J. A. WILKINSON.

OPERA AND LIKE CHAIR.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 5, 1905.

1,010,557.

Patented Dec. 5, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 2.

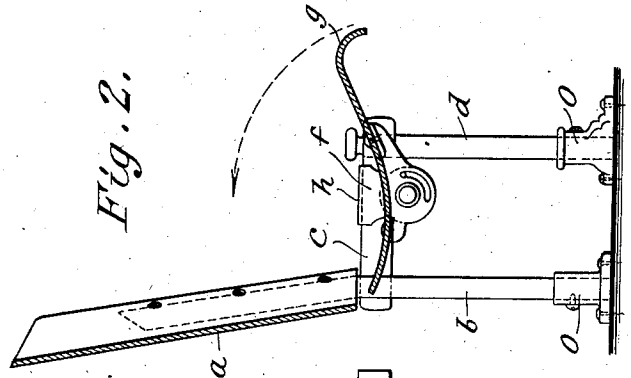
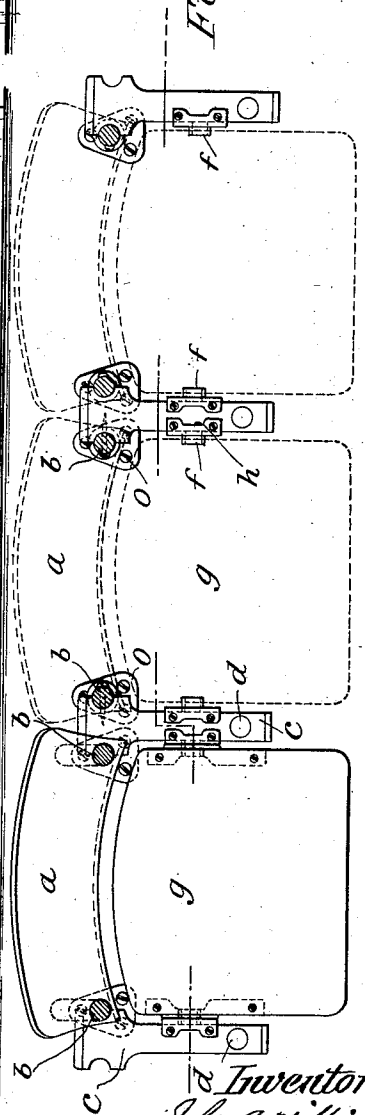


Fig. 3.



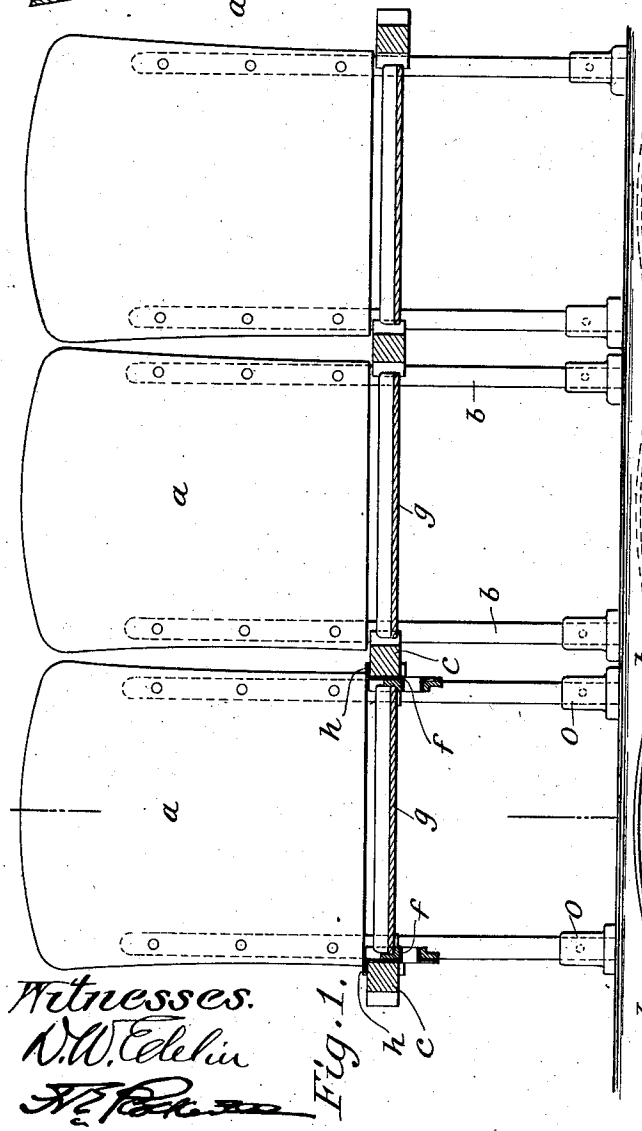


Fig. 1.

Witnesses.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

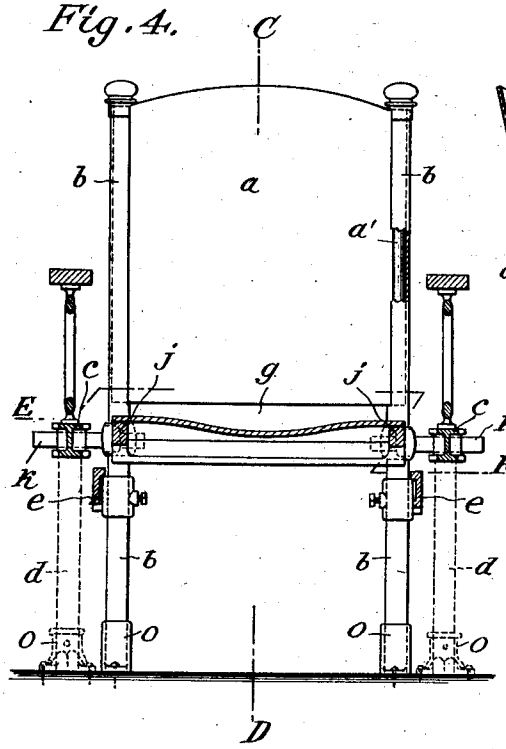
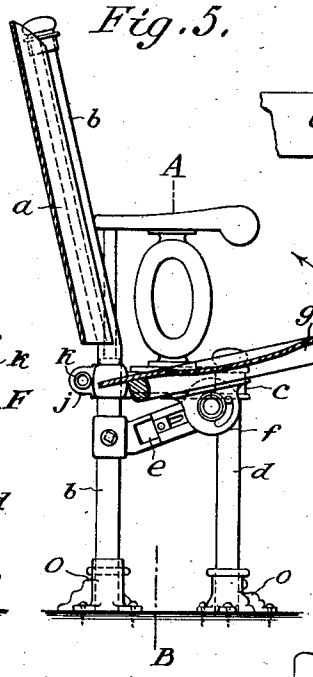


Fig. 5.



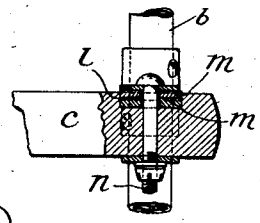
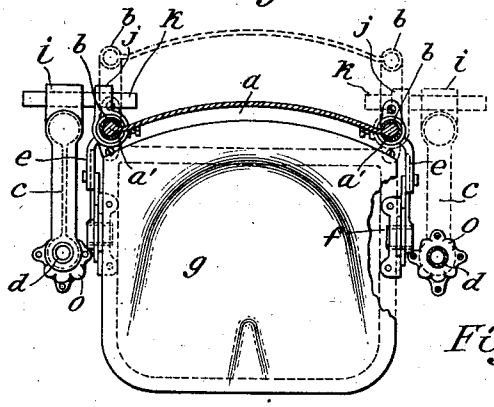


Fig. 11.

Fig. 6.



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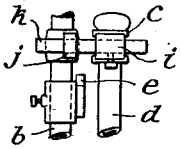


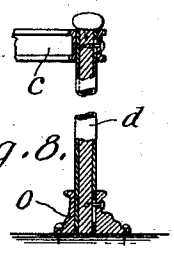
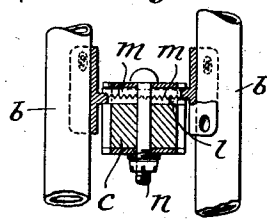


Fig. 8.

Fig. 9.



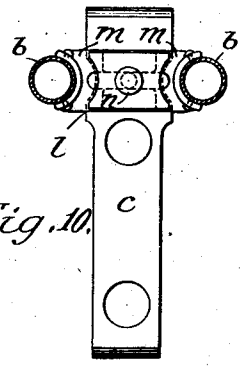


Fig. 10.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. WILKINSON, OF ATCHISON, KANSAS, ASSIGNOR OF THREE-FOURTHS TO JOHN C. PENNIE AND ONE-FOURTH TO ALBERT WANNER, JR., AND EDWIN P. WANNER, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

OPERA AND LIKE CHAIR.

1,010,557. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 5, 1911.

Application filed October 5, 1905. Serial No. 281,561.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. WILKINSON, a citizen of the Dominion of Canada, residing at Atchison, county of Atchison, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Opera and Like Chairs; 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.

This invention relates to chairs for public establishments, such as theaters, concert rooms, schools, churches and the like, said chairs being composed of interchangeable parts and adapted to be set up, whenever necessary, at their place of use.

The chairs are so arranged that they can be alined and secured either in straight rows or in rows of any desired curvature and they can be adjusted to conform to the varying inclinations of the floor surface so that one and the same kind of similar chairs can be put up in any desired place of the room as also for any desired category of seats.

Moreover the said chairs having a strong and durable construction are provided with suitable arrangements for obtaining a secure and nevertheless easily detachable bearing for the folding seat as also for obtaining a practically noiseless opening and closing of the seats.

The chair arranged according to the present invention consists of an independent support for the chair-back intended for each chair-seat and of separate lateral parts which separate the supports from each other; finally of a seat arranged as a folding seat and journaled either in the said lateral parts or in arms connected to the back supports.

The accompanying drawings represent in Figures 1, 2 and 3 three similar chairs connected to form a bench, the latter being shown in longitudinal section, in cross section and in a plan respectively. Figs. 4, 5 and 6 show a modified arrangement of a chair mounted up independently and viz., Fig. 4 shows a vertical section on the line A—B of Fig. 5, Fig. 5 shows a cross section on the line C—D of Fig. 4 and Fig. 6 shows a vertical section on the line E—F of Fig. 4. Figs. 7 to 11 represent different detail parts of the chair.

As can be seen from Figs. 1 to 6 of the drawings the back *a* of each seat constitutes together with its two supports or legs *b* an independent structural part which can be affixed to the floor so as to stand freely and independently from the other parts. Between each two contiguous backs *a*, that is to say between two contiguous supports or legs *b* are arranged the cross pieces or lateral parts *c*, which in front rest upon a leg *d* and in the rear are connected with the contiguous back-supports.

In the arrangements shown in Figs. 1 to 3 the rear ends of the lateral parts *c* which are suitably recessed are secured direct to the contiguous back-supports *b*, so that the distance of the latter from each other is controlled by the width of the said rear ends of the lateral parts *c*. To each lateral part *c* is screwed one section of the hinge *f* provided with a flange or with flanges *h*, for the folding seat *g*. In consequence of this flange connection the facility is afforded in alining the back-supports in various ways either in straight lines or in curved rows, since before securing the flanges *h* of the hinges they can be displaced upon the lateral parts *c* and brought into proper position relatively to the latter. Consequently these lateral parts can be placed either parallel to each other, when the chairs are to be alined in straight rows or at a slight angle to each other if the seats are alined in curved rows, and thereupon they can be connected with the flanges.

In the modified arrangement shown in Figs. 4 to 6 the lateral parts *c* which are independent from the back-supports, also consist of a cross-piece resting upon a leg *d* and if desired are provided with arm rests. The connection of the lateral parts *c* with the back-support *b* is effected by means of bolts or tubular pieces *k* that are inserted through eyes *i* arranged on the rear end of each lateral part *c* and through eyes *j* adjustably affixed to the back-supports *b* so as to be capable of a longitudinal displacement and of a rotary motion. The folding seats can be swung around the hinges *f* fitted to arms *e* which latter are secured to the back-supports *b*. When several such chairs are to be alined so as to form a row, a bolt or section of tube *k* is stuck through the eye *i* of a lateral part *c* which is common to two contiguous seats, the said bolt or section of tube passing through the

eyes *j* of the contiguous back-supports. In this manner the propping of the back-supports is attained also in the case when the distances between the seats are or should be varied, and the chair-back which can be swung around the bolts or tube-sections *k* can receive any desired inclination and in the case of an inclined floor the required position, before the back-supports are secured to the floor. This connection between the lateral parts and the back-supports, which connection is made displaceable in the direction of the width, can also be carried out in another manner. As can be seen from Figs. 9 to 11 each lateral part *c* (see Fig. 1 or 4) is provided with a transverse recess *l* in which a slotted plate *m* can be displaced, the said plate *m* forming at its extremity a curved jaw which fits the back-support *b* and is secured to the same by means of screws. After the plate has been adjusted in its proper position it is fixed to the lateral part by means of a set screw *n*. In case several chairs are alined into a row two displaceable plates *m* are inserted into the transverse recess *l*, one above the other and in such case it is advisable to provide the said plates *m* on their contiguous surfaces with teeth or ribs in order to maintain the jaws in their proper position with relation to the back-supports still before the set screw *n* has been secured.

The legs *d* of the lateral parts as also the back-supports *b* are preferably made of metallic tubes provided with a wood filler and are inserted into socket-shaped feet *o* which can be screwed onto the floor. In order to permit the adjustment of the said legs in a higher or lower position according to requirements the tubes are split to a suitable height so that the wood screws which pass through the feet *o* can be screwed direct into the wood after having passed the slits of the tubes (see Fig. 8). The upper ends of the legs *d* are arranged in a like manner so that the lateral parts *c* can be adjusted on the same in a higher or lower position.

The tubular back-supports *b* can be provided either with permanent or with exchangeable backs *a*. In the latter case the upper parts of the supports have no wood filler and are split on the height of the back and the latter is provided on its two lateral edges with projecting beads *a'* (Fig. 4) corresponding to the interior cross-section of the back-support-tubes and can in this manner be inserted between the two uprights of the back-support, can be easily exchanged and nevertheless securely fastened in the required position.

Since the back-supports and the lateral parts are set up quite independently of each other and are adjustable both in the direction of the height and in lateral direction, the chairs can obviously be set up from their constituent parts at the very place of their use, and the desired distances between the seats as well as the desired alinement of the chairs can be established in a precise manner.

Claims:

1. A chair, having a back provided with two legs said back and legs constituting an independent element of construction, means for securing said legs to the floor, and a side piece having a single leg for securing it to the floor, said side piece being connected to the back pieces of the chair and being adapted for connection to the back pieces of an adjacent chair; substantially as described.

2. A chair, having a back provided with two legs said back and legs constituting an independent element of construction adapted to be secured to the floor, a side piece having a single leg for securing it to the floor, and interfitting bolts and sockets for adjusting the position of the said side piece with respect to the back piece; substantially as described.

3. A chair, having a back provided with two legs said back and legs constituting an independent element of construction adapted to be secured to the floor, a side piece having a single leg for securing it to the floor, and interfitting bolts and sockets for adjusting the position of the said side piece with respect to the back piece, said sockets being rotatable; substantially as described.

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

JOHN A. WILKINSON.

Witnesses:
J. B. CHAPMAN,
D. E. FARNSWORTH.