(No Model.)

J. E. COTTON.

FOLDING TABLE.

No. 345,620. Patented July 13, 1886.

Fig. 1.

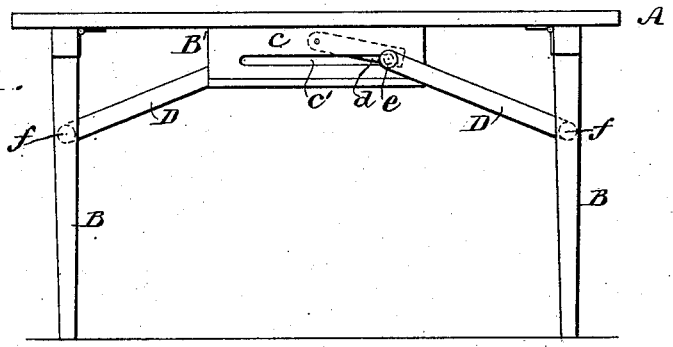


Fig. 2.

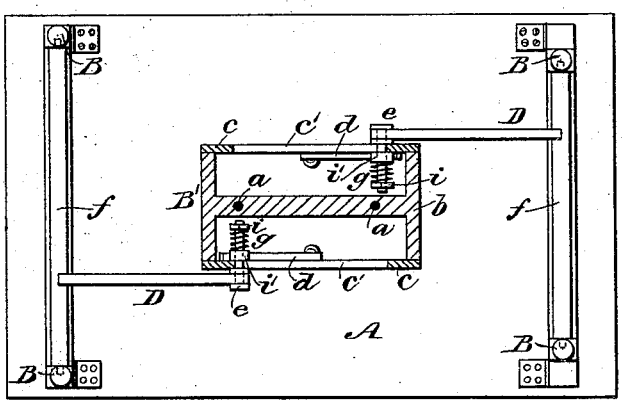
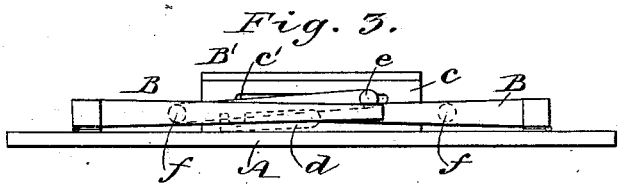


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

John M. Reemer

C. Sedgwick

INVENTOR:

J. E. Cotton

BY Munn & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. COTTON, OF FAIRFIELD, MAINE.

FOLDING TABLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 345,620, dated July 13, 1886.

Application filed April 21, 1886. Serial No. 199,667. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN E. COTTON, of Fairfield, in the county of Somerset and State of Maine, have invented a new and Improved Folding Table, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention consists of the construction, arrangement, and combination of parts, all as hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my new and improved table as it appears when set up. Fig. 2 is a view of the bottom of the table, showing the box in which the pawls are held in section, and Fig. 3 is an edge view of the table folded.

To the under surface of the table, near its ends, are hinged the legs B B, and to the center of the top is secured by the screws *a a* the box B′. This box, in this instance, is composed of the I-shaped wooden frame, *b*, to the ends of the arms of which are secured upon either side the metal plates *c c*. The plates *c c* are slotted, as shown at *c′*, and to the plates upon the inner surfaces are pivoted above the slots the pawls *d d*.

Connected to the legs B B by means of the pivoted rungs *f f* are the braces D D. The upper ends of the braces D are provided with pins *e*, that run in the slots *c′* when the legs are opened and closed, and when the legs are opened to vertical position, or to a position where they stand at right angles to the top A, the pins strike the ends of the slots and prevent the legs from being swung outward too far. When the legs are thus opened and the table set upright, the pawls *d* drop behind the pins *e*, and thus lock the legs in open position.

When the table is to be closed, it is simply turned upside down, when the pawls will drop by gravity out of engagement with the pins *e*, thus leaving the legs free to be folded flat against the under surface of the top A, as shown in Fig. 3.

To prevent the braces D from rattling, I place upon the pins *e* inside the box B the coiled springs *g g*, which act between the fixed and movable washers *i i′*, so that the latter are pressed against the inner surfaces of the plates *c*, and prevent the braces from having a loose action.

I am aware that it is old to employ, in connection with the folding legs of a table and their pivoted sliding braces, spring-stops to retain the legs in their upright position; also, to employ, in connection with the same named parts, a keeper and a button pivoted in said keeper and adapted to secure the legs in their vertical position; and, also, to employ, in a chair having a folding seat, pivoted and sliding braces, upon which braces the seat is held as against the downward folding of the latter by means of catches and a slotted guide.

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

The hinged legs B, provided with braces D, having pins *e*, on which are placed friction-springs, in combination with the slotted plates *c*, in which the pins move, and the locking-pawls *d*, pivoted to the plates, to engage with the pins, substantially as described.

JOHN E. COTTON.

Witnesses:
E. G. PRATT,
H. L. KELLEY.