(No Model.) 4 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. S. BABCOCK & D. A. GOURLAY.

VOTING BOOTH.

No. 447,239. Patented Feb. 24, 1891.

Fig. 1.

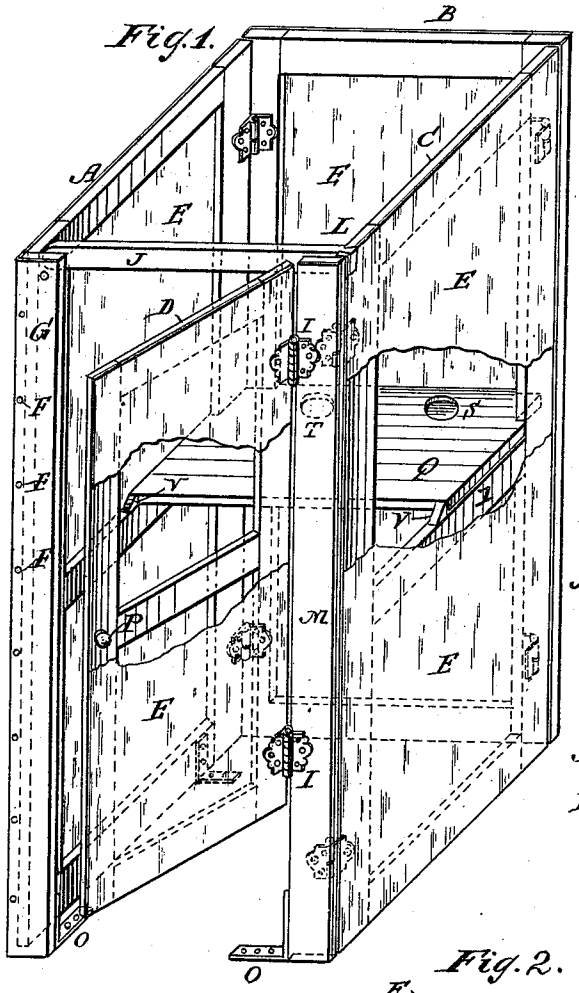


Fig. 3.

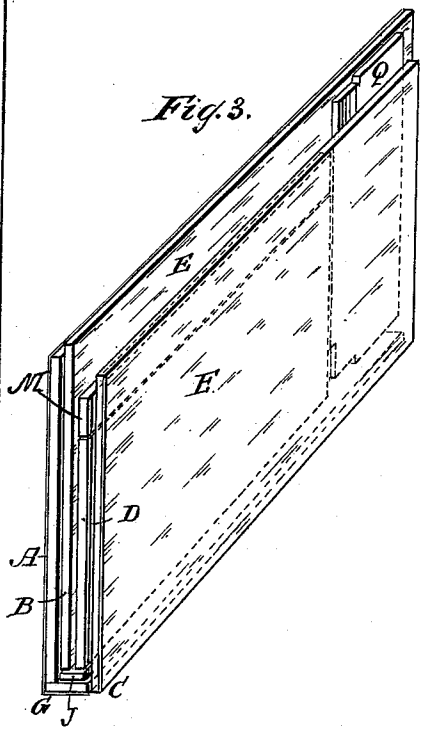
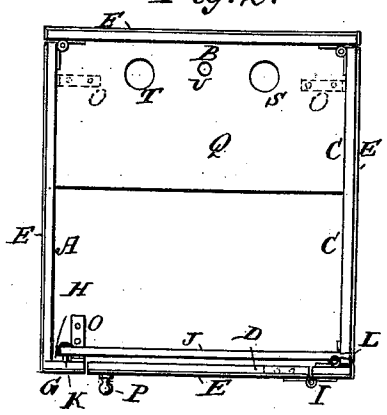


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 4.

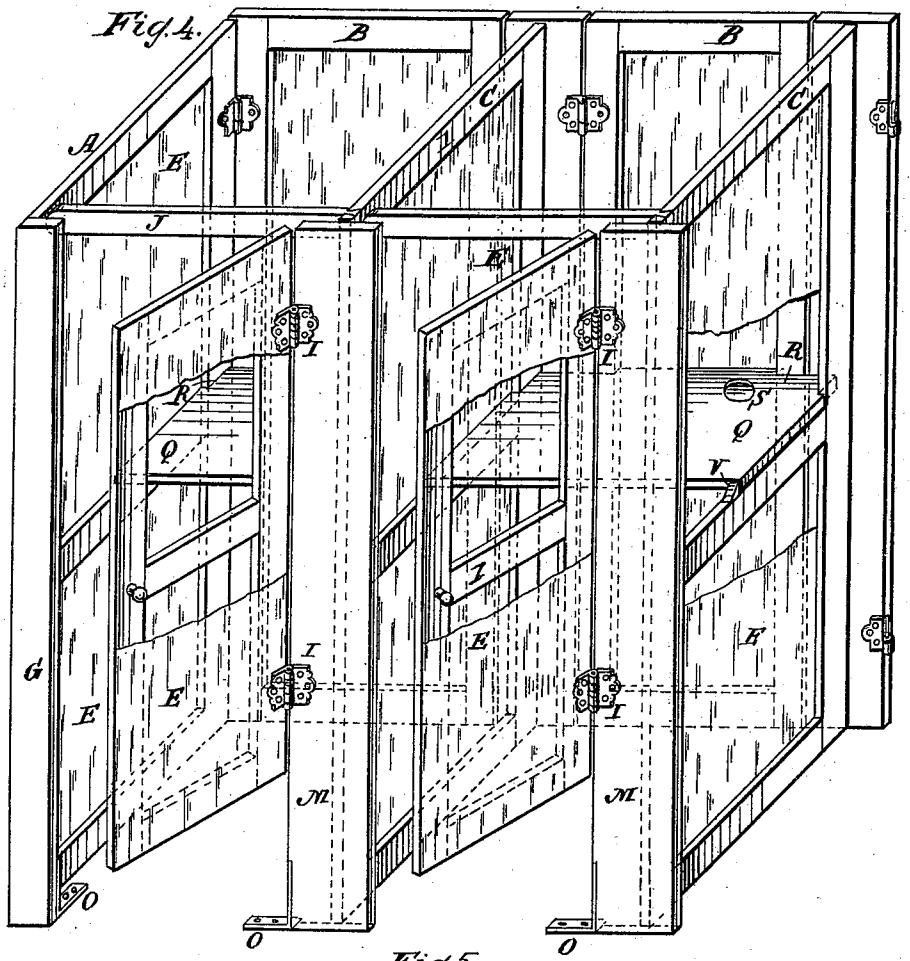
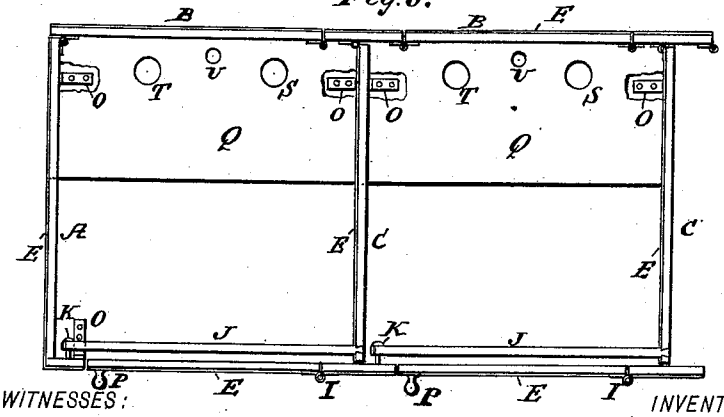


Fig. 5.



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Fig. 6.

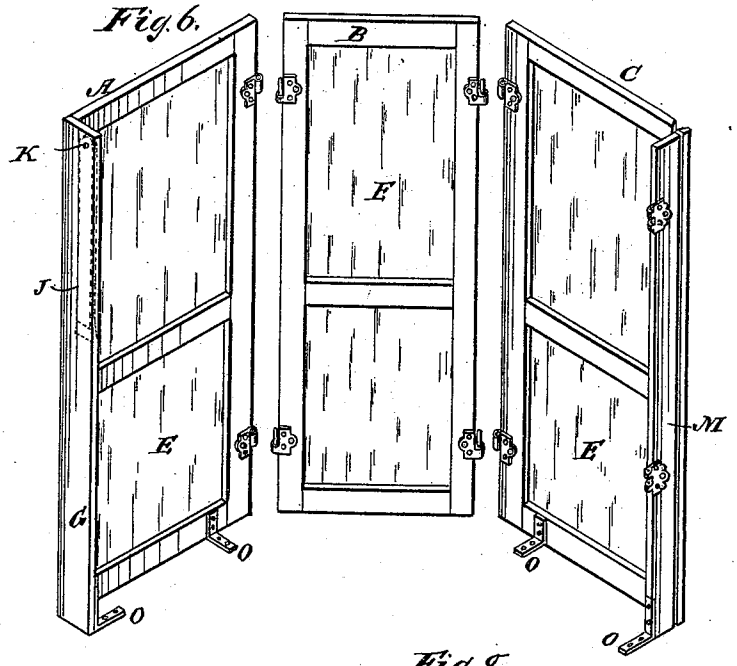


Fig. 7.

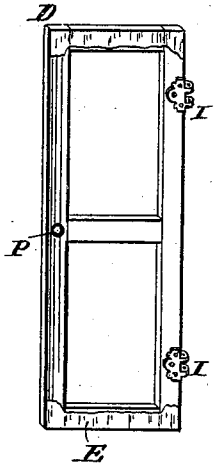
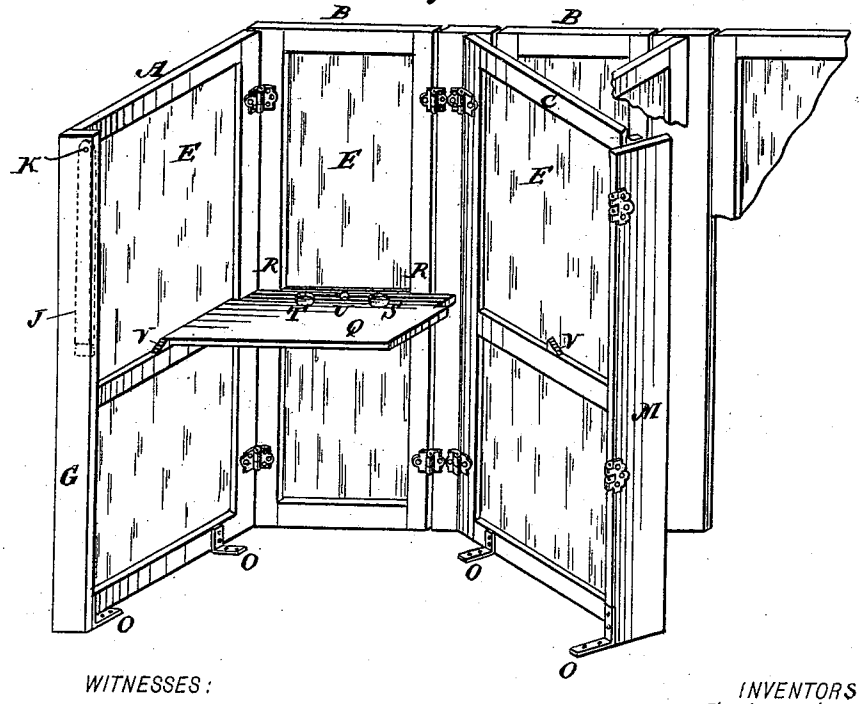


Fig. 8.



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Fig. 9.

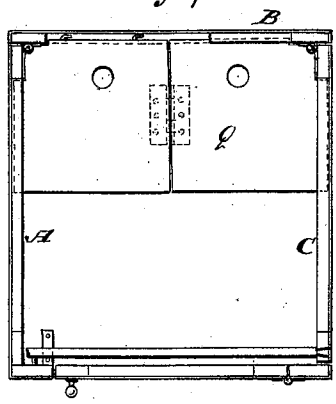


Fig. 11.

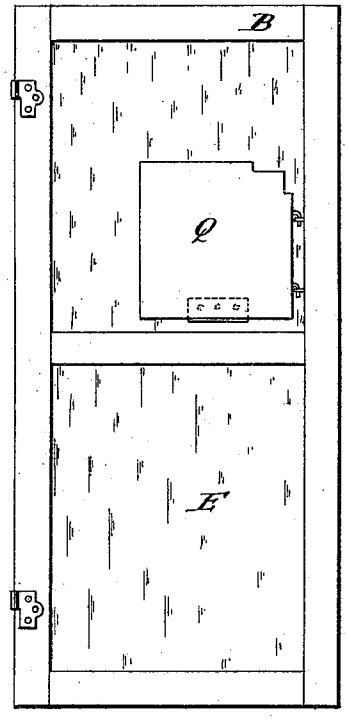
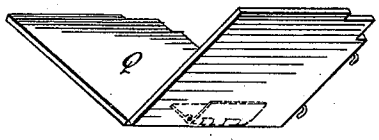


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CALEB S. BABCOCK AND DAVID A. GOURLAY, OF MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK.

VOTING-BOOTH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 447,239, dated February 24, 1891.

Application filed August 21, 1890. Serial No. 362,608. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CALEB S. BABCOCK and DAVID A. GOURLAY, both citizens of the United States, residing at Mount Vernon, in the county of Westchester and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Voting-Booths, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to voting booths or compartments for the use of voters at elections; and it consists in certain novel features and combinations described in the following specification, and pointed out in the claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an elevation in perspective of a voting-booth set up ready for use, the canvas of the door and of the right-hand side of the booth being partly broken away so as to expose to view the shelf and some other portions of the interior. Some other portions of the interior are indicated by dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a top view of the booth shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 shows the booth when packed up for transportation or for storage. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a modification by which two booths are arranged in a row and connected with each other, the booths having one side in common. Fig. 5 is a top view of the double booths shown in Fig. 4. Fig. 6 shows the sides of a booth unhinged and detached from each other ready to be packed. Fig. 7 shows the door detached. Fig. 8 shows the double or modified booth thrown open, some of its parts being broken away. The remaining figures 9, 10, and 11 show a modification.

The general object of our invention is the construction of a removable voting booth or compartment which shall, among other things, possess simplicity of construction, cheapness both in the materials made use of and the method of construction, facility in setting it up and taking it down, and in packing for storage or transportation.

In carrying out our invention we construct frames A B C D preferably of wood, and cover them with white or light-colored muslin, canvas, paper, or cloth E, preferring such covering material as is translucent—that is to say, such as will permit the transmission of light through it into the booth. The cloth or paper E is secured upon the several frames by tacking it to them, as is indicated by the row of tacks F, (shown in Fig. 1 on the molding G,) or the covering may be secured to them by other suitable means. The frames A B C are of equal size, and when properly covered, as described, form the sides and back of the booth, the remaining or front part being occupied by the covered frame D, which constitutes the door of the booth, and which is constructed substantially in the same manner as the frames for the sides and back, excepting that it is shorter, as shown in the drawings. Each of the frames A B C is made of two long rails connected at top and bottom and at about the middle of their length by transverse pieces *l*, and the door-frame D is made in a similar manner; but the said frames may be made in any other suitable manner, so as to secure the requisite lightness and strength.

We have shown the frames A B C D covered only on one side with the covering material E; but they may be covered on both sides, if desired.

The front edge of the frame A is provided with a molding G, which extends a little distance over the door-space of the booth and forms a recess H, (see Figs. 1 and 2,) the use of which will be explained further on. The frames A B C D are connected to each other by hinges, as shown in the drawings, in such a manner that they can be engaged and disengaged and detached from each other at pleasure, for the purpose of setting the same up and for packing them for storage or transportation.

The front upper parts of the frames A C are held to each other by a brace-bar J, one end of which is pivoted to the inner side of the molding G, as is shown in Fig. 2 and by dotted lines in Figs. 6 and 8, the letter K designating the pivot. The brace-bar J extends from the molding G across the space intervening between it and the front upper part of side frame C, and is locked to the upper transverse piece *l* of said frame by a dovetail joint L, formed on it, and the piece *l*, as shown in Fig. 1 and in the top view, Fig. 2. The bar J, when thus extended and locked in place, holds the side frames A and C in place and forms a door-stop for the upper part of the door D and prevents the door from swinging inward.

When the brace-bar J is lifted out of its dovetail joint L, it swings down its pivot K and hangs on the inner side of the molding G, as shown in Figs. 6 and 8.

The door D, observing Figs. 1 and 2, is hinged not directly to the side frame C, but to a molding M, whose inner side is hinged to the front edge of the said side frame C, the construction being such that in folding and packing up the booth the molding M and door D swing inwardly against the inner face of the side frame C. The hinges I, by which the door is hung to the swinging molding M, are spring-hinges, which operate to close the door against the brace-bar J. The door is provided with a knob P for pulling it open.

In order to give steadiness to the booth when set up for use, we secure to the lower parts of the side frames A C angle-irons O and screw their horizontal feet to the floor.

The booth is provided with a removable writing-shelf Q, which is of such length as to extend across the inside of the booth when set up, its ends resting on the middle transverse shelf-supporting pieces *l* and being rabbeted at R R to fit the adjacent parts of the side and back frames A B C. The shelf is provided with a well S for an inkstand, and another T for a mucilage-bottle, and another well U to receive a candle. The shelf is prevented from sliding forward in the booth by small stops V V, secured to the middle transverse shelf-supporting pieces *l* of the side frames A C, which allow the shelf to pass over them when it is being inserted in the booth, but prevent it from sliding out.

When it is desired to pack the booth for storage until future elections or for transportation, the angle-irons are unfastened from the floor, the writing-shelf is removed from the booth, the brace-bar J is disconnected from the top of the side frame C and swung into the recess of the molding G, the hinges which unite the back B and the side C are disconnected, and the back frame B is swung inward against the inner face of the side frame A and behind molding G and behind the brace-bar J, as seen in Fig. 3. The folding and packing being continued, the door D, with its molding M, is placed next, and since the door is shorter than the side and back frames there is room enough at its bottom for the shelf Q. Next to the door and shelf is the side frame C, which completes the packing of the booth. The package can now be corded, so as to hold the different parts together while the package is laid away.

Figs. 4, 5, and 8 show a modification of our invention in which two booths or compartments are connected to each other under the same mode of construction, except that the side C of the first one of the double booths is also the side A of the second one of the double booths, thus saving one of the sides by the modification, the packing together of the parts being essentially the same as in the case of single booths.

By the use of a translucent cloth or paper covering on the frames of the booth we lighten up its interior sufficiently to enable the voter to prepare his ballots even on a dark day without the aid of gas or other light to be introduced directly into the booth. Besides this advantage we are enabled to produce a booth having very little weight and which can therefore be easily handled.

The shelf Q, instead of being in one piece, may consist of two hinged sections, as shown in Fig. 9 in plan view, in Fig. 10 in perspective, and in Fig. 11 in its packed or closed state. When to be used, the shelf-sections can be spread apart and laid in place in the booth, as seen in Fig. 9, and when not in use the shelf-sections can be folded together and the folded shelf suspended by hooks or pintles on the shelf adapted to engage suitable eyes in the frame B.

What we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a voting-booth, the independent frames composing the sides, back, and door, hinged together as described, and provided with supporting-pieces for a detachable shelf, in combination with a translucent covering material secured to said frames, and a brace-bar connected with one of the sides and adapted to engage the opposite side for connecting such sides and forming a stop for the door, substantially as described.

2. In a voting-booth, the independent frames composing the sides, back, and door, hinged together as described, and provided with supporting-pieces for a detachable shelf, in combination with translucent covering material secured to said frames, and a brace-bar pivotally connected with one of the sides and having a dovetailed end to engage a dovetailed recess on the opposite side for connecting such sides, substantially as described.

3. In a voting-booth, the independent frames composing the sides, back, and door, hinged together and provided with supporting-pieces for a detachable shelf, in combination with translucent covering material secured to said frames, and a brace-bar pivotally connected with one of the frames at its top end and adapted to detachably engage the opposite side for connecting such sides together and forming a stop to the door in its closing movement, substantially as described.

4. In a voting booth, the independent frames composing the sides and back, hinged together and provided with supporting-pieces for a detachable shelf, in combination with a translucent covering material secured to the frames, a molding attached to one of the sides, a molding hinged to the opposite side, and a swinging door pivoted to the hinged molding, substantially as described.

5. In a voting-booth, the independent frames composing the sides and back, hinged together and provided with shelf-supporting pieces, in combination with a translucent covering material secured to said frames, a molding rig-

idly attached to one of the sides, a molding hinged to the opposite side, a swinging door pivotally connected to the hinged molding, and a brace-bar connected with the rigidly-attached molding and adapted to detachably engage the side which carries the hinged molding, substantially as described.

6. In a voting-booth, the combination of the independent frames composing the sides and back, hinged together and provided with shelf-supporting pieces and covered with translucent material, a molding secured to each of the sides, a swinging door hinged to one of the moldings, a brace-bar connected to the other molding and adapted to detachably engage the opposite side to connect such sides and form a stop for the door, and angle-irons secured to the lower ends of the sides and of the moldings for rigidly attaching such parts to a floor, substantially as described.

7. In a voting-booth whose sides and back are composed of independent frames hinged together, the combination, with the side frame A, of the molding G, secured to and forming with the said side frame a recess, and the locking-brace connected to the molding in said recess and adapted to engage the opposite side frame to connect such side frames and form a stop for a hinged swinging door connected with one of the side frames, substantially as described.

8. In a voting booth or compartment whose sides and back and door are composed of independent frames hinged together, the movable brace J, having one end pivoted to the molding G and the other end adapted to interlock with the side frame C, said brace being adapted to hold the sides A and C in place and to operate as a door-stop for the door of the booth, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof we have hereunto set our hands in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CALEB S. BABCOCK.
DAVID A. GOURLAY.

Witnesses as to the signature of Caleb S. Babcock:

JOHN VAN SANTVOORD,
E. F. KASTENHUBER.

Witnesses as to the signature of David A. Gourlay:

HENRY BARTLEY,
JOHN KENWORTHY.