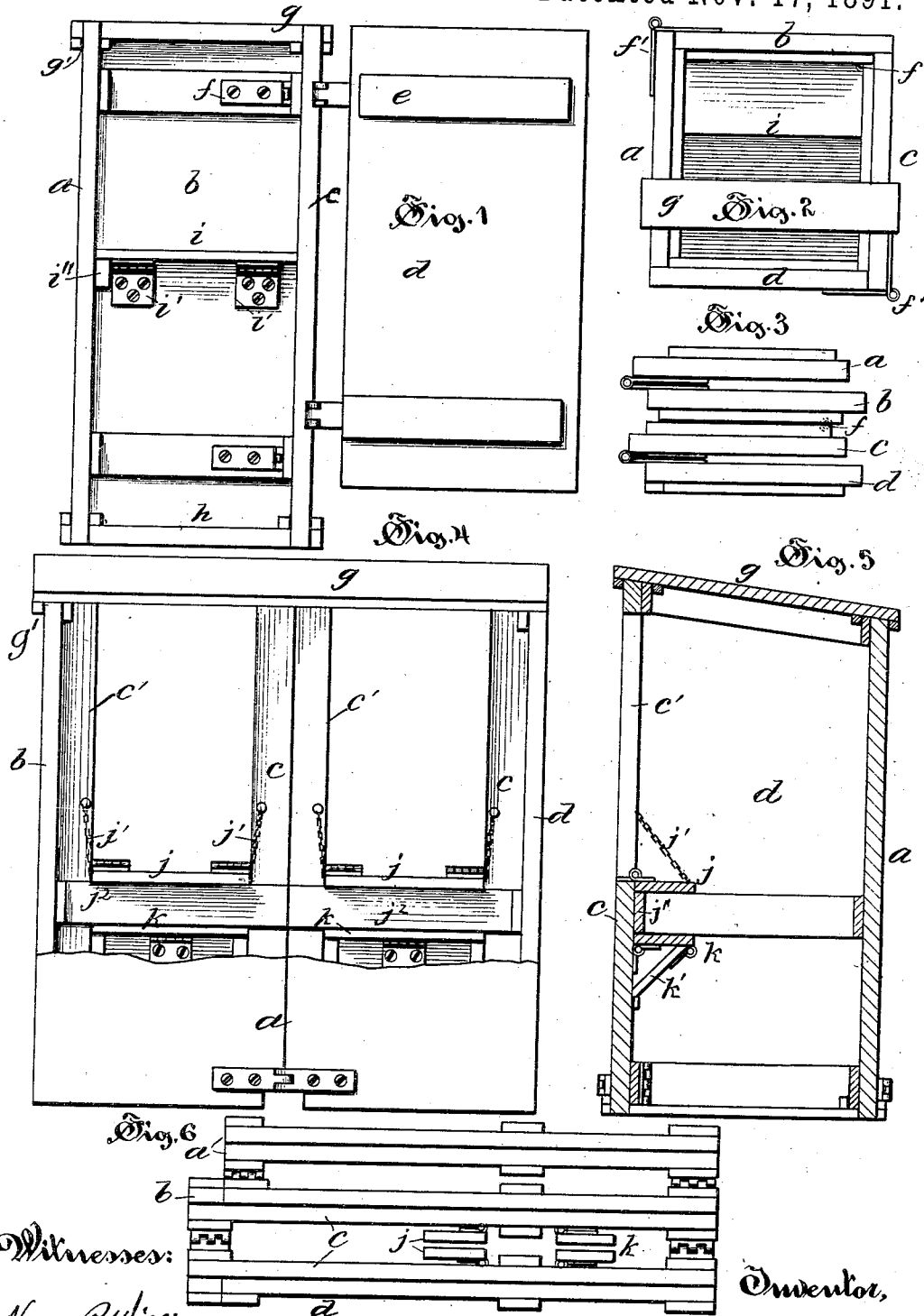


(No Model.)

W. H. BLISS.
PORTABLE ELECTION BOOTH.

No. 463,439.

Patented Nov. 17, 1891.



Witnesses:

Harry P. Williams
Arthur D. Jenkins.

Inventor,

Watson H. Bliss
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attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WATSON H. BLISS, OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

PORTABLE ELECTION-BOOTH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 463,439, dated November 17, 1891.

Application filed August 21, 1889. Serial No. 321,468. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WATSON H. BLISS, of Hartford, in the county of Hartford and State of Connecticut, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Portable Election-Booths, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, whereby any one skilled in the art can make and use the same.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple, strong, and comparatively cheap structure that is especially adapted for use under the requirements of the so-called "secret-ballot systems," the booth being readily collapsed for storage or unfolded and erected for use; but this structure is equally capable of other uses and the specific purpose of its construction forms no part of the invention.

My invention consists in the details of the several parts making up the collapsible structure and in their combination, as more particularly hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claim.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a front view of one form of the booth, shown with the door opened. Fig. 2 is a detail top view of the structure. Fig. 3 is a detail end view of the structure when the several sides are folded down for storage or transportation. Fig. 4 is a detail rear view of one form of the booth with the back wall cut away to show construction. Fig. 5 is a detail view in vertical section through the booth. Fig. 6 is a detail edge view of the double booth when folded and not in use.

In the accompanying drawings, the letters *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* denote the vertical walls of the booth, that are made of any convenient material, as wood, each wall or side being strengthened, or, if made of separate parts, united by means of cleats *e*. Two of the sides *b* and *c* are united, as by means of hinges *f*, in such manner as to fold inward toward each other, while the sides *a* and *d*, that are united by hinges *f'*, fold outward. When the structure is set up, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the top is provided with a crosswise brace *g*, that may be notched into the upper edges of the side parts *a* and *c*, between which it extends, or may rest directly upon the top edges; but

in each instance the brace is removably held in place by a groove *g'*, usually formed between short strips nailed across the under side of the brace, the groove being of a width equal to the thickness of the walls. The brace when secured in the position shown holds the several walls in the rectangular position; but as an additional means to such end the brace *h* is used at the bottom of the structure and is similarly attached.

On the inside, preferably on the back wall *b*, a shelf *i* is attached, as by means of hinges *i'*, and this rests on a cleat *i''*, that is secured to the inside of the wall *a*, so as to hold the shelf in a horizontal position. This shelf adds to the strength of the structure when it is in use. The side of the wall *d* forms the door and may, if desired, be provided with any convenient form of lock or latch.

In case more room is required in the structure, it is made with the front wall *c* and rear walls *a* double, united, as by means of hinges, at the center. The front walls *c* are provided with cleats *c'*, immediately below which a shelf *j*, that is hinged to the cleat *j'*, is arranged in such manner that it may be folded up against the under side of the wall, and it is held in the horizontal position by any convenient means, as loops or chains *j''*. If desired, additional folding shelves *k* are provided, and they are held in the horizontal position for use, as by means of a strut or bracket *k'*. The top brace *g*, in the form shown in Figs. 4 and 5, covers the whole of the upper part of the structure and forms a roof, the groove on the side over the door *d* having its outer wall removed, so as to allow the latter to be readily opened and closed. The several vertical sides of the double booth are united by hinges in a similar manner, as already described, and the whole structure may be folded up into a compact form, as illustrated in Fig. 6 of the drawings.

It is obvious that the braces may be dovetailed into the top edges of the side parts as an equivalent manner of securing them removably to the same.

I claim as my invention—

In combination, in a portable booth, side

walls *a* and *b*, hinged together, the side walls
c and *d*, also hinged together, the cross-brace
h, extending across between the side walls *a*
and *c* and removably secured thereto, the
5 braces *g*, extending between the side walls *e*
and *c*, that are held against opening move-
ment by the edges of the wall taking into

grooves in the braces, and a flat shelf *i*, with
bracket *i'*, attached to one side of the booth,
substantially as described.

WATSON H. BLISS.

Witnesses:

ARTHUR B. JENKINS,
H. E. BACHARACH.

Correction in Letters Patent No. 463,439.

It is hereby certified that in Letters Patent, No. 463,439, granted November 17, 1891, upon the application of Watson H. Bliss, of Hartford, Connecticut, for an improvement in "Portable Election Booths," an error appears in the printed specification requiring the following correction, viz.: In line 5, page 2, the reference letter "e" should read a; and that the said Letters Patent should be read with this correction therein that the same may conform to the record of the case in the Patent Office.

Signed, countersigned, and sealed this 19th day of January, A. D. 1892.

[SEAL]

CYRUS BUSSEY,

Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Countersigned:

W. E. SIMONDS,

Commissioner of Patents.