Nov. 17, 1931. F. BENNETT 1,832,759

PLATFORM

Filed Nov. 28, 1928 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

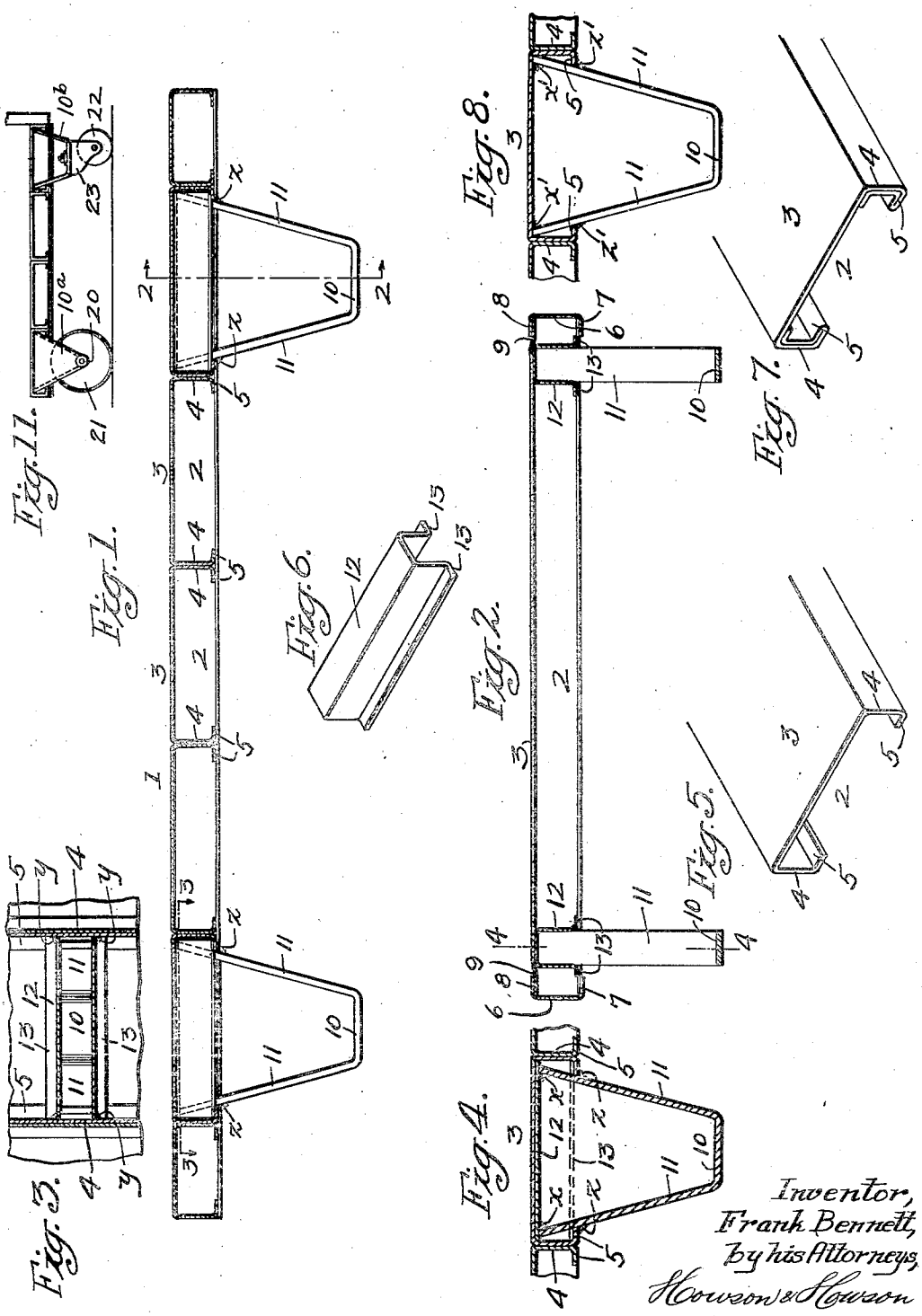

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Fig. 9.

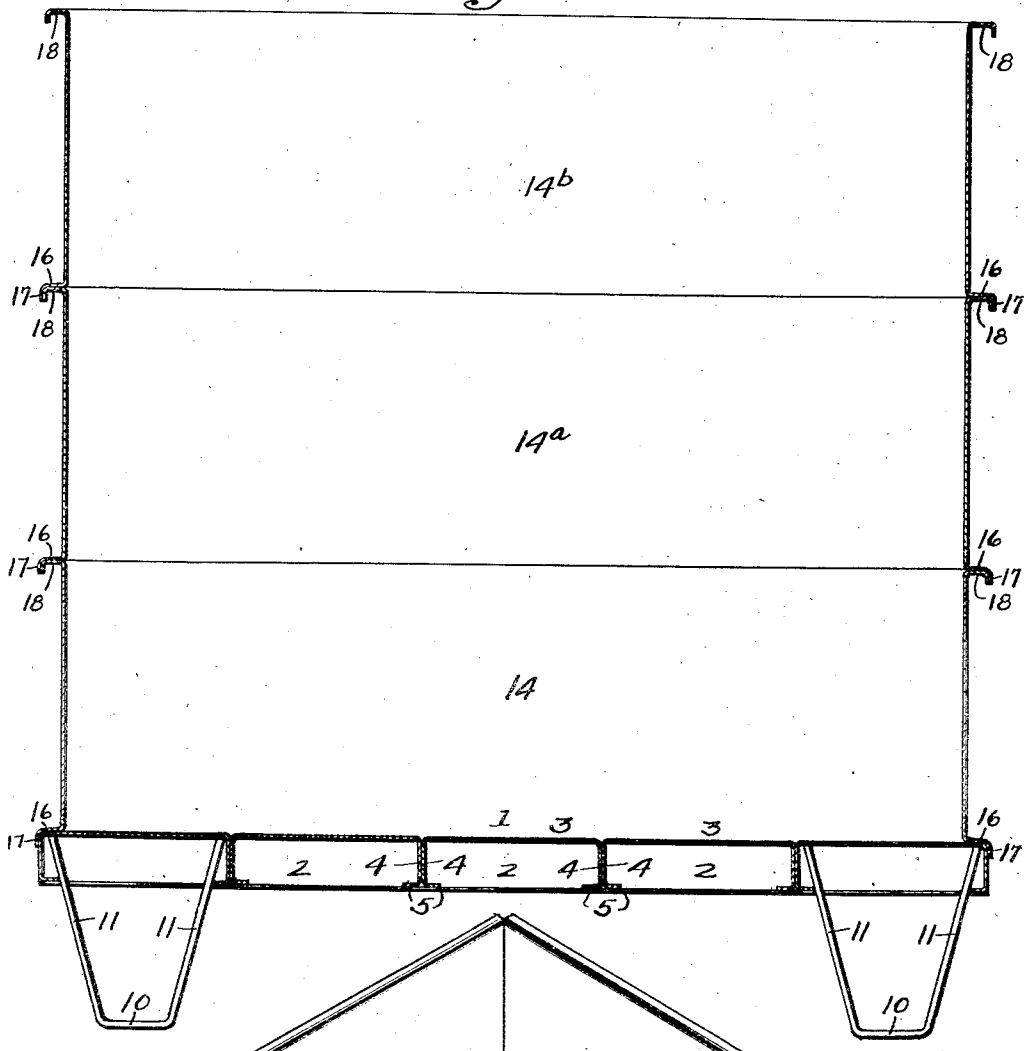
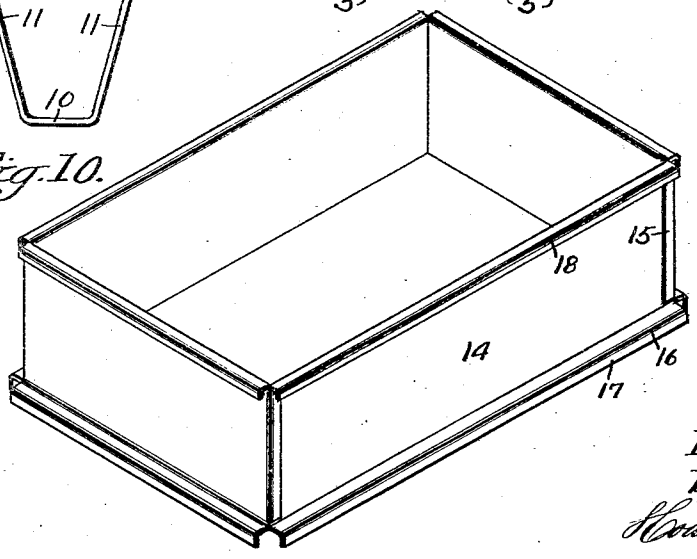


Fig. 10.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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PLATFORM

Application filed November 28, 1928. Serial No. 322,431.

One object of my invention is to construct an improved sheet-metal platform made of a series of flanged sections.

Another object of the invention is to construct a sectional platform made up of flanged metal sections connected together at the edges by channel members, forming buffers for the platform.

A further object is to firmly connect the supporting legs to the platform.

A still further object of the invention is to so arrange the supporting legs with respect to each other that an elevating and carrying truck may be readily inserted under the platform from any one of the four sides thereof, to move the platform from place to place, thereby increasing the practical utility and consequently the commercial value of the device.

And still another object is to provide a sectional container which is mounted on the platform.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view illustrating my improved platform;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view on the line 2—2, Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view on the line 3—3, Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view on the line 4—4, Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a detached perspective view of a portion of one of the sections;

Fig. 6 is a detached perspective view of one of the reinforcing sections which are located at the point where the legs join the platform;

Fig. 7 shows a method of making the sections, forming a reinforce where heavy duty platforms are desired;

Fig. 8 shows a modified form of attaching a leg portion to the platform;

Fig. 9 is a sectional view showing the platform with a sectional container mounted thereon;

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of one of the sections of a container; and

Fig. 11 is a side elevation of my invention as applied to a hand truck.

Referring to the drawings, the platform 1 is made of a series of transverse sections 2, each section being made of sheet-metal bent into shape as shown in Fig. 4 and having a flat body portion 3, depending side members 4, and inturned flanges 5. These sections are assembled side-by-side and produce the platform clearly shown in Fig. 1. This construction dispenses with the use of any separate transverse girders or other supports for the sections, as the form of each section is of sufficient rigidity to carry the weight for which the platform is intended.

At each longitudinal edge of the platform is a U-shaped buffer member 6 of sheet-metal. The lower flange 7 of this buffer member extends under the ends of the transverse sections 2, while the upper flange 8 extends over the ends of the sections as clearly shown. This buffer member not only acts as a buffer for the platform but encloses the ends of the sections.

When desired, the ends of the transverse sections may be bent down slightly as at 9, so that the upper surface of the flange 8 will be on a line with the upper surface of the said sections; so as to make the platform smooth throughout its entire width.

10 are the legs which support the platform at any height desired, these legs being made of sheet-metal bent into U-shape as shown, the portions 11 of the legs being inclined and extending into the corners of one of the sections 2 as shown in Fig. 1. The section is reinforced at this point by a U-shaped longitudinal section 12, shown clearly in Fig. 6, having flanges 13. This section 12 extends from one side of a transverse section to the other as indicated and rests on the flanges 5 of said section.

The upper end of each leg extends into this channel member as shown in Fig. 2 and rests against the body portion of this U-shaped member and near the corner of the transverse member 2, and is welded to the members at x and to the flanges 5 at z, Fig. 4, while the longitudinal section 12 may be welded at y to the underside of one of the transverse sections 2.

In some instances the longitudinal member 12 may be dispensed with and the portions 11 of the legs may be welded at x' and

at z' to the transverse sections as shown in Fig. 8.

In heavy trucks it is desirable to reinforce the longitudinal edges of each transverse section and this is accomplished by making the edges and flanges of double sections as shown in Fig. 7, the metal being bent upon itself as shown in said figure.

When it is desired to use the platform for supporting goods of such a nature that they must be confined on the platform, then a sectional container is used, such as is shown in Figs. 9 and 10. The container 14 is made of sheet-metal and bent as shown in Fig. 10 and secured together by a lap joint as at 15. The container may be made in one or more sections as at 14—14*a*—14*b*, Fig. 9, and each section has a lower flange 16 with an extended lip 17 and an upper flange 18, the flange 18 being such that it will fit within the flange 16 as clearly shown in Fig. 9, while the flange 16 is made in such a manner as to fit over the edge of the platform, the flanges retaining the sections in line one with another and with the platform.

Fig. 11 shows a platform in which the supporting legs 10*a* at one end are equipped with axles 20 on which are rotatably mounted wheels 21. The legs 10*b* at the opposite end of the platform are shortened and provided with casters 22, the frames 23 of which are pivoted to the underside of the legs 10*b*.

The invention is also adaptable to trucks of the character shown in the co-pending applications of Howard T. Hallowell, Serial No. 182,373, filed April 9th, 1927; and Serial No. 182,374, filed April 9th, 1927.

I claim:—

1. The combination in a platform, of a series of transverse metallic sections, each section having longitudinal sides and inturned flanges, the sections being arranged side-by-side, the top of each section near each end being depressed; and longitudinal buffer plates U-shaped in cross section and overlapping the depressed ends of said transverse sections, so that the upper flanges of the longitudinal buffer plates will be on the same plane as the upper surface of the transverse metallic sections of the platform.

2. The combination in a platform, of a series of transverse sections, each section having side walls terminating in inturned lower flanges; short independent U-shaped longitudinal members extending across certain of the transverse sections, the ends of these longitudinal U-shaped members extending into the recess between the body of the section and its inturned flanges; and leg sections extending into the longitudinal members and welded thereto.

3. The combination in a platform, of a series of transverse sections, each section having side walls terminating in inturned lower flanges; short independent U-shaped longitudinal members extending across certain of the transverse sections, the ends of these longitudinal U-shaped members extending into the recess between the body of the section and its inturned flanges, the U-shaped members having flanges at their lower ends, which rest upon the flanges of the sections of the platform and welded thereto; and U-shaped leg sections, the upper ends of these sections extending into the short longitudinal U-shaped sections and welded thereto and to the inturned flanges of the transverse platform sections.

FRANK BENNETT.