(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

# F. W. BARRETT.

## ELECTION BOOTH.

No. 488,747. Patented Dec. 27, 1892.

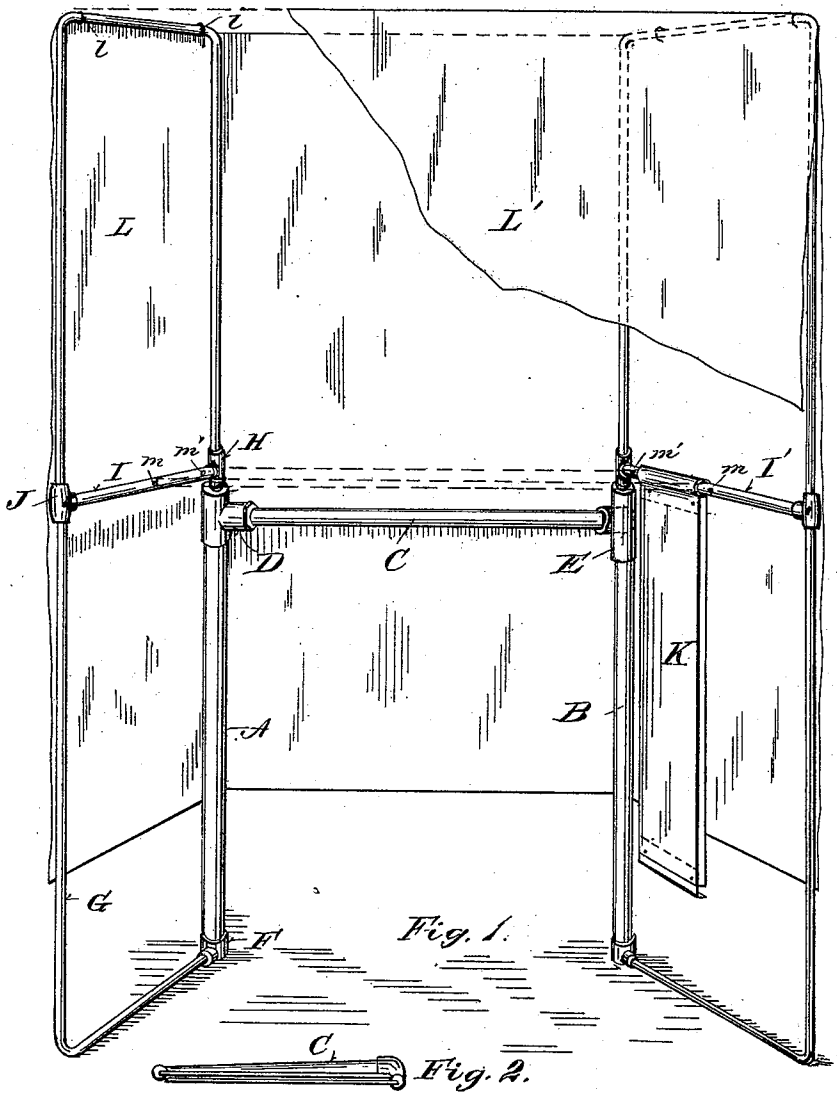


Fig. 1.




Fig. 2.

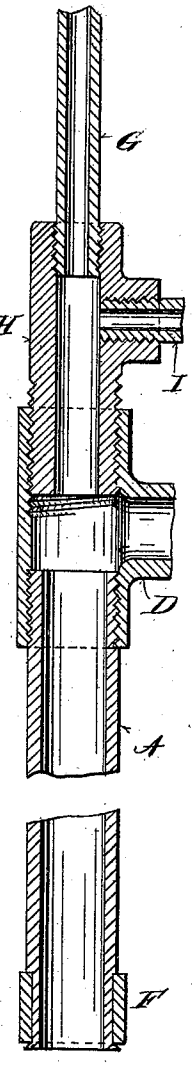


Fig. 3.

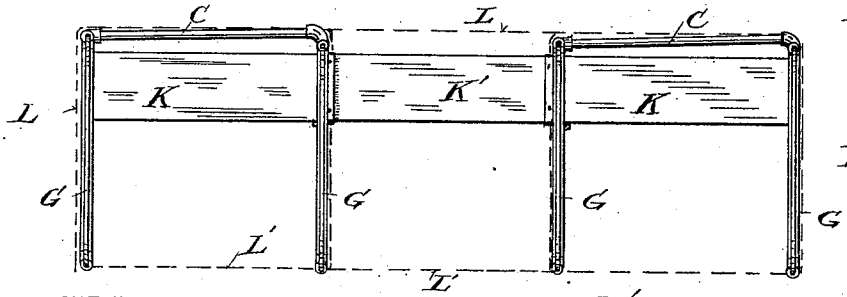


Fig. 4.

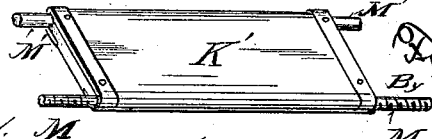


Fig. 5.

WITNESSES

H. M. Plaisted.

J. C. Dawley.

INVENTOR

Frederick W. Barrett,

By R. A. Toulmin,

Its Attorney.

(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

# F. W. BARRETT.

## ELECTION BOOTH.

No. 488,747. Patented Dec. 27, 1892.

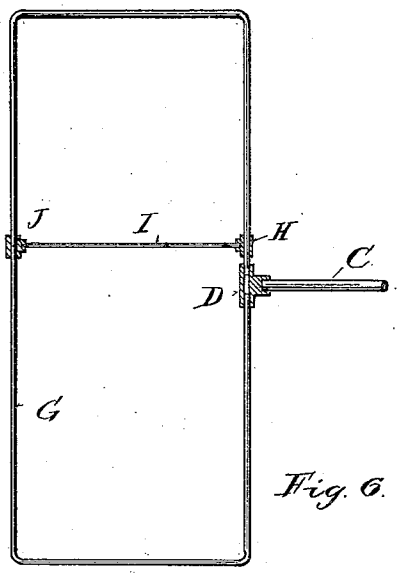


Fig. 6.

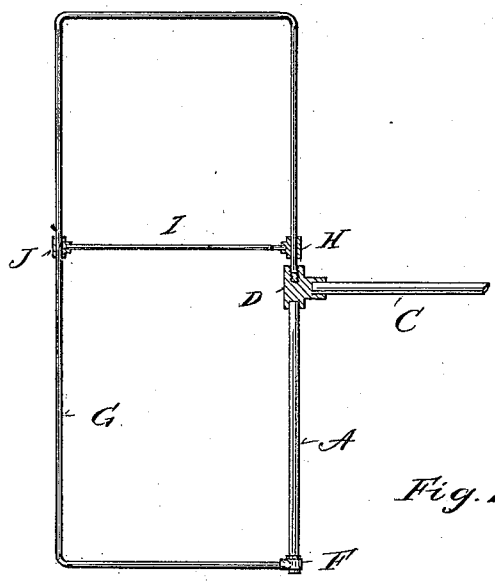


Fig. 7.

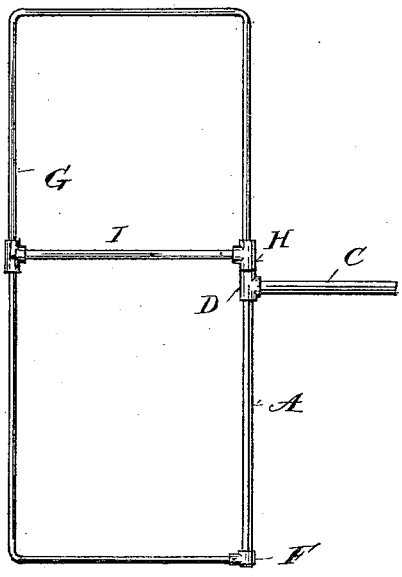


Fig. 8.

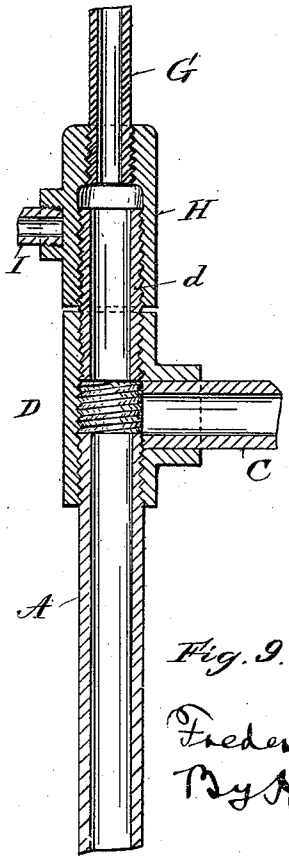


Fig. 9.

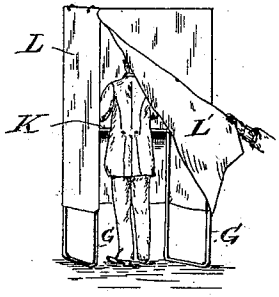


Fig. 10.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FREDERICK W. BARRETT, OF SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

## ELECTION-BOOTH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 488,747, dated December 27, 1892.

Application filed August 31, 1891. Renewed November 1, 1892. Serial No. 450,607. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FREDERICK W. BARRETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Springfield, in the county of Clark and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Election-Booths, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in election booths and the object of my improvements is to provide a simple and convenient inclosed compartment adapted to be folded into compact space for portability, and to allow of readily combining two or more booths, in their unfolded condition to form three or more compartments, the details of construction of which will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings on which like reference letters indicate corresponding parts: Figure 1, represents a perspective view of the inside of one booth, the shelf being dropped from its horizontal position to show the frame work, and a portion of the curtain removed; Fig. 2, a top view of the frame work folded; Fig. 3, an enlarged detail view of a portion of the frame work showing the joints; Fig. 4, a plan view of two booths combined to form three; and Fig. 5, a perspective view of the auxiliary shelf for the intermediate compartment, Figs. 6, 7, 8 and 9 modifications of the framework and swinging joint; and Fig. 10 illustrating the use of one booth.

The letter A designates a corner post connected to its adjacent post B, by a cross piece C, screw-threaded into couplings D and E, carried by said posts A, and B, respectively. The bottom of each post is shouldered as shown in Fig. 3, and encircled by a collar F, adapted to rotate thereon and having the lower end of a rectangular frame G, screw-threaded thereinto, the other end being threaded into a coupling H, which is loosely threaded into the said coupling D, so as to readily turn therein, the post A or B, forming the remainder of the rectangle constituting one side of the booth. A cross rod I, is also engaged with said coupling H, and to a coupling J, on the opposite side of the rectangle thereto, the said cross rod I being at a suitable height to form a support, together with its matching cross bar I′, for a shelf K, pivotally mounted on one of said supports and adapted to be hooked over the opposite supporting bar when the booth is opened, and thus rigidly secure the same by bracing it in its open position. As before mentioned, the portion of the frame work G, is rotatably connected at F, and H, with the post A, and the other side similarly connected to the post B, whereby the sides may rotate about the axes of the posts A, and B, respectively, and allow of being folded against the back cross rod C, in a compact condition as shown in Fig. 2. The coupling E has an offset connection with the cross rod C to allow of thus folding the sides closely to each other. The frame work thus forms a rectangular compartment when hung with a suitable curtain L, supported by hooks *l*, or otherwise, therefrom; the front curtain L′, may be readily pushed aside in entering or leaving the booth, and the shelf K, affords a convenient table for the alteration or scratching of the ticket before voting, without being exposed to view while so doing, as illustrated in Fig. 10. Thus it will be seen that one of such frame works and its inclosing curtain, constitute a private compartment of convenient size for the individual, and may be readily set up in any suitable place. I will now describe a means of multiplying such compartments without correspondingly increasing the number of booths, whereby two booths may constitute three compartments, three booths five compartments, four booths seven compartments, and so on, the addition of one booth to those already set up forming two compartments additional.

In Fig. 5, is shown an auxiliary shelf K′ having projections or dowels M M′ from a cross piece on said shelf, and adapted to fit in the holes *m m′*, in the supporting bars I, I′ on either side of the shelf K. The dowels M are screw threaded, and somewhat longer than their companion dowels, whereby they may extend through said supporting bars and receive holding nuts to secure them tightly in place. A front and back curtain, as indicated by the dotted lines Fig. 4, renders this compartment as private as the adjacent ones, the sides of which serve also as the sides for this intermediate compartment. The only

additional construction therefore, is the auxiliary shelf K′, and the front and back curtains, so that three compartments are formed with but little more labor and expense, than is necessary for two booths. Again it will readily be seen, that by setting up a third booth and connecting it to the other two by an auxiliary shelf as previously described, or otherwise two intermediate compartments together with the three formed by the booths themselves, will constitute five compartments, with but little more labor and expense than was necessary for three booths. The practical advantage of this construction, whereby cheapness, simplicity, portability and convenience are effected, is evident. Also it will be observed that the rotatability of the sides is secured by a unique connection with the corner posts A, and B, whereby a hinge is formed which gives the required stiffness to the frame work without danger of wearing out or getting loose in the joints. The slight rotation of each side, not necessarily exceeding a quadrant of ninety degrees, will not produce any appreciable change of height of the sides at their inner corners. Thus it will be observed that a light yet rigid frame work is constructed, which may be transported in its folded condition, readily opened and set up in any suitable place in any required numbers, and the number of compartments formed will in each case be twice the number but one, of the booths set up.

While I have described the above means thus minutely I do not wish to limit myself to the exact form and construction illustrated, but may vary therefrom, without departing from the principles hereinbefore set forth and exemplified in the drawings. For this reason I have illustrated in Figs. 6 to 9 inclusive, modifications of the side frames and swinging connection with the back cross-bar C. Fig. 6 shows the frame work G formed in one piece as a parallelogram, at one side of which is an interval where the two ends approximate each other. Within this interval, and engaging with the said ends, is the socket coupling D, into which said ends are fitted by sliding, screw threaded, or other form of pivotal engagement, whereby the side frame is connected with the back, and, by the rigid bar C, to the opposite side frame, pivotally mounted in a similar coupling to that at D. Fig. 7, shows the back and one corner post A rigidly secured thereto by the form of coupling which receives one end only of the frame G in pivotal engagement, the other end being pivoted on the end of the post A by the coupling collar F, as before described. Yet another form is shown in Figs. 8 and 9, in which a slip coupling is constituted by the screw-threaded piece *d*, fitting into the coupling D, and the coupling H, the said piece *d*, turning loosely in one coupling or the other to constitute the pivotal connection, the couplings being slightly separated as shown in Fig. 9, to allow of the slight axial movement in turning the threaded piece. A neater appearance is thereby presented when the couplings D and H, are of the same size. The coupling J, may be simply passed over the pipe, or other material, forming the frame G and secured thereto with the pin or otherwise. The curtain, or other screen surrounding the frame work need not extend to the ground, and will thus allow by observation, of ascertaining if the booth is occupied or not. Fig. 10, illustrates one booth in use by the occupant.

Other forms of connecting two adjacent booths to constitute an intermediate booth may be used, and I wish to be understood as laying claim broadly to this feature of my device; also to the swinging connection between the sides and back, whether the rigid portion be constituted by the corner posts A and B, the cross bar C, and suitable couplings, or by the cross bar C simply, with its connecting couplings with the side frames, or otherwise. The curtains adjacent to the ends of the shelf K are punctured to allow the dowels M and M′ to pass to the holes *m* and *m′*.

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

1. In an election booth, the combination with side frames substantially parallelogrammatic, each frame having an interval in one side thereof, coupling pieces pivotally mounted in said intervals and a cross piece rigidly connecting said couplings to constitute the back of a rectangular structure, a shelf adapted to engage with said side frames and maintain them in their open rectangular position, of an auxiliary shelf adapted to be interposed between, and connect the adjacent sides of, two booths, said booths thus detachably connected forming an intermediate booth with said auxiliary shelf, and inclosing curtains for said frame-work to screen the occupants of said booths from observation, and constitute private compartments.

2. In an election booth, the combination with a frame-work consisting of corner posts rigidly connected together, and side frames rotatably secured to, and approximately twice the height of, said corner posts, which posts constitute the remainder of the rectangular sides, of a shelf pivoted to one side frame and adapted to engage with the other side frame to brace them in their unfolded position, and inclosing curtains for said frame work to constitute a private compartment.

3. In an election booth, the combination with a cornerpost of a side frame having a loosely mounted screw threaded connection with one end of said post, and hinged at the other end thereof whereby said frame may be rotated about the axis of said corner post and a rigidly pivoted joint be provided for said frame.

4. The combination of a plurality of election booths, of auxiliary shelves having dowels and screwthreaded projections from the end thereof, adapted to enter and be secured

in matching openings in two adjacent booths substantially as shown and described.

5. In election booths, the combination with an auxiliary shelf adapted to connect two adjacent booths to form an intermediate compartment, of a cross piece at each end of said shelf provided with projections adapted to enter matching openings in the adjacent booth, and be secured thereto to support said shelf and prevent separation of said booths.

6. In an election booth the combination with side frames substantially parallelograms, each frame having an interval in one side thereof, of coupling pieces pivotally mounted in said intervals, and a cross piece rigidly connecting said couplings to constitute the back of a rectangular structure, the side frames forming the sides thereof when opened.

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

FREDERICK W. BARRETT.

Witnesses:

OLIVER H. MILLER,

JOHN E. FENWICK.