matched by a corresponding table, D², the one being in the position to serve when the car is moving in one direction, and the other when the car is moving in the other direction, and the seat-back and its attachments have been caused to perform a little more than a half-revolution on the pivots *d*. Only one is required to be extended at any time. A single pair of the hinged braces G will suffice for the table D′ and also for the corresponding table, D². Each table may be set level or inclined in one direction or the other, according as the end of the hinged brace shall be adjusted in one or another of the several ratchet-teeth *d**. For some uses, as for eating, the table would preferably be adjusted level; for other uses, as reading, it should be set drooping. Each table D′ or D² is capable of being adjusted to incline upward from its axis. This condition is indicated in Fig. 2, and is attained by simply elevating the table to a little above the required angle and adjusting the hinged braces G to that condition, then on allowing the table to incline outward or sink a little more it will be held by the braces. This condition is

important, as forming a pocket in which portions of clothing or other articles may be retained.

Modifications may be made in the forms and proportions.

Parts of the invention may be used without the whole.

I can make each table D′ or D² extend the whole width of an entire seat-back.

I can hold the tables in the closed and open positions by other means.

The points at which the pivots *d* are mounted may be varied.

Fig. 5 shows a modification in which a single shelf is employed with braces G to engage it on either side. I have shown one face of this shelf padded and the other plane.

It may be preferable to have the table upholstered on both sides, and to allow it to be folded either way when it is out of use. I prefer, however, with this form of the invention, to fold it always one way and to upholster only one side—the side which is presented outward when it is folded.

Some of the advantages of the invention may be realized by the employment of tables or corresponding parts conditioned to serve only in the manner shown in Fig. 2 as pockets. When this alone is desired, the parts D′ D² may be merely bags or frames of stout wire or other suitable material, covered or upholstered with plush or the like. A light frame covered with netting may serve. Such pockets are shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

I do not confine the invention to railroad-cars. It may be useful on reversible seats in theaters, churches, and many other situations, even private houses, the parts D′ D² being varied or not to conform to the peculiarities of the service. Each may be of the nature of a table, shelf, or pocket adapted for holding books or parcels.

I can use metal, wood, leather, rubber, velvet, and various other materials.

Parts of the invention may be used without the whole.

I can use the padded shelf with seat-backs, having recesses *b* on seats which are not reversible.

I do not in this patent claim a pocket-recess in the back of a seat and capable of being closed flush with the back. I propose to make that the subject of a separate application.

I am aware of English Patent No. 4,382 of 1877, in which a reversible car-seat back has a single panel which is hinged to open toward the center. Such construction is not sought to be covered in this application.

I claim as my invention—

1. A reversible upholstered car-seat back having a section of its rear upholstered side hinged to form a shelf, and adjustable supporting means, as set forth.

2. A reversible upholstered car-seat back having sections of its rear upholstered side hinged in different directions and opening from the center, and a single adjustable supporting means, G, as set forth.

3. In reversible car-seats, the folding tables, as D′ D², hinged in opposite directions, combined with a single supporting means, as G, as herein specified.

4. In a reversible seat-back, the hinged tables D′ D², arranged opposite to each other, in combination with reversible braces G, adapted to support either table as it may come uppermost.

5. In a seat with reversible back, two pairs of hinged tables, D′ D², arranged as shown, locking means, as E, for holding each in the closed position, and provisions, as *d**, for allowing either shelf to be adjusted level or to incline in either direction, as herein specified.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand, at New York city, New York, this 27th day of August, 1884, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

RICHARD F. HANDY.

Witnesses:

M. F. BOYLE,

CHARLES R. SEARLE.