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(54) **FLEXIBLE CATERPILLAR WITH DETACHABLE
ELEMENTS**

(57) **Abstract:**

(54) **CHENILLE AVEC ELEMENTS AMOVIBLES POUR
VOITURES**

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This invention relates to flexible caterpillars with detachable elements and has for its object an endless band for use in combination with said caterpillars which insures the necessary continuousness and homogeneousness of the track in its contact with the ground.

The endless belt which is the subject matter of this invention is shown by way of example in the drawings appended hereto.

Figure 1 is a plan view of the band and the track thereof.

Figure 2 is the corresponding elevational view.

Figure 3 is a plan view relating to a modification of the embodiment shown in Figure 1.

Figure 4 is the corresponding elevational view.

5 indicates the pads of the metal caterpillar which are rockable with respect to one another at 10. These metal pads carry the track formed by detachable blocks 2 (Figs. 1 and 2) which may be of flexible construction; said blocks are secured to the metal pads 5 either by means of a central bolts 6 the heads of which are sunken in the block itself, or by any other means. The blocks are so arranged that as the caterpillar rests on horizontal ground they at least nearly touch one another in order to insure the perfect continuousness of the track on the ground; they may be arranged in staggered order as shown in plan view in Fig. 1, but this is not compulsory.

Where the blocks are flexible ones they may be made longer than the pitch so as to obtain on a horizontal plane a compression of the flexible material at the edges 11 of blocks 2 (Fig. 2) to avoid any deflection of the endless belt as the carrying rollers pass over the articulations thereof.

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In connection with those metal endless bands the pitch of which is comparatively long it may be advisable, in order to reduce the weight as well as the cost of manufacture of the blocks, to shape the same differently without departing from the scope of the invention.

Figures 3 and 4 give two alternatives for such blocks which, as may be understood, may involve all kinds of shapes. In the drawings and by way of example the blocks 5 are provided in the middle and across the whole breadth thereof with a transversal groove 13 in which is housed the securing means here shown as a bolt 6. They also may consist, on each link of the chain, of two separate blocks connected with each other by one single clamping device as shown at 14 or by any other known means.

In both cases it may be seen that the blocks of the two different links are always with their backs pressed against each other so as to avoid, as mentioned above, the deflection of the band at the articulations thereof under the pressure of the rollers.

It is easy to see that the provision of a cavity intermediate to the hinges of the links of the chain is not objectionable inasmuch as the link itself is rigid.

It may be observed that when applied to metal caterpillars such rolling blocks arranged as described will allow same to attain on hard ground an appreciable speed due on one hand to the continuousness of the track on the ground resulting from a suitable arrangement of the blocks and on the other hand to the possibility to provide a narrow track when running on hard ground while maintaining the advantage of a wide bearing surface on soft ground.

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~~SECRET~~

C L A I M S

1.- An endless band for use in combination with a flexible caterpillar, comprizing essentially a series of pads hinged to one another; rolling blocks made of suitable material, hollowed out to receive the member by which same is secured to the related pad; each block having its back pressed against that of the block of each neighbouring pad on a plane passing through the axis of articulation of the pads, the length of such blocks being greater than the pitch of the endless band.

2.- An endless band according to (1) characterized in that the blocks providing the track for use on hard ground are narrower than the pads, same providing the track for use on soft ground.

3.- An endless band according to (1), characterized in that each rolling block is made up of two parts.

4.- An endless band according to (1), characterized in that the blocks are hollowed out transversally on the whole breadth of their ground engaging faces.

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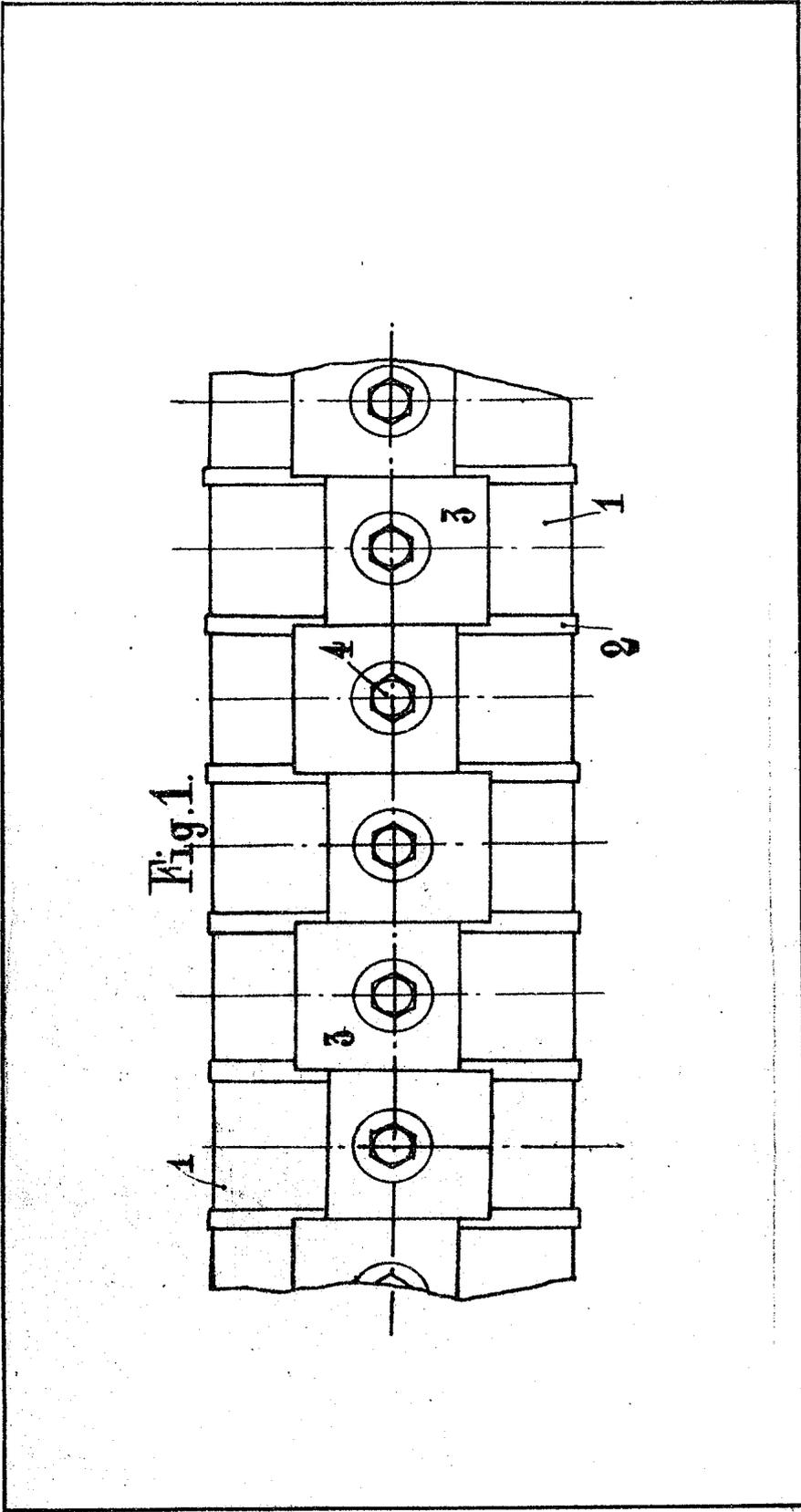


Fig. 1.

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ADOLPHE KEGRESSE

By *Maxion & Maxion*
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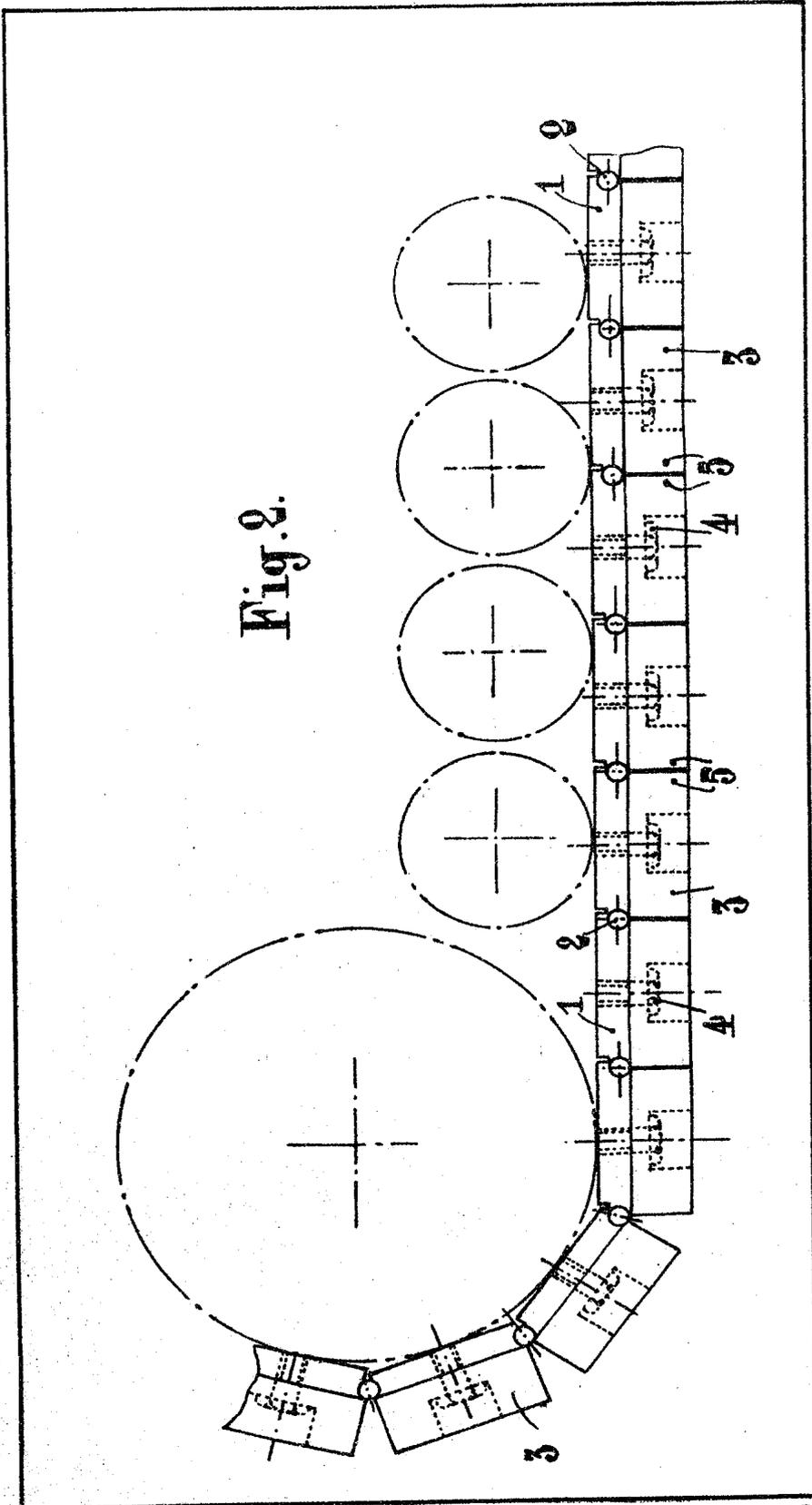


Fig. 2.

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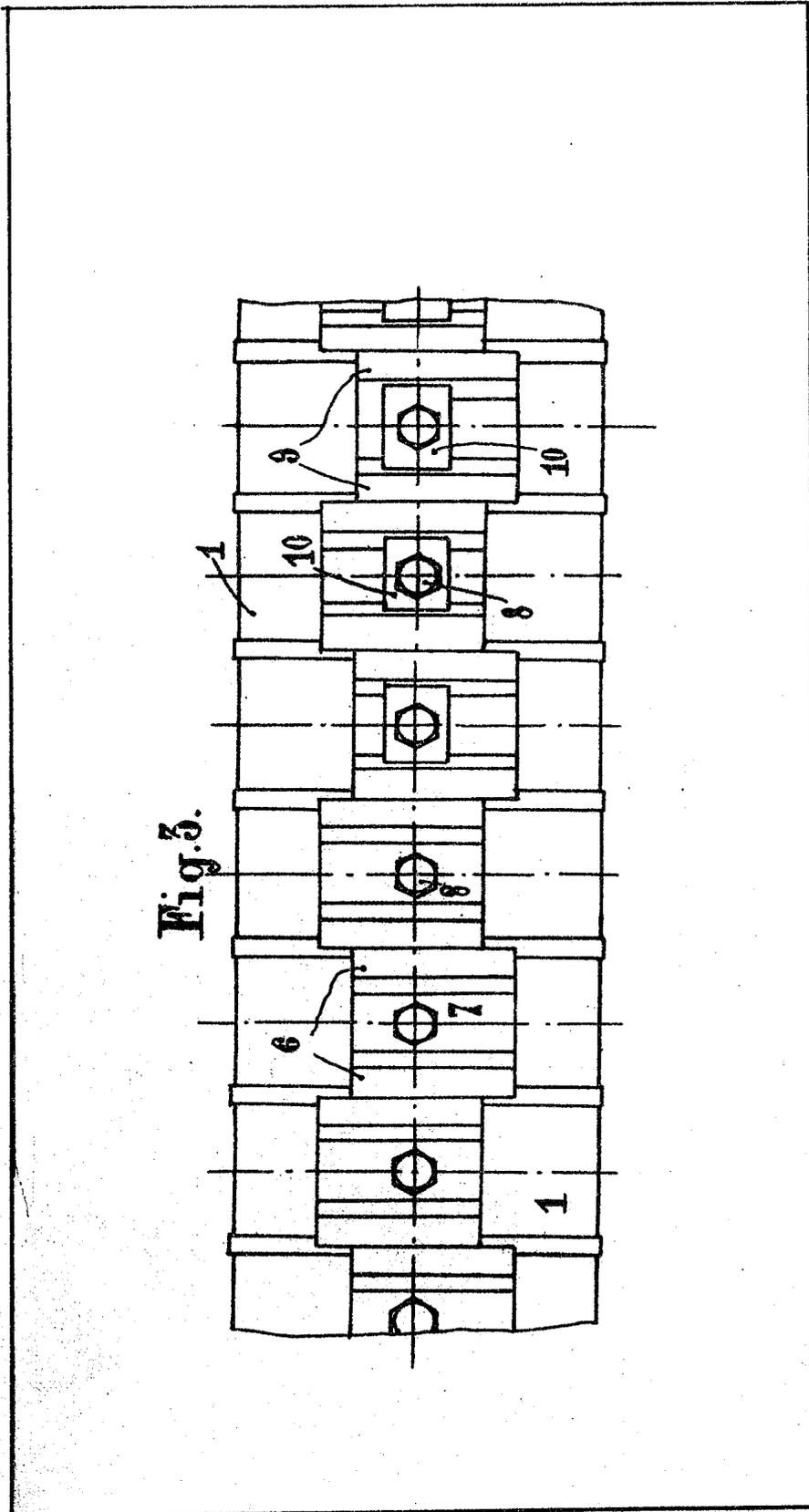


Fig. 5.

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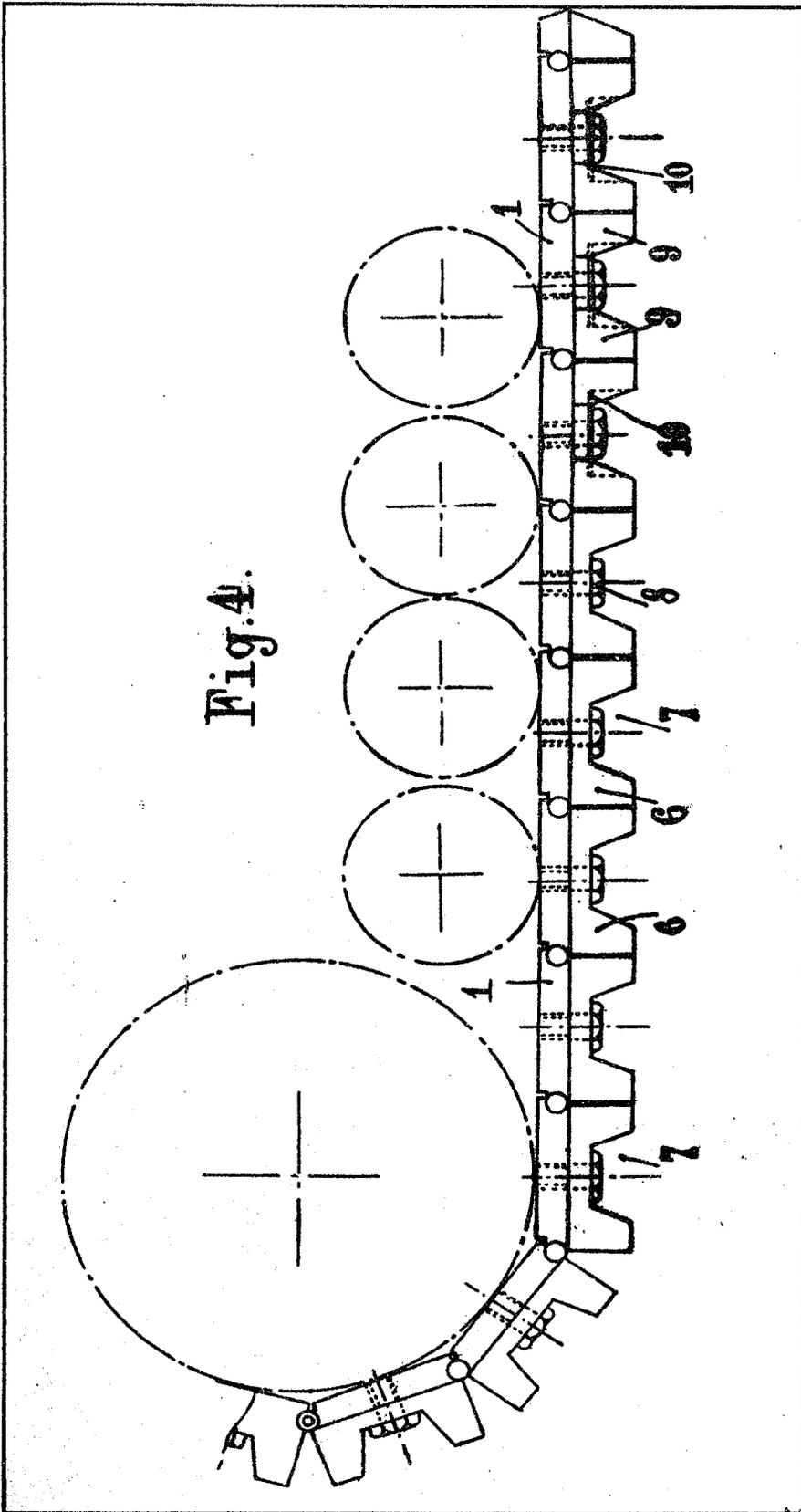


Fig. 4.

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