(No Model.)

C. EDWARDS.

HEARSE.

No. 521,647. Patented June 19, 1894.

Fig. 1.

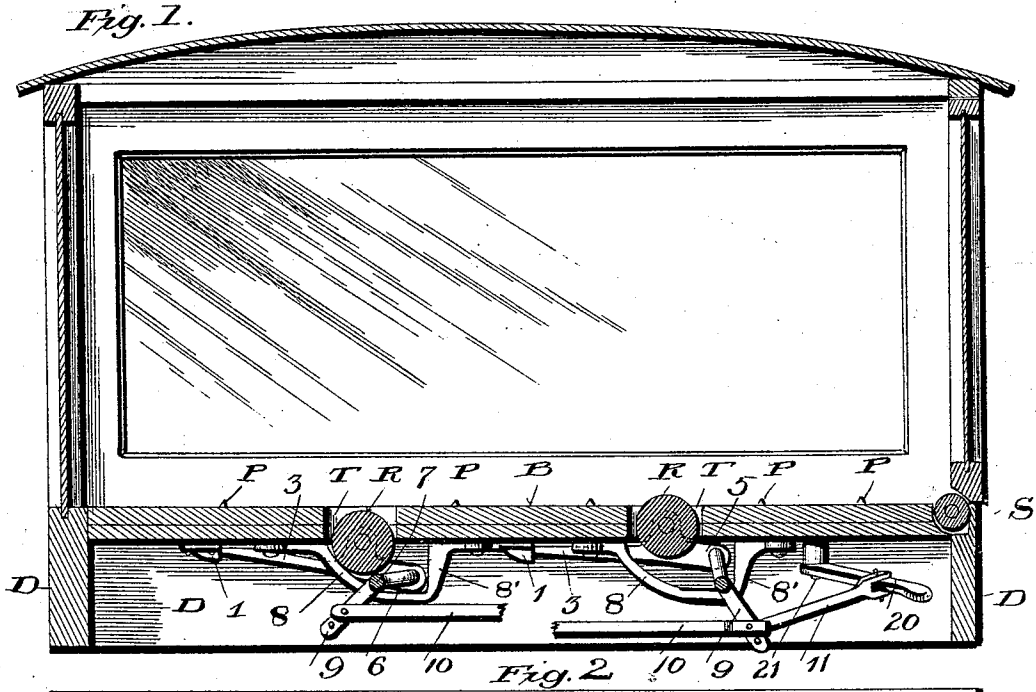


Fig. 2

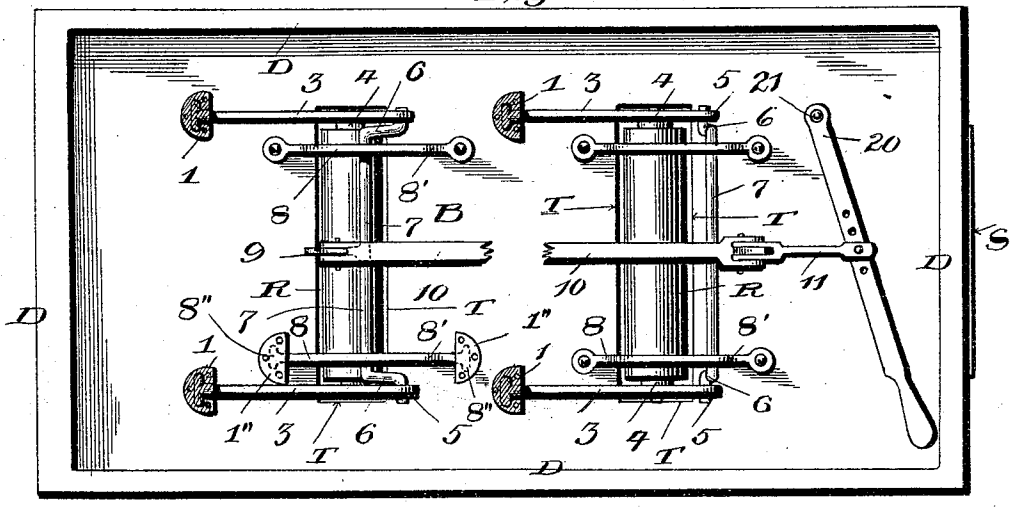
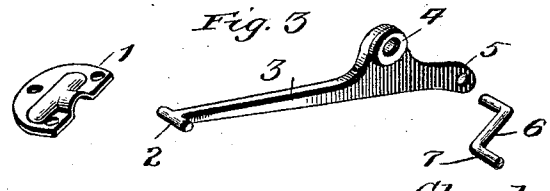


Fig. 3



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HEARSE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 521,647, dated June 19, 1894.

Application filed March 22, 1894. Serial No. 504,661. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES EDWARDS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Fagg's Manor, Chester county, State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hearses; and my preferred manner of carrying out the invention is set forth in the following full, clear, and exact description, terminating with claims particularly specifying the novelty.

This invention relates to carriages and wagons, and more especially to that class thereof known as hearses; and the object of the same is to effect certain improvements in the base of the hearse.

To this end the invention consists in providing the face of said base with a number of spikes or pointed pins rising from it so as to receive the coffin and prevent its slipping, and also to provide a pair of rollers mounted on suitable supports and adapted to be raised through slots in said base to a horizontal line above the points of the pins so that the coffin can be removed when desired.

The invention further consists in the specific details of construction of the mechanism for moving said rollers—all as hereinafter more fully described and as illustrated in the drawings, wherein—

Figure 1 is a central longitudinal section of a hearse made in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the base of the hearse. In both these views one roller is shown as raised and the other as lowered. Fig. 3 is a perspective detail of certain parts.

Referring to the said drawings, the letter B designates the base or bottom of an ordinary hearse carrying a stationary roller S let into its rear end about where shown and as usual, so that the coffin can be readily passed over said base in the well known manner; and rising from the face of the base are a number of pins or sharp points P. This base is transversely slotted as at T, and within these slots are located the two rollers R which are adapted to be raised by the mechanism described below so that their upper sides will stand in a horizontal plane above the points of the pins P. The coffin is then passed over the roller S and along over the two rollers R, and after reaching its proper place said two rollers R are dropped so that the coffin is lowered onto the pins which embed its bottom and prevent its slipping. When it is desired to remove the coffin, the rollers R are again raised so as to lift the coffin off the pins P, and it can then be readily withdrawn in a manner which will be clear.

To the bottom of the base B at suitable points are secured caps 1 each of which embraces a T 2 at one end of a lever 3, and said lever is laterally enlarged as at 4 to provide a firm bearing for the trunnion of the roller R. At the opposite extremity from the T the lever has an eye 5 of a size to receive the crank 6 at one extremity of a rod 7. The body of this rod passes under a hanger 8 depending from the base B (and preferably having T-shaped ends 8″ engaged under caps 1″ as seen at the left of Fig. 2), and the rod 7 extends thence along the length of the roller R to its other end where the construction is precisely the same. At about its center the rod 7 has an arm 9 projecting rigidly from its body at an angle of about twenty-two degrees beyond the plane of the cranks 6 continued through the body 7. In the drawings I have shown two of the rollers R supported by mechanism of this construction, and the arms 9 are connected by a rod 10 so as to cause them to move in unison.

20 is a lever pivoted at 21 to the bottom of the base B and connected by a pitman 11 with the pivot between the rod 10 and the rear arm 9—this lever and all the mechanism being completely hidden by the base and depending sides D thereof.

All parts of this device are of the desired sizes, shapes, proportions, and materials, and considerable change in the specific details of construction may be made without departing from the principle of my invention. It is not essential that there be but two of the rollers R, as there could be several; and the exact location of the lever 20 is a matter of choice, although I prefer to locate it where shown in order that it will be completely out of sight.

In operation, when it is desired to raise the rollers R through the slots T in the base, the handle at the free end of the lever 20 is borne

to the rear. This motion draws each arm 9 to the rear and with it the body 7 of the rod, and said body slides to the rear under the hanger 8 until it strikes the upright portion 8′ of said hanger. Meanwhile the crank 6 at each end of the rod is forcing the eye 5 of its lever upward and causing the lever to swing around the pivot formed by its T-head 2 within the cap 1. This motion raises the bearing 4 which carries with it the trunnion of the roller, and as the mechanism at both ends of the roller move in unison the body of the roller will be raised and projected through the slot T. The upright portion 8′ of the hanger stands a little in rear of the eye 5 of each lever 3, and hence when the rod 7 reaches this portion the crank has passed by a true vertical position and the parts will remain at rest. The coffin is then passed over the stationary roller S and shoved over the rollers R above the points of the pins P. The lever 20 is then moved in the opposite direction whereby the rod 7 is shoved along within the hanger 8 until it passes a vertical line beneath the cranks 6, and the weight of the coffin will then automatically depress the rollers while the coffin sinks and embeds itself upon the pins P. The fact that the arm 9 stands at an angle to the cranks 6 permits a return movement by drawing on the rod 10 when it is desired to again raise the rollers for the purpose of withdrawing the coffin. All connections are preferably by bolts and screws in order that the parts may be removed as for repair.

What is claimed as new is—

1. In a hearse, the combination with a base having transverse slots, pointed pins rising from said base, and a roller at the rear end of the base; of levers pivoted beneath the base, rollers journaled in said levers and standing within the slots in the base, and means substantially as described for swinging the levers to project the rollers through the slots when desired and raise them to a line above the points of the pins, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a hearse, the combination with a base having transverse slots, pointed pins rising from said base, and a roller at the rear end of the base; of levers pivoted beneath the base, rollers journaled in said levers and standing within the slots in the base, a hand-lever also pivoted beneath the base, and connections substantially as described between said hand-lever and pivoted levers for swinging the latter when desired to project said rollers through the slots to a line above the points of the pins, as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination with a slotted base, caps secured to said base, levers having T-heads at one end pivoted within said caps beneath the base, and a roller standing within said slot and having trunnions journaled in the levers; of a rod having cranks at its extremities journaled in eyes in the free ends of said levers, hangers depending from the base beneath the body of the rod, and means for swinging the body of the rod, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. In a device of the character described, the combination with a slotted base, levers pivoted at one end beneath the base, and a roller standing within said slot and having trunnions journaled in the levers; of a rod having cranks at its extremities journaled in eyes in the free ends of said levers, hangers depending from the base beneath the body of the rod and each having one upright end beyond the transverse line of said eyes, and means for swinging the body of the rod, as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination with a slotted base, caps secured to said base, levers having T-heads at one end pivoted within said caps beneath the base and provided with lateral enlargements between their ends, and a roller standing within said slot and having trunnions journaled in said enlargements in the levers; of a rod having cranks at its extremities journaled in eyes in the free ends of said levers, hangers depending from the base beneath the body of the rod and each having one upright end beyond the transverse line of said eyes, and means for swinging the body of the rod, as and for the purpose set forth.

6. In a device of the character described, the combination with a slotted base, a pair of levers pivoted at one end to said base and having eyes at their opposite ends, a roller standing in said slot and having trunnions journaled in said levers between their ends, and hangers depending from the base just inside said levers; of a rod whose body slides within said hangers and whose ends are cranked and journaled in the eyes of the levers, an arm projecting from the center of the rod at the opposite side from said cranks and at an angle to their plane if continued through the rod, a hand-lever, and connections between said hand-lever and arm, as and for the purpose set forth.

7. In a device of the character described, the combination with a base having a number of transverse slots, levers pivoted at one end to said base and having eyes at their free ends, rollers standing within the slots and having trunnions journaled in the levers between the ends of the latter, and hangers depending from the base just inside the levers and each having one upright end toward the rear end of the base, which upright end stands in rear of the transverse line of the eyes of the levers; of rods whose bodies move in said hangers and whose ends have cranks journaled in the eyes of the levers, an arm projecting from the center at the opposite side of each rod from its cranks and at

an angle to their plane if continued through the rod, a rod connecting the arms, a hand-lever pivoted beneath the rear of the base, and a pitman connecting the hand-lever with the rear arm, all as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my signature on this the 20th day of March, A. D. 1894.

CHARLES EDWARDS.

Witnesses:
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