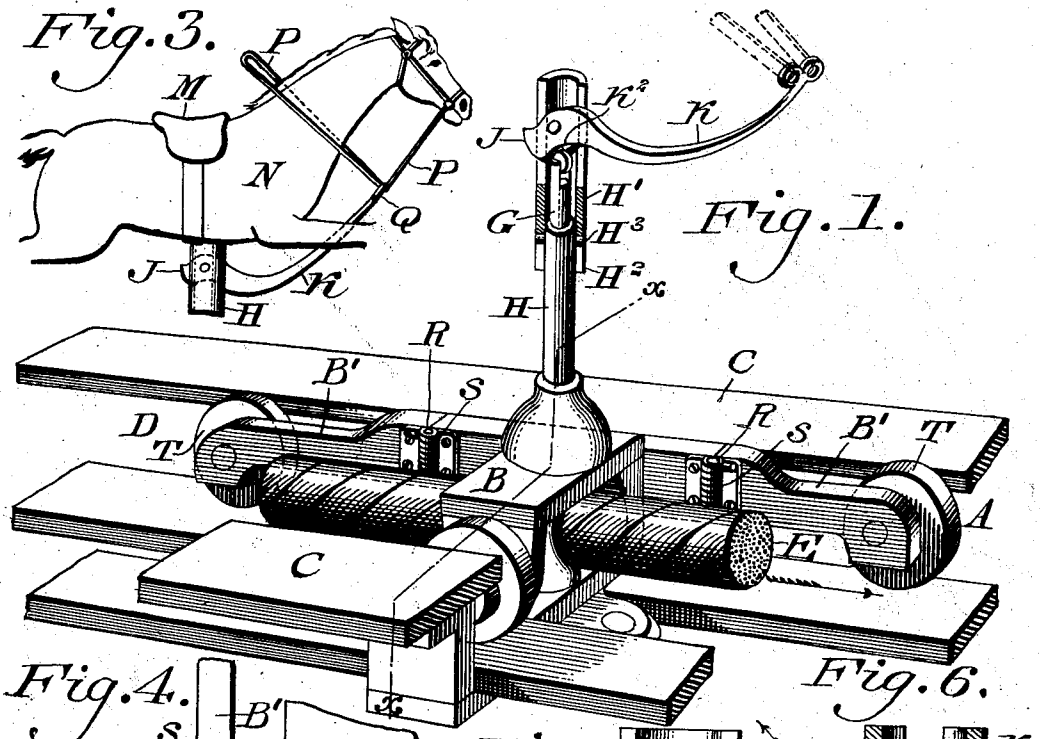
No. 737,190. PATENTED AUG. 25, 1903.

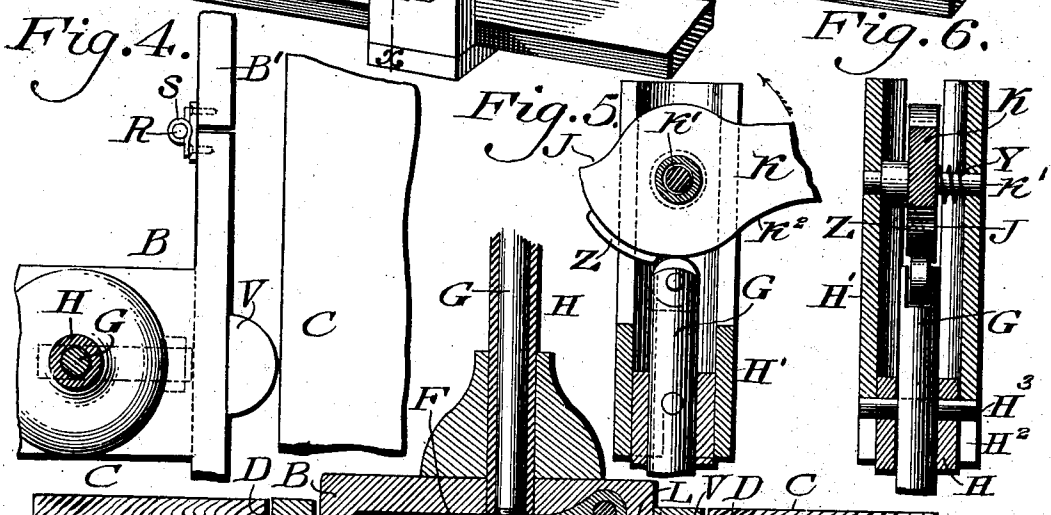
W. A. WRIGHT.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 20, 1902.

NO MODEL.





Witnesses

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No. 737,190. Patented August 25, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. WRIGHT, OF MASONVILLE, NEW JERSEY, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO JOHN R. McFETRIDGE, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA; ELIZABETH McFETRIDGE, SAMUEL L. McFETRIDGE, AND HORACE W. McFETRIDGE EXECUTORS OF SAID JOHN R. McFETRIDGE, DECEASED.

AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 737,190, dated August 25, 1903.

Application filed November 20, 1902. Serial No. 132,105. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. WRIGHT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Masonville, in the county of Burlington, State of New Jersey, have invented new and useful Improvements in Amusement Devices, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists of an amusement device embodying a base containing a traveling cable and a carriage mounted on said base and provided with means for gripping said carriage with said cable, said means being under the control of a rider on the carriage, as will be hereinafter set forth, the novel features being pointed out in the claims.

It also consists in forming the carriage of jointed parts, so that it will yield in running around curves.

It also consists of details of construction, as will be hereinafter described and the novel features thereof pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 represents a perspective view, partially in vertical section, of an amusement device embodying my invention. Fig. 2 represents a vertical section on line x x, Fig. 1. Fig. 3 represents a view of a portion of the device removed from the top of the parts shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 represents a plan view, partly in horizontal section, of a detached portion. Figs. 5 and 6 represent vertical sections, at a right angle to each other, of detached portions of the device on an enlarged scale.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the figures.

Referring to the drawings, A designates a base on which is mounted the carrier or carriage B, the floor C proper of said base having a slot or passage D therein to permit said carriage to traverse the same. Within the base is the traveling cable E, to which power is communicated in any suitable manner.

F designates a grip which is connected with the carriage B and adapted to move to and from the cable E, it being seen that when said grip is engaged with said cable the motion of the latter is communicated to said carriage, and when said grip is disengaged from said cable the carriage is deprived of motion, and so remains at rest. In order to operate the grip toward the cable, I employ the plunger or rod G, which is guided in the tube or tubular column H, the latter rising from the carriage B and having its upper end adapted to be engaged by the cam or eccentric head J of the lever K, whose axis is on said tube H. In order to remove the grip from the cable, I employ the spring L, which is connected with a suitable portion of the carriage B and bears against said cable, in the present case in upward direction, the effect of which is evident.

M designates a seat, which in the present case is placed as a saddle on the figure N of a horse, (or other animal or object,) said figure being secured to the tube H and provided with straps P, as reins, which are passed through loops Q, as martingales, on the lever K.

It will now be seen that when the rider mounts the figure N he operates the lever K, in the present case by drawing the straps P, whereby the head J depresses the plunger G and couples the carriage with the cable, so that the carriage is carried around the course through the slot D, and thus the riding is effected. When the lever is let go, the plunger is no longer controlled by the same, but subjected to the action of the spring-pressed grip F, whereby said plunger and lever return to their normal positions and the carriage ceases its motion, when the rider may dismount. If desired, the feet of the rider may be applied to the lever K in order to raise the same as a means of operating the grip in lieu of the straps P.

In order to cause the carriage to run with ease through the passage D should there be any irregularity therein or should the course be circular, the side pieces of the frame of the carriage are formed in sections which are hinged together, as at R, and springs S are applied to the hinges, so that the front and rear sections B′ will readily yield in lateral direction while remaining guided in said passage D, it being noticed that the rollers or

pilot-wheels T of the carriage are mounted on the yielding sections B′, and they run on the bottom A′ of the base A. On the carriage opposite to the wheels T is a roller or wheel U, thus steadying the carriage on its opposite sides. In order to prevent the carriage from bodily contacting with the walls of the passage D, there is secured to the side of the frame thereof the foot V, which projects laterally therefrom and is adapted to form a small contacting-point for the carriage with the wall of the passage.

In order to ease the motion of the cable E, there is secured to the bottom A′ the vertically-arranged roller W, whose side is grooved so that said cable in its swaying motion may ride against said roller, the effect of which is evident. In order to prevent improper dropping or sagging of the cable, there is secured to the body or frame of the carriage the curved or deflected guard X, which extends under said cable to limit the descent of the same without interfering with the motions thereof.

The lever K has a lateral sliding motion on the shaft K′, which supports it. Interposed between the head of said lever and the inner wall of the tube or column H is the spring Y, whose tendency is to restore said lever to its operative position for engagement with the head of the plunger or rod G. On the periphery of the head J is an obliquely-extending rib Z, as most apparent in Figs. 5 and 6.

On the under side of the lever, adjacent to the head J, is a recess K^2, it being seen that should the lever K be raised to an excessive extent and the head K depressed in accordance therewith the rib Z bears against the roller at the top of the rod or plunger G and causes the lever to move laterally on the shaft K′, while at the same time causing the depression of the rod or plunger G. As the excessive operation of the lever continues and said lever continues to move laterally, in the present case to the right, the upper end of the rod or plunger G is tripped, and so cleared of the action of the head J. This permits the head of the plunger G to ascend to the extent of the returning motion of the grip F. Consequently it relieves the cable E of the injurious pressure of said grip. Then the lever is let go or relieved, whereby it drops and brings the recess K^2 to a position just above the roller or top of the rod or plunger G, whereby as the lever is subjected to the lateral pressure of the spring Y said lever returns to its normal position, locating the proper portion of the head J over the rod or plunger G, whereby when the lever is again operated by the rider its head will properly depress the rod or plunger and cause the operation of the grip in the manner similar to that hereinbefore described.

In order to remove the figure N and substitute therefor that of any other object or shape, the upper portion of the tube or column H is made sectional, as at H′, and the lower portion of the section has a vertically-extending slot H^2 therein, which is adapted to fit over the pin H^3, whose ends project from the upper portion of the tube proper, H, thus coupling the sections as one, but permitting the removal of the upper section from the top figure, as plainly shown in Figs. 1 and 6.

The shafts of the rollers U have heads or flanges U′ on the exterior thereof, the same extending in vertical direction aside of the the said rollers or wheels U and adapted for freely engaging the under side of the floor C, so as to prevent the carriage B from improperly rising or jumping upwardly from the tracks on which said rollers run on the base A during the operation of the device.

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

1. In an amusement device of the character stated, a carriage, a seat thereon, a traction-cable, a grip on said carriage adapted to engage said cable, a plunger on said carriage, adapted to operate said grip, a guide on the carriage for said plunger and a lever mounted on a suitable member adapted to engage said plunger.

2. In an amusement device of the character stated, a carriage, a gripping device thereon, a base, a traction-cable in said base, a seat on said carriage, a plunger adapted to engage said gripping device, a guide for said plunger, a lever mounted on a suitable member adapted to engage said plunger, a martingale connected with the support of said seat with said lever, and a rein extending from said lever toward said seat.

3. In an amusement device of the character stated, a carriage, a gripping device thereon, a traction-cable, a movable piece on said carriage adapted to advance said grip to couple said carriage therewith, means on the carriage adapted to engage said grip and release it from said cable, and a guard connected with the carriage and deflected freely under said cable.

4. In an amusement device of the character stated, a carriage, a traction-cable, and a base in which said cable is operative and on which said carriage is run, said base having a passage through which said carriage traverses, said carriage having its frame formed with sides which yield laterally.

5. In an amusement device of the character stated, a cable, a grip therefor, a plunger adapted to operate said grip, and a lever adapted to operate said plunger, said lever being adapted to be shifted when subjected to excessive draft and thus be removed from its path of action on said plunger.

6. In an amusement device of the character stated, a cable, a grip therefor, a plunger adapted to operate said grip, a lever adapted to operate said plunger, a shaft on which said lever is mounted, a rib on the head of

said lever, and a spring adapted to press against the side of said head, said lever being adapted to be shifted in lateral direction.

7. In an amusement device of the character stated, a carriage, a seating device for a rider, a support for said device, a cable, a grip for the latter, a plunger adapted to engage said grip, and a lever adapted to operate said plunger, said support receiving said plunger and being formed in sections which are detachably connected and provided with means for interlocking the same.

8. In an amusement device of the character stated, a floor, a slot therein, a carriage and a seating on said carriage, said carriage being provided with a wheel and axle and a vertically-arranged flange on said axle, said flange being adapted to engage the under side of said floor on improper rising of said carriage.

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