No. 740,844. PATENTED OCT. 6, 1903.

J. P. GAERTNER.

FOLDING TABLE.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 17, 1901.

NO MODEL. 3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

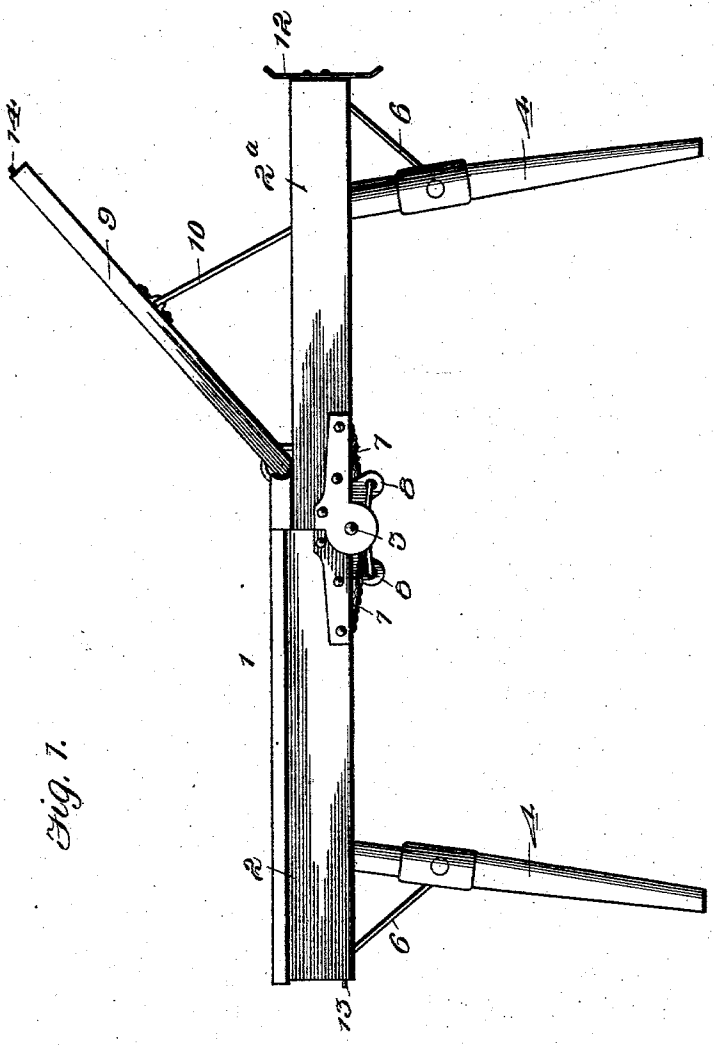


Fig. 1.

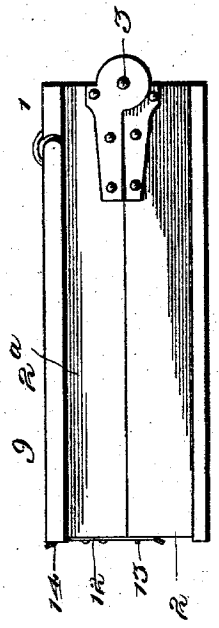


Fig. 4.

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NO MODEL. 3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3.

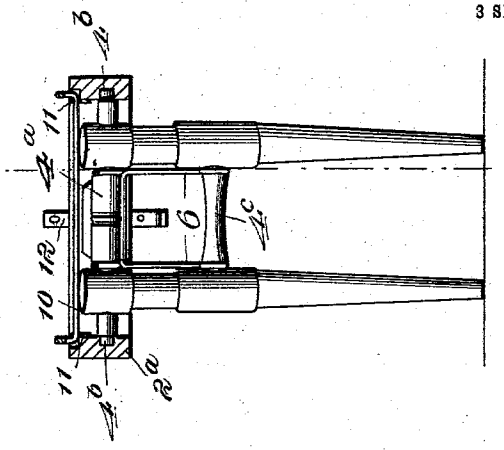
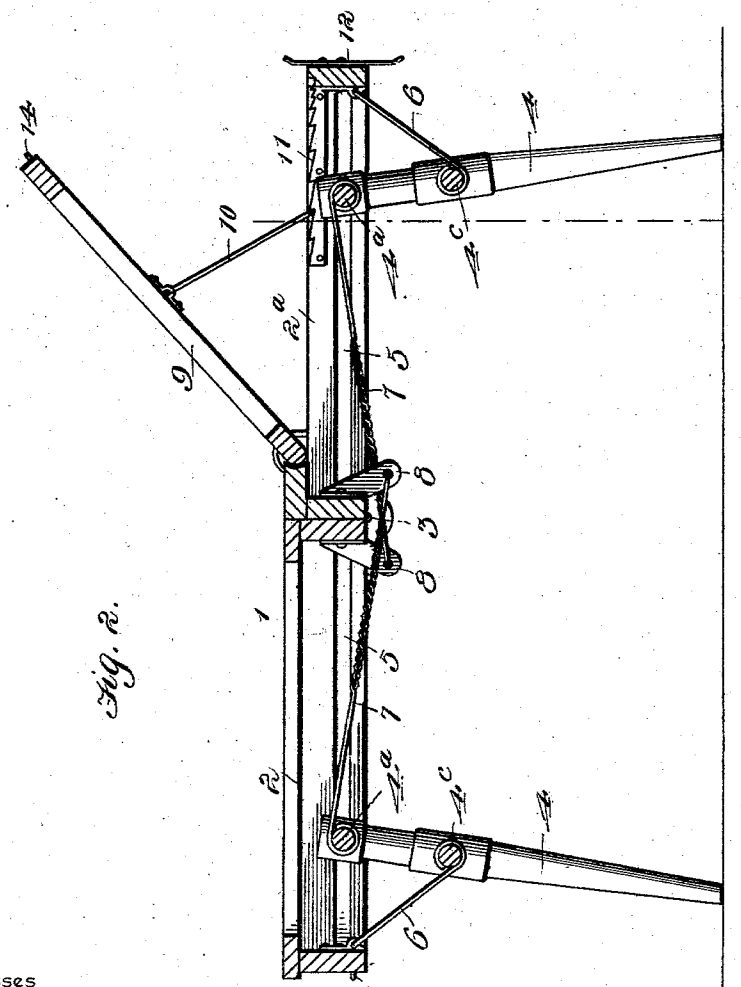


Fig. 2.



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NO MODEL. 3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 5.

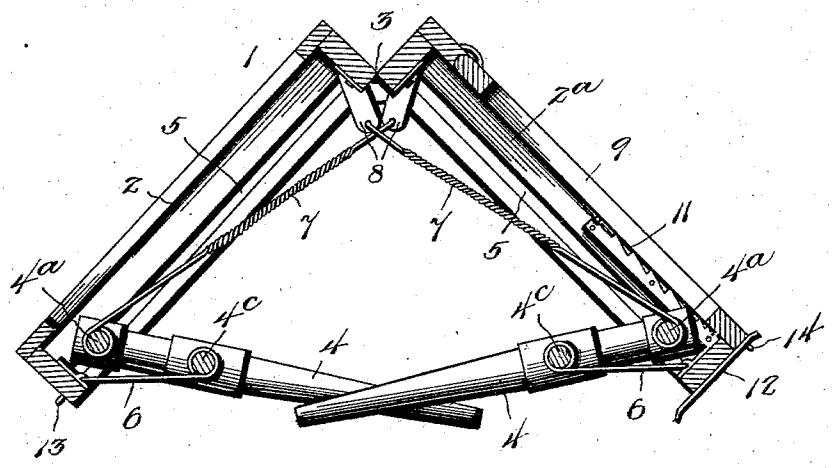
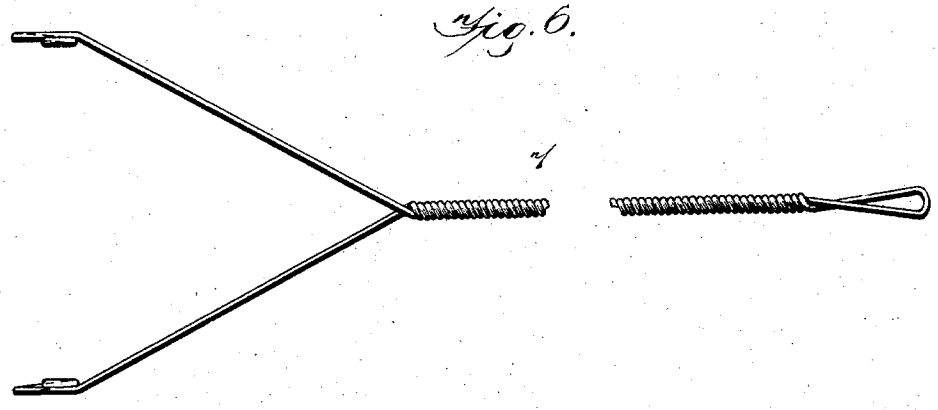


Fig. 6.



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No. 740,844. Patented October 6, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN P. GAERTNER, OF WAYNE, NEBRASKA.

FOLDING TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 740,844, dated October 6, 1903.

Application filed July 17, 1901. Serial No. 68,617. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN P. GAERTNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wayne, in the county of Wayne and State of Nebraska, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Tables; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain improvements in undertakers' tables or biers.

It contemplates principally the compact folding of the table or bier as also the ready adaptability thereof for its intended purpose, as will be readily appreciated farther along.

It consists of the combination and arrangement of parts, including their construction, substantially as hereinafter more fully disclosed, and specifically pointed out by the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention, Figure 1 is a side view thereof with the head-rest in raised position. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section. Fig. 3 is a cross-section, and Fig. 4 is a view showing the invention in its folded position. Fig. 5 is also a longitudinal section thereof, partly collapsed. Fig. 6 is a detail view disclosing more particularly the bifurcated or branched portion of the leg-braces.

Latitude is allowed herein as to details, as they may be changed or varied at will without departing from the spirit of my invention and the same yet remain intact and be protected.

In carrying out my invention I construct the table or bier 1 in two sections 2 2^a, hinged or pivoted together preferably by means of rule-joint hinges 3, arranged at their sides, said sections being adapted to fold toward or one upon the other. Said sections are provided each with a pair of connected legs 4, each pair of legs having its upper connecting or cross piece 4^a projecting laterally. The lateral projections or extensions 4^b thus formed engage longitudinal lateral slots 5, produced in the inner sides of the side rails of the table-frame sections. The lower cross-pieces 4^c of said pairs of legs are connected by pivoted bails 6 to the outer end pieces of said table-frame sections. To the upper cross-pieces of said pairs of legs are connected the branched or bifurcated portions of rods or braces 7, whose inner ends are loosely connected or pivoted to pendent angle-irons or castings 8, secured to the inner end pieces of said table-frame sections. It will be observed, however, that each angle-iron or casting, to which one end of each rod is connected, as stated, is secured to the frame-section distant from the pair of legs to which the opposite end of said rod or bar is connected. This arrangement of parts provides as the table-frame sections are collapsed for the folding or stowing away of the pairs of legs completely within the plane of said sections thus permitted to be folded one upon the other, taking them entirely out of the way and providing for the compact folding of the table-frame with its adjunctive parts. One of said table-frame sections has pivoted to its upper side a head-rest frame 9, adapted to be propped in its elevated or inclined position by preferably a bail-like pawl 10, engaging ratchets 11, secured to the inner sides of the longitudinal rails of the corresponding frame-section, as seen, the purpose of which is apparent.

A double spring-clasp 12 is centrally secured to one end of a frame-section, adapted to engage at its ends, respectively, pins or projections 13 14, secured to one end of the opposite frame-section and one end of the head-rest frame 9, respectively, for securing said parts in position when folded.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination of pivoted or hinged-together frame-sections comprising end pieces, side pieces provided with longitudinal slots, legs therefor having cross-bars, bails pivotally connected to said cross-bars and outer end pieces of said frame-sections, cross-bars arranged at the upper ends of said legs and engaging said slots in said side pieces, and braces pivotally connected to said upper cross-bars and to said end pieces of said frame-sections immediately adjoining each other, substantially as set forth.

2. The combination of pivoted or hinged-to-

gether frame-sections, comprising end pieces, side pieces provided with longitudinal slots, legs therefor having cross-bars, bails pivotally connected to said frame-sections, cross-bars arranged at the upper ends of said legs and engaging said slots in said side pieces, angle-brackets secured to said frame-sections, and braces pivotally connected to said upper cross-bars and to the brackets of the immediately-adjoining frame-sections, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN P. GAERTNER.

Witnesses:
GUY R. WILBUR,
FRANK A. BERRY.