I. W. MEAD.

Fifth-Wheel for Vehicles.

No. 198,407. Patented Dec. 18, 1877.

Fig 1

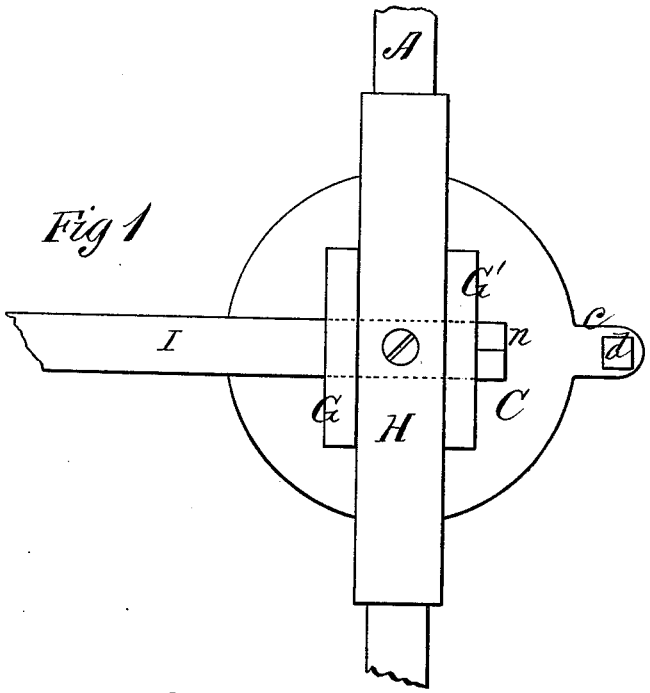


Fig 2

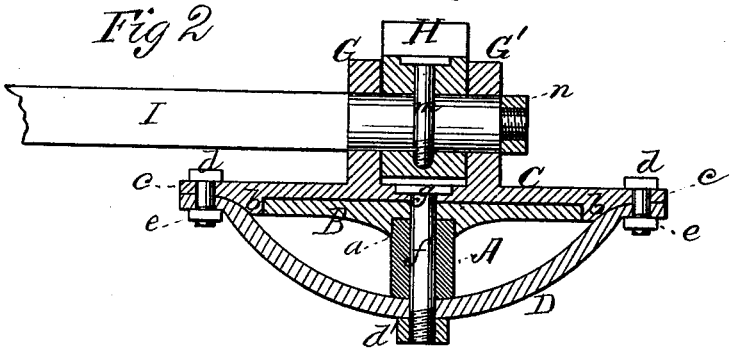
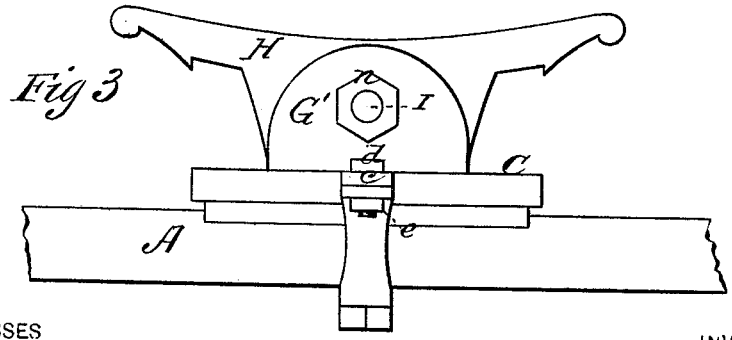


Fig 3



WITNESSES

Mary L. Utley.

F. J. Mast

INVENTOR

Ira W Mead,

by E W Anderson,

ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

IRA W. MEAD, OF FALLS VILLAGE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO LYMAN MUNSON, OF CANAAN, CONNECTICUT.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIFTH-WHEELS FOR VEHICLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,407**, dated December 18, 1877; application filed November 17, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, IRA W. MEAD, of Falls Village, in the county of Litchfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Fifth-Wheels for Vehicles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a plan view of the fifth-wheel. Fig. 2 is a vertical section thereof, and Fig. 3 is a front view of the same.

This invention has relation to improvements in fifth-wheels for vehicles; and the nature of the invention consists in certain combinations of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In the annexed drawings, the letter A designates an ordinary axle-tree, to the upper part of which is rigidly secured a strong circular metallic plate, B, of suitable diameter. This plate has upon its under side a diametrical groove, *a*, in which the axle-tree aforesaid is received, and which prevents the said plate from rotating with reference to the same.

C represents the fixed plate, having an annular flange, *b*, upon its under side, which fits snugly over the edge of the bearing-plate B, as shown in Fig. 2. This plate has upon its front and rear a lug, *c*, to each of which one end of a curved metallic brace, D, is rigidly secured by means of a bolt, *d*, and a nut, *e*, which brace passes under the axle A.

Plate C is held against upward displacement by means of a bolt, *f*, having a broad flat rectangular head, *g*, and extending through registering-perforations in the plates B C, the axle, and brace D, and upon the lower projecting end of which a nut, *d*, is applied. The head of this bolt is recessed into the plate C, and its upper surface is flush therewith.

G G′ represent two spaced pillow-blocks, cast with the plate C, and arranged one at each side of the center of said plate, at right angles to the length of the vehicle and parallel to each other. These blocks receive between them the rocking cradle H, to which the vehicle-springs are secured, the said cradle being attached to the said blocks by means of the reach I, the rounded front end of which extends through registering perforations in the blocks and cradle, and is prevented from withdrawing therefrom by means of a nut, *n*, applied upon its projecting front end. As shown in Fig. 2, the bottom of the cradle H does not bear upon the plate C. The cradle and reach are connected by a metallic bolt, *m*, extending vertically through them, which prevents the reach from turning axially in the blocks, but allows it axial motion to the extent of the rocking of the cradle-plate, by which means the reach is prevented from being twisted when one of the wheels descends into a rut. The brace being secured to the fixed plate front and rear, and being under the axle-tree, the king-bolt is prevented from undue strain.

The flange upon the fixed plate C, fitting snugly upon the edge of the movable plate, prevents sand or other foreign matter from getting between the said plates and causing undue wear.

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination, with the plate B and flanged top plate C of a fifth-wheel, of the pillow-blocks G G′, formed on the upper part of plate C, the vibrating cradle-block H, the reach I, nut *n*, and bolt *m*, the whole constructed and arranged substantially as herein described.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

IRA W. MEAD.

Witnesses:
M. A. DEAN,
C. BROWN.