Dec. 29, 1931. C. A. BUFFINGTON 1,838,212

FOLDING CHAIR AND FOLDING ARMCHAIR

Filed March 4, 1924 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

Fig. 1.

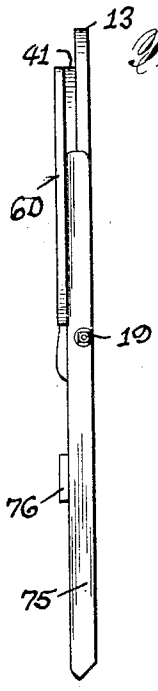


Fig. 2.

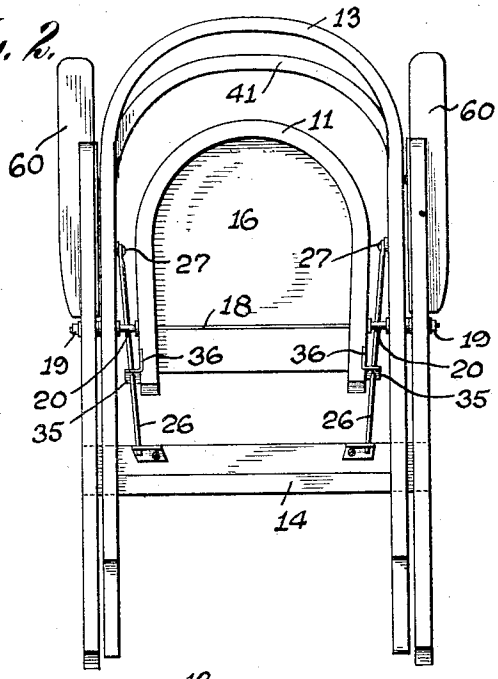
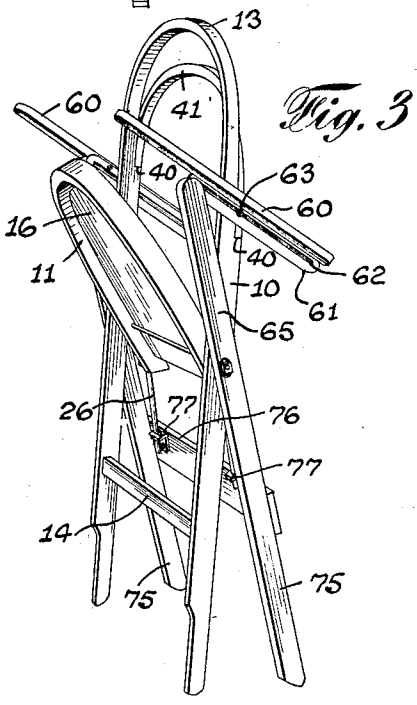


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4.

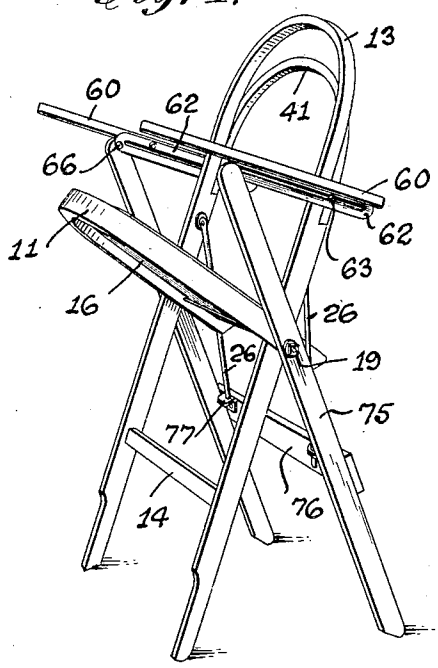


Fig. 5.

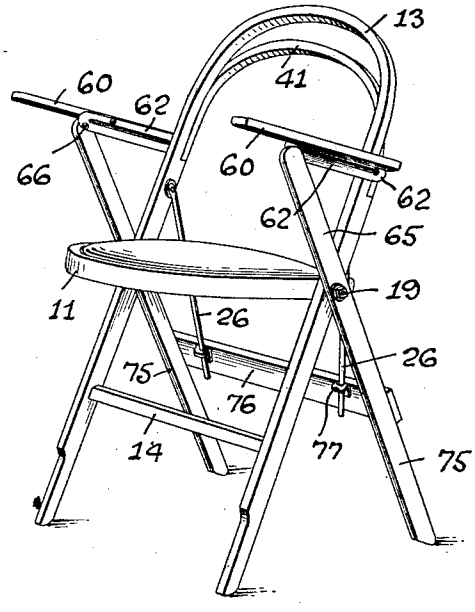
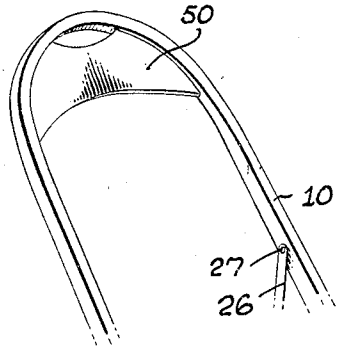


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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FOLDING CHAIR AND FOLDING ARMCHAIR

Application filed March 4, 1924. Serial No. 696,732.

This invention relates to chairs. More specifically it relates to folding chairs, i. e., chairs adapted to be operated from an extended position, in which they are adapted to support an occupant, to a folded or collapsed position, in which they occupy a comparatively small space, and vice versa.

One of the objects of the invention is to provide a novel folding chair.

Another object is to provide a novel folding arm-chair.

Further objects are to provide chairs of the above mentioned types which are comparatively simple in construction, easy to operate, strong, durable, and which may be stored in a small space when folded. Further objects and advantages will appear as the invention is hereinafter disclosed.

Referring to the drawings which illustrate what I now consider preferred forms of the present invention:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of the chair in folded or collapsed position.

Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the chair in folded position.

Figs. 3 and 4 are perspective views of the chair in different partially opened positions.

Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the chair in extended or open position.

Fig. 6 is a fragmentary, detail, perspective view illustrating a modified form of back-rest.

While the invention may assume other forms—notably that illustrated in my co-pending application entitled "Folding rocking and arm chairs"—within the scope of certain of the appended claims, I have restricted the present drawings to a single chair in order to avoid surplusage in disclosure. Referring to the drawings it will be seen that the chair there illustrated comprises a main frame 10, a seat frame 11, and members 26, adapted to extend rearwardly of the main frame. The main frame 10 is preferably constructed of a single straight strip of oak, mahogany, or other suitable wood, bent by any well known method, such as steaming, to form a U-shaped member of which the U-bend 13 constitutes a back-rest, or one of the members of a back-rest, for a person sitting upon the chair. The lower extremities or legs of the U-shaped main frame are adapted to form two of the legs of the chair. To impart rigidity to the main frame 10, the latter may be provided with a cross brace 14 suitably connected, as by means of mortise and tenon joints, at its opposite ends to the legs of the main frame. The brace 14 may also be employed as a foot rest by a person seated behind the chair. It will be understood of course that, if the main frame is constructed of bent-wood as described, the grain of the wood will run generally in the shape of the U, i. e. the grain will extend longitudinally of the bend 13 as well as longitudinally of the legs of the U.

The seat frame 11 is also preferably constructed of a single straight strip of suitable wood bent to form a U-shaped member. As described in my said copending application, the inside of the U-shaped seat frame is provided with a groove adapted to receive the edge of a flat member or board 16 which is preferably padded or upholstered, as indicated at 17. The seat frame 11 is pivoted within the main frame 10 so as to be movable from the occupant-supporting position (Fig. 5) to the folded position (Figs. 1 and 2). This pivotal connection is effected by means of a metallic rod 18 which passes through the sides of the main frame 10 and through the sides of the seat frame 11. The portions of the opposite ends of the rod 18 which project beyond the sides of the main frame are screw-threaded to receive nuts 19, and the outer ends of the rod may be upset to lock the nuts. It will be noted that the rod 18 forms an additional brace for the main frame. The seat frame 11 is oscillated on the rod 18, and sleeves 20 and suitable washers serve to centralize the seat frame with respect to the main frame to afford clearance between the sides of the seat frame and of the main frame for a purpose which will hereinafter appear.

Each of the two members 26, 26, is pivoted at its upper end, by rivets 27 or other suitable means, to and on the inside of a corresponding one of the two side members of the main frame 10. Each of the members 26, 26 is movable from extended position (Fig. 5) to a

folded position between the adjacent sides of the seat and main frames (Figs. 1 and 2). The members 26, 26, are preferably constructed of round metallic stock suitably flattened adjacent the pivots.

Means are provided whereby when the seat is moved from extended to folded position, or vice versa, the members 26, 26, are correspondingly and automatically moved. This "means" also acts to limit the downward movement of the seat and the outward movement of the members 26, 26, when the chair is opened. A preferred form of such means comprises loops 35 each provided with a right angled portion 36 rigidly secured, as by means of screws, nails, or rivets, to a corresponding one of the side members of the seat frame 11 on the outside thereof. These loop members are preferably constructed of steel or other suitable material and each of the members 26, 26, extends through the somewhat elliptical eye of a corresponding one of said loops. The design is such that when the parts are in extended position, the engagement of the loops with the members 26, 26, limits the downward movement of the seat to the position shown in Fig. 5 and also limits the outward movement of the members 26, 26, to the position there shown. By virtue of these above described loops, when the seat is moved from the position shown in Fig. 5 to that shown in Figs. 1 and 2, or vice versa, the members 26, 26, will be automatically and correspondingly moved to one or the other of the positions illustrated in said figures. It will be noted that each loop 35 comprises a laterally projecting pair of elements fixed to a corresponding side of the seat frame and between which a corresponding one of the members 26, 26, extends.

The main frame 10 is shown reduced at its upper portion to form shoulders 40, 40 (Fig. 5) in which the legs of an auxiliary arch, seat. The auxiliary arch is preferably constructed of bent-wood, i. e. a straight strip of wood bent to the form shown, and may be glued, screwed, or otherwise secured to the main frame 10. It will be noted that the arch 41 lies below and rearwardly of the arch 13 so as to form in conjunction therewith a comfortable back-rest for an occupant of the chair. If desirable, the back-rest may be formed in other ways. For example, instead of reducing the upper portion of the main frame and providing the auxiliary arch 41, the inner sides of the upper portions of the side members of the frame 10 may be slotted or grooved to receive the opposite ends of a back-supporting board 50 (see Fig. 6) suitably curved to fit the back of an occupant of the chair.

The rear legs 75, 75, of the chair are mounted on the rod 18, between the outside of the main frame and the nuts 19, to pivot or oscillate about the axis of the rod, suitable spacing washers being provided. A cross-brace 76 is secured to the rear legs to impart rigidity to the chair and to serve in another capacity as will now appear. The brace 76 has secured thereto a pair of metallic angle members 77, each provided with an eye or opening through which a corresponding one of the members 26, 26, extends.

The operation of the chair, thus far described, is substantially as follows. Assuming that the chair is folded or collapsed (see Figs. 1 and 2) and it is desired to open it, the seat is moved outwardly and downwardly of the main frame. The members 26, 26 are thereby moved rearwardly of the main frame and cause the rear legs 75, 75 to move rearwardly. Successive positions occupied by the parts in the opening movement of the chair are illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4. The final position of the parts is illustrated in Fig. 5, in which the chair is shown extended and adapted to seat an occupant. The engagement of the loops 35 with the members 26, 26 limits the downward movement of the seat and also limits the rearward movement of the members 26, 26, and locks the latter. The movement of the rear legs 75, 75, is limited by the members 26, 26, so that the chair is rigid and firm when in extended position. Obviously, by moving the seat back into the main frame 10, the parts are all restored to the folded position shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

While the chair may be constructed without arm-rests, in which case the rear legs 75, 75 may terminate slightly above the rod 18, it is adapted to embody arm-rests and means whereby the latter are operated from collapsed to extended position, and vice versa, by movement of the seat. One form of such means is illustrated in the drawings and may be constructed substantially as follows.

Each of the arm-rests 60, 60, preferably constructed of wood (as are also the rear legs 75, 75 and cross-brace 76), has attached thereto a corresponding one of two metallic plates 61, 61. Each of the plates 61, 61, is slotted as indicated at 62 to receive a corresponding one of pivot pins 63, 63, secured to and projecting laterally from the opposite sides of the main frame 10. The pivot pins 63, 63, are preferably provided with enlarged heads to prevent the plates 61, 61, from becoming inadvertently disengaged therefrom. The rear legs 75, 75, are shown provided with lever arms 65, 65. It will be noted that sufficient clearance is provided so that each plate 61 may enter between an adjacent lever 65 and the main frame, when the parts are folded. Each of the levers 65, 65, is pivotally connected at 66 to a corresponding one of the plates 61, 61.

The operation of the complete arm chair may now be summarized as follows. When folded, the parts occupy the position illus-

trated in Figs. 1 and 2. To open the chair the operator simply moves the seat downward and forwardly with respect to the main frame. This movement of the seat moves the rods 26, 26, outwardly and rearwardly with respect to the main frame, by virtue of the loops or eye members 35. This movement of the rods 26, 26, moves the rear legs 75, 75 rearwardly and the lever arm 65, 65 forwardly of the main frame, by virtue of the brackets 77, 77. The forward movement of the lever arms 65, 65 swings the arm-rests 60, 60, forwardly and downwardly about the pivots 63, 63. Various successive positions in the opening movement of the chair are illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, and the final or fully open or extended position of the chair is illustrated in Fig. 5. It will be noted that all of the above described movement of parts is accomplished simply by moving the seat with repect to the main frame from the folded position (Figs. 1 and 2) to the extended position (Fig. 5). To fold the chair, the seat is simply swung back into the main frame and all of the parts are thereby restored to the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

With the exception that the lower portion of the bail-shaped rear leg structure is omitted, the chair disclosed in Figs. 1 to 5 of the present application embodies all of the features of construction and operation disclosed in my copending application Serial No. 603,452, particularly Figs. 1 to 8 thereof. The last mentioned application contains generic claims which cover the chair herein disclosed. It should be noted further that the present application contains generic claims which cover the form of chair disclosed in my copending application entitled "Folding rocking and arm chairs" in addition to the chair herein illustrated.

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, I have herein described the principle of operation of my invention, together with the apparatus which I now consider to represent the best embodiments thereof, but I desire to have it understood that the apparatus disclosed is only illustrative and that the invention can be carried out by other means. Also, while it is designed to use the various features and elements in the combinations and relations described, some of these may be altered and others omitted and some of the features of each modification may be embodied in the others without interfering with the more general results outlined, and the invention extends to such use.

What I claim is:

1. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having side members; substantially straight arm rests pivotally and slidably connected to said side members; a pair of substantially straight levers each pivotally connected to a corresponding one of said side members and to a corresponding one of said arm rests, and a seat pivoted on said main frame for relative movement with respect to said levers about the same pivotal axis as said levers.

2. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame whose lower portions constitute legs; rear legs pivotally connected to said main frame; a seat connected to said main frame for pivotal movement about the same axis as said rear legs from occupant-supporting position, into said main frame; said seat being relatively movable with respect to said rear legs; arm rests connected to said main frame; means connecting said seat and said rear legs and means connecting said rear legs and arm rests, whereby movement of said seat from extended to collapsed position, and vice versa, is accompanied by corresponding movement of said arm rests and said last mentioned legs.

3. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; a seat pivoted within said main frame; rear legs connected to said side members for pivotal movement about the pivotal axis of said seat; said seat and rear legs being relatively movable with respect to each other; arm rests movably connected to said side members; means connecting said seat, and rear legs and means connecting said arm rests and rear legs, whereby movement of said seat from extended to collapsed position, and vice versa, is accompanied by corresponding movement of said arm rests and rear legs.

4. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having a pair of spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; a seat pivoted within said main frame; a plurality of pairs of elements, each pair being rigidly secured to a corresponding one of the sides of said seat; a second pair of members adapted to extend rearwardly, each of said last named members being pivoted within said main frame, each movable between corresponding sides of said seat and main frame, and each extending between the two elements of a corresponding pair of said elements; arm rests pivotally connected to said main frame; and means connecting said second named members and arm rests whereby movement of said members, with respect to said main frame, is accompanied by movement of said arm rests.

5. A folding chair comprising spaced uprights, a seat arranged between and pivotally connected with and spaced from said uprights, the said pivotal connection being at an intermediate point in the length of the seat, loops fixed to and extending laterally from opposite sides of the rear end portion

of the seat, members extending through said loops and pivotally connected to the inner sides of the spaced uprights, arm rests pivotally connected to said uprights, and means connecting said members and arm rests whereby movement of said member is accompanied by movement of said arm rests.

6. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; a seat pivoted within said main frame; a plurality of pairs of elements, each pair being rigidly secured to a corresponding one of the sides of said seat; members adapted to extend rearwardly, each of said last named members being pivoted within said main frame, each movable between corresponding sides of said seat and main frame, and each extending between the two elements of a corresponding pair of said elements, rear legs pivotally connected to said main frame, and means slidably connecting said last named members and rear legs.

7. A folding chair comprising spaced uprights, a seat arranged between and pivotally connected with and spaced from said uprights, the said pivotal connection being at an intermediate point in the length of the seat, loops fixed to and extending laterally from opposite sides of the rear end portion of the seat, members extending through said loops and pivotally connected to the inner sides of the said spaced uprights, rear legs pivotally connected to said uprights, and means slidably connecting said members and rear legs.

8. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs.

9. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs.

10. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; rear legs; a pivot rod extending through said rear legs and side members; a seat mounted upon said pivot rod between said side members; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat, with respect to said main frame, imparts movement to said rear legs.

11. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs; rear legs; a pivot rod extending through said rear legs and side members; a seat mounted upon said pivot rod between said side members; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat, with respect to said main frame, imparts movement to said rear legs.

12. A chair comprising in combination a bent-wood main frame whose shape is that of an inverted U and whose lower ends constitute the front legs of the chair adapted to be spread apart, the inner side of the upper portion of said main frame being provided with grooves, a board forming a back rest and mounted at its opposite ends in said grooves by spreading said legs apart, rear legs, a seat and means connecting said main frame, seat and rear legs whereby said seat and rear legs may be moved toward and from said main frame.

13. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame substantially in the shape of an inverted U and whose lower portions constitute legs, a back-rest extending across said main frame at the upper portion thereof; a substantially U-shaped seat frame; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and means connecting said seat and rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs.

14. A folding chair comprising in combination, a bent-wood U-shaped main frame of which the legs of the U form legs of the chair, a bent-wood U-shaped seat frame, rear legs; means connecting said seat frame and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and means connecting said seat and rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs.

15. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and means connecting said seat and rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs, said last mentioned means comprising a pair of members each pivotally connected to a corresponding one of the side

members of the main frame above the pivotal axis of said seat and rear legs, and each operatively connected to a corresponding side of said seat and to the rear leg structure.

16. A folding chair comprising in combination, spaced uprights whose upper portions constitute back posts and whose lower portions constitute front legs of the chair, a rod which extends between said uprights, a seat pivoted on said rod, rear legs pivoted on said rod, eye members carried by said seat at its rear portion, and a pair of members each pivoted to a corresponding one of said uprights, and each extending through a corresponding one of said eye members, and each operatively connected to said rear legs, whereby movement of said seat from folded to open position causes movement of said rear legs from folded to open position.

17. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs, and back-rest means connecting the upper portions of said side members; a seat pivoted within said main frame; a plurality of pairs of elements, each pair being rigidly secured to a corresponding one of the sides of said seat; members adapted to extend rearwardly, each of said last mentioned members being pivoted within said main frame, each movable between corresponding sides of said seat and main frame, and each extending between the two elements of a corresponding pair of said elements; rear legs pivotally connected to said main frame for movement about the same pivotal axis as said seat; a transverse member connecting said rear legs; and means operatively connecting the lower portion of said second mentioned members and said transverse member whereby movement of said second mentioned members about their pivotal axes with respect to said main frame causes movement of said rear legs about their axis with respect to said main frame.

18. A folding chair including a frame having spaced parallel legs, a transversely disposed supporting rod connecting the legs; folding leg members having pivotal connection at their upper ends on the rod and a transverse member connecting their lower portions; a tilting seat pivoted on the supporting rod, a pair of pendant arms pivoted in the frame at a point therein above the seat and having connections at their lower ends respectively with said transverse member on the folding legs operable to limit outward swinging movement of the folding legs; and means including devices in connection with the rear part of the seat, back of the pivotal support thereof, operable to limit upward movement of the rear end of the seat and to actuate the pendant arms when the seat is tilted.

19. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members, whose lower portions constitute legs; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat with respect to said main frame is accompanied by movement of said rear legs, said slidable connections including a pair of members each independently pivotally connected to a corresponding side of said main frame above the axis of pivotal movement of said seat and rear legs.

20. A folding chair comprising in combination; a main frame having substantially straight side members whose lower portions constitute legs and whose upper portions constitute back posts; back-rest means supported by said back posts; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; and slidable connections between the rear of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat to extended position causes movement of said rear legs toward extended position.

21. A folding chair comprising in combination, a main frame having spaced side members whose lower portions constitute legs; a seat; rear legs; means connecting said seat and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis; the said axis of pivotal movement being intermediate the length of the seat, and connections between the rear portions of said seat and said rear legs whereby movement of said seat from folded position to extended position and vice versa causes movement of said rear legs to extended position and vice versa, respectively.

22. A folding chair which is substantially flat when folded and comprising in combination; a main frame including a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend uppermost and the lower ends of which constitute front legs when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a seat pivotally connected to said main frame; rear leg structure pivotally connected to said main frame; means operatively connected to said seat rearwardly of the pivotal axis of the seat for limiting downward movement of the seat about its pivotal axis; and means operatively connected to said main frame and rear leg structure on opposite sides of the pivot of the rear legs for preventing rearward movement of the rear leg structure beyond a predetermined position.

23. A folding chair which is substantially flat when folded and comprising in combination; a main frame including a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend uppermost and the lower ends of which constitute

front legs when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a seat pivotally connected to said main frame; rear leg structure pivotally connected to said main frame; means operatively connected to said main frame above the pivotal axis of the seat and also to said seat for limiting downward movement of the latter about its pivotal axis, and means operatively connected to said main frame and rear leg structure for preventing rearward movement of the latter beyond a predetermined position.

24. A folding chair which is substantially flat when folded and comprising in combination; a main frame including a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend uppermost and the lower ends of which constitute front legs when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a seat connected to said main frame for pivotal movement with respect to said main frame about a pivotal axis which is fixed with respect to said main frame and seat; operative connections between points of said main frame above said pivotal axis, and said seat for limiting downward movement of said seat about its pivotal axis; rear leg structure connected to said main frame for pivotal movement with respect to said main frame about a pivotal axis which is fixed with respect to said main frame and rear leg structure; and connections between said main frame and rear leg structure for limiting rearward movement of the latter.

25. A folding chair which is substantially flat when folded and comprising in combination; a main frame including a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend uppermost and the lower ends of which constitute front legs when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a seat pivotally connected to said main frame; rear leg structure pivotally connected to said main frame; and means including members pivotally connected to said main frame above the pivotal axis of the seat, and rearward extensions of the sides of the seat, for limiting downward movement of the seat about its pivotal axis; said members which are pivotally connected to said main frame above the pivotal axis of the seat being also slidably engaged with said rear leg structure for limiting rearward movement of the latter with respect to said main frame.

26. A folding chair comprising in combination, a bent-wood U-shaped main frame of which the legs of the U form legs of the chair, a bent-wood U-shaped seat frame, rear legs and operative connections between said seat frame and rear legs whereby said rear legs are movable from extended to folded position and vice versa by movement of said seat frame from extended to folded position and vice versa, means connecting said seat frame and rear legs to said main frame for pivotal movement about a common axis, and members pivotally connected to said main frame above the pivotal axis of the seat frame and slidably connected to the rear legs for limiting rearward movement of the latter away from the main frame.

27. A folding chair which is substantially flat when folded and comprising in combination; a main frame including a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend uppermost and the lower ends of which constitute front legs when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a seat including a frame consisting of a reversely bent strip of wood with its reverse bend foremost when the chair is in occupant-supporting position; a pair of rear legs; a pivot rod extending through the sides of said main frame and seat frame, and through the upper ends of said rear legs; a pair of arms, each pivoted at its upper end to a corresponding side of said main frame above said pivot rod; and operative connections between said seat frame, said rear legs, and said arms, for causing movement of said rear legs from folded position to extended position by movement of said seat from folded to extended position and for limiting the extent of opening movement of said seat frame and rear legs with respect to said main frame.

28. In a folding chair, a pair of braced apart uprights, a pair of braced apart legs pivoted thereto to swing rearwardly therefrom to support the chair, said legs and their bracing means forming rear leg structure of the chair, a seat pivoted intermediate its ends between the legs adapted to fold with the legs within the plane of the uprights, the axis of pivotal movement of the seat with respect to the uprights being the same as the axis of pivotal movement of the rear legs with respect to the uprights, and a brace movable with respect to said seat and rear legs slidably connecting the seat rearwardly of its pivotal connection with the uprights to the rear leg structure below the pivotal connection of the legs with the uprights.

29. A folding chair comprising in combination; a main frame of inverted U-shape having substantially straight side members whose lower portions constitute front feet of the chair and whose upper portions constitute back posts; a substantially U-shaped seat frame having its bend foremost when the chair is in extended position; a pivot rod extending between the sides of said main frame and extending through the sides of said seat frame intermediate the length of said seat frame; a pair of spaced members through which said pivot rod extends and whose lower ends constitute rear feet of the chair; a pair of slotted plates each pivotally connected to a corresponding one of said last mentioned members; a pair of pins each secured to a corresponding one of the side mem-

bers of said main frame and each extending into the slot of a corresponding one of said plates; and sliding connections between the rear portion of said seat and said second mentioned members whereby movement of said seat from folded position to extended position causes movement of said second mentioned members from folded to extended position.

In testimony whereof I hereto affix my signature.

CALVIN A. BUFFINGTON.