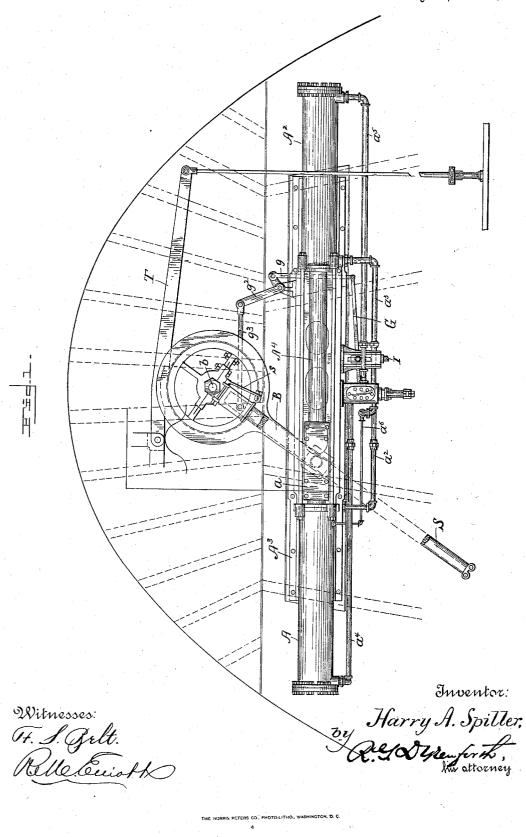
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H. A. SPILLER. STEERING GEAR FOR VESSELS.

No. 582,104.

Patented May 4, 1897.

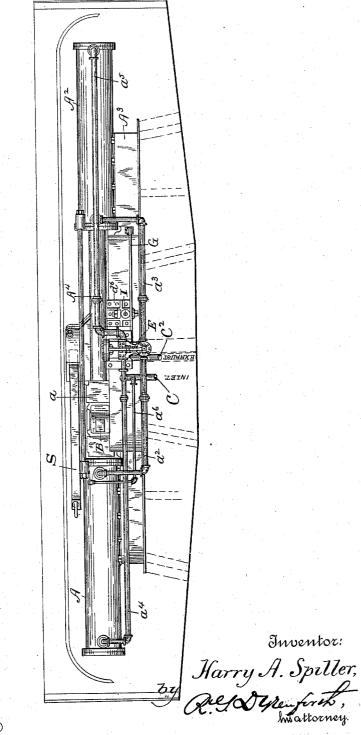


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H. A. SPILLER. STEERING GEAR FOR VESSELS.

No. 582,104.

Patented May 4, 1897.



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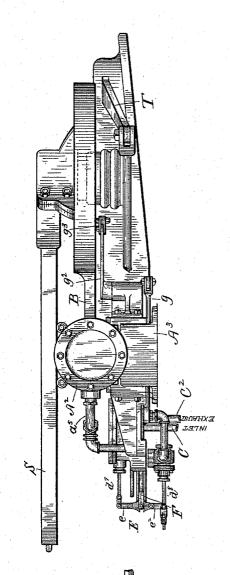
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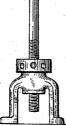
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Inventor:

Harry A. Spiller, By Rel Stree forth,

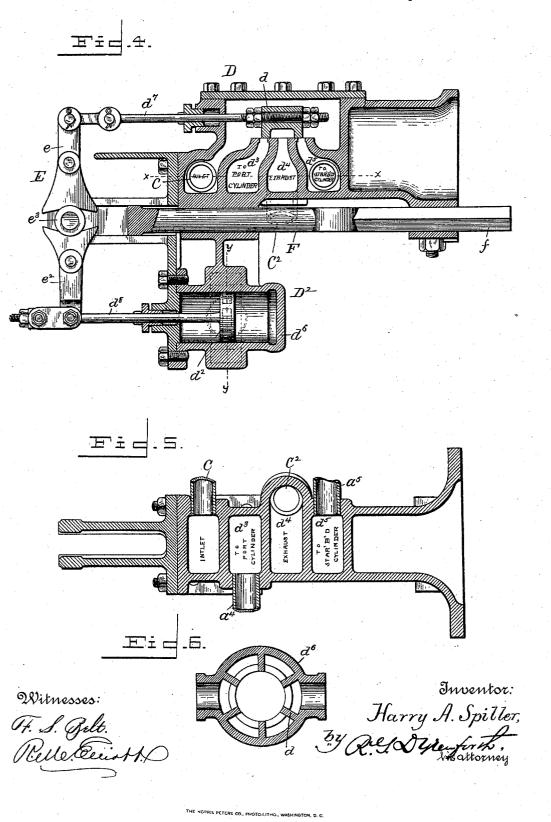
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H. A. SPILLER. STEERING GEAR FOR VESSELS.

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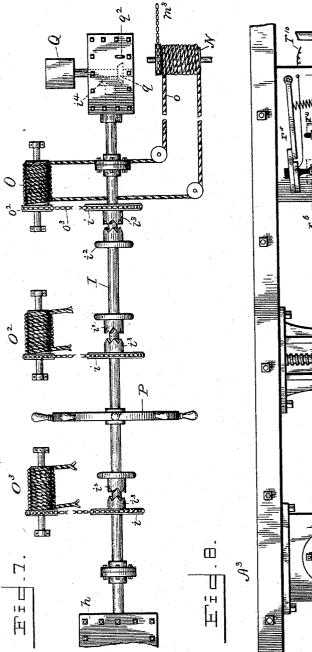


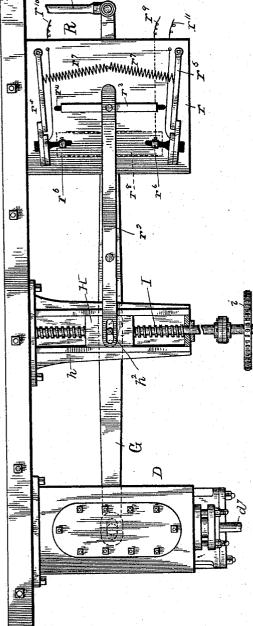
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H. A. SPILLER. STEERING GEAR FOR VESSELS.

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Patented May 4, 1897.





Witnesses: 7. S. Belt. Relle. Eccirtt. P

Inventor: Harry A. Spiller, By Re Ollenfirth.

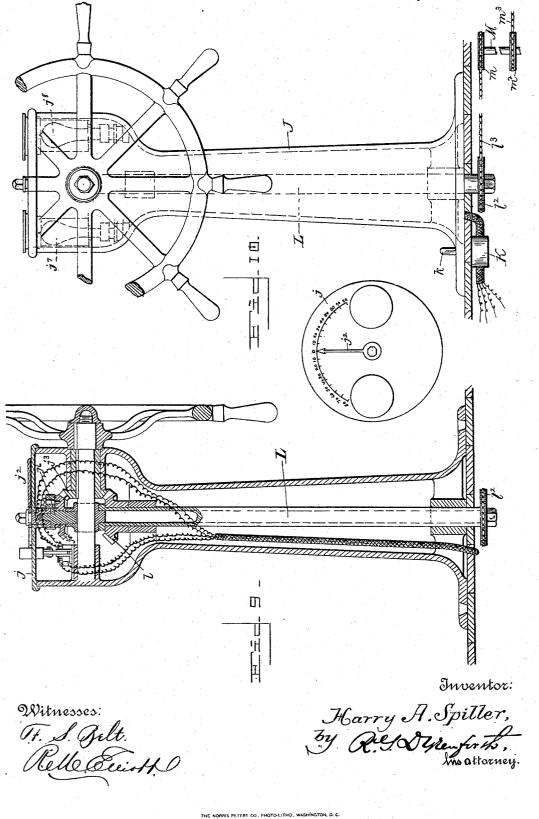
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6 Sheets-Sheet 6.

H. A. SPILLER. STEERING GEAR FOR VESSELS.

No. 582,104.

Patented May 4, 1897.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY A. SPILLER, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO THE PNEU-MATIC GUN CARRIAGE AND POWER COMPANY, OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, AND WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

STEERING-GEAR FOR VESSELS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 582,104, dated May 4, 1897.

Application filed June 10, 1895. Serial No. 594,948. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that Ĭ, HARRY A. SPILLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Mas-

sachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Electropneumatic Steering-Gear; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will en-10 able others skilled in the art to which it ap-

pertains to make and use the same. This invention relates to steering-gear for

vessels. The object is to effect the steering of a ves-

15 sel in a certain manner either by a helmsman at the usual place or by a person stationed at any other part of the vessel; furthermore, to provide an apparatus in which, after the requisite movement of the rudder has been ef-

- 20 fected, it may be instantly checked against further movement at the time and held yieldingly in the position to which it has been moved; furthermore, to provide means for preventing the pistons from striking the cyl-
- 25 inder-heads or the rudder from going too far independent of the pilot's or steersman's care in moving the rudder "hard over;" furthermore, to provide an apparatus in which the valves controlling the exhaust and supply of 30 aeriform fluid to the cylinders may be operated directly from the steering-wheel without
- the employment of the ropes, chains, and quadrants usually employed in this connection; furthermore, to provide an apparatus 35 in which the power will be applied directly to
- the rudder, thereby lessening the number of parts constituting the apparatus and as a result reducing the danger of accident or breakage to a minimum and also causing the
- 40 rudder to derive the direct benefit of the cushion formed by the fluid confined on both sides of the piston; furthermore, to provide an apparatus in which the requisite movement of the rudder will be effected through the agency 45 of compressed aeriform fluid, and, finally, to provide an apparatus in which the cushion-
- ing of the piston will be effected automatically and simultaneously with the movement of the rudder.
- 50 With these objects in view the invention |

consists in the novel construction and combination of parts of a steering-gear for vessels, as will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In a steering-gear characterized by my in- 55 vention I employ two independent cylinders, arranged in this instance in horizontal alinement and supported and held in proper operative position to each other on a suitable bed or sole-plate secured transversely of the 60 stern of the vessel.

Working within each cylinder is a piston (not shown) connected to a common pistonrod, to which is secured a cross-head adapted to impart motion to a tiller which rotates the 65 rudder-head. The pistons are moved by compressed air, which is admitted by pipes leading from a suitable source of supply, and when the apparatus is at rest the outer ends of the cylinders are under pressure, thereby 70 holding the piston-rod, and with it the rudder, fixed, movement resulting when air is partially exhausted from one cylinder and supply maintained in the other.

In order to hold the rudder steady against 75 the varying strains of heavy waves, the inner ends of the cylinders are filled with a fluid, preferably compressed air, the flow of which from the inner end of one cylinder to the inner end of the other takes place simultane- 80 ously with the change of supply of air from the outer end of one cylinder to the outer end of the other. Otherwise there could be no movement of the piston. In order to effect this simultaneous action of the air, I provide 85 two valve-chests, wherein are two valves, separated from and operating independently of each other, one, the operating air-valve, controlling the exhaust and supply of air to the outer ends of the cylinders, and the other one, 90 the locking cushion-valve, controlling the passage of air from the inner end of one cylinder to the inner end of the other cylinder. These two valves are moved in unison through the medium of a two-part rock-lever, to one 95 member of which is coupled the stem of the operating air-valve and to the other member the stem of the locking cushion-valve. This two-part lever may be operated by any suitable or preferred mechanism, but from a 100

standpoint of simplicity, effectiveness in operation, and positive and direct action attained I prefer to mount the roller constituting the fulcrum of the lever on a horizontally-5 disposed slide-rod, arranged by preference between the two valve-chests and connected by a follow-up system with the tiller, whereby the amount of movement of the helm is made to correspond with the amount of moveto ment given the wheel by the helmsman, thereby to cause the motion of the rudder to be

stopped at the proper instant.

The member of the follow-up system to which the slide-rod is coupled is connected 15 with a screw-threaded block working in a suitable casing adjacent to the valve-chests, the block being reciprocated by means of a screw-shaft actuated either from a steering wheel or wheels or by a motor, as may be de-20 sired or necessary. When the block is moved

- by the rotation of the screw-shaft, motion is imparted to the follow-up rod connected with the slide-rod, thereby moving this latter rod in or out, as the case may be, thus shifting 25 the operating air-valve to allow ingress or supply of air to one cylinder and the egress
- or exhaust of air from the other cylinder and also moving the locking cushion-valve to allow the air at the inner end of one cylinder to escape to the inner end of the other cylin-
- der. As the tiller moves it imparts motion to the follow-up system, and the latter closes the valves unless the helmsman meets the movement with many turns of the wheel, as
- 35 in the case of putting the helm hard over. The amount of movement of the rudder will always agree with the amount of movement given the wheel, and this movement may be accurately determined by a dial at the steer-
- 40 ing-wheel post in the wheel-house, over which travels a pointer that indicates the exact degree of travel of the rudder. Wheel-posts may also be located at the turrets, on the bridge, and at other points on the vessel, and
- 45 from any one of these points the steering may be effected by wire ropes operated by the wheel to turn a drum connected by interposed mechanism with the screw-shaft.

To prevent interference between the differ-50 ent steering-wheels, each is connected independently of the other with the screw-shaft and is thrown into and out of operative relation therewith by means of suitable clutches mounted on the screw-shaft and operated by

55 a helmsman or seaman in the stern of the vessel. Thus the clutch controlling the operation of the drum operated from the main steering-wheel will normally be locked and the other clutches unlocked, but should an acci60 dent happen to this wheel it will be thrown out of use by unlocking its clutch and lock-

ing one of the others.

In addition to the mechanical appliances for operating the valves, a motor, operated 65 either by compressed air or by electricity, preferably the latter, may be employed. This motor will normally be out of operative en-

gagement with the screw-shaft, but may at will be locked into engagement therewith. A suitable switch and reversing-coils are to be 70 used in connection with the motor, whereby when the rudder is hard over and the motor is stopped the current may be reversed to restart the motor and move the rudder in the opposite direction. 75

^{*}Further and more specific details of construction will be hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification and in which like 80 letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, I have illustrated one form of embodiment of my invention, although it is to be understood that other forms of embodiment thereof may be employed without departing 85 from the spirit of the same, and in these drawings—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the apparatus, showing the same positioned in the stern of the vessel. Fig. 2 is a view in front eleva- 90 tion. Fig. 3 is a view in side elevation. Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section through the valve-chests. Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view through the valve-casing, taken on the line x x, Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a vertical 95 sectional view through the locking cushionvalue chest, taken on the line yy. Fig. 7 is a view in front elevation, displaying the arrangement of the drums and clutches by which the different steering-wheels may be brought 100 into locked engagement with the screw-shaft which actuates the operating air-valve and displaying also in dotted lines the connection between the motor and the screw-shaft. Fig. 8 is a view in plan, displaying, on an en- 105 larged scale, the screw-blocks and the screwshaft by which the operating air-valve and locking cushion-valve are actuated and also a cut-out or switch to be used for the purpose cf stopping the motor, when the same iic is employed, when the rudder is hard over. Fig. 9 is a transverse sectional view taken through one of the steering-wheel posts, showing the electrical connections leading from the motor and also the mechanical steering 115 apparatus; and Fig. 10 is a view in front elevation, displaying the manner of connecting the steering-wheel with the mechanism for actuating the drums and also a reversing-coil by which the direction of motion of the motor 120 may be changed when the rudder is moved hard over.

Referring to the drawings, A A² designate two cylinders which are arranged in this instance in horizontal alinement and are se-125 cured upon a suitable foundation or soleplate A³. Working within each cylinder is a piston (not shown) connected to a common piston-rod A⁴, to which is secured a crosshead a, adapted to impart motion to a tiller 130 B, that rotates the rudder-head b. The pistons are moved by compressed air, which is admitted and exhausted by pipes C C², respectively, the former being connected with

a suitable supply of air under pressure, and when the apparatus is at rest the outer ends of the cylinder are under pressure and hold the piston, and with it the rudder, fixed, move-

- 5 ment of the pistons resulting when air is partially exhausted from one cylinder and the supply maintained in the other, this result being effected by a peculiar arrangement of valves, to be described farther on.
- 10 In order to hold the rudder steady against the varying strains of heavy waves, the inner ends of the cylinders are filled with a fluid, preferably with compressed air, the flow of which through the pipes $a^2 a^3$ from the inner
- 15 end of one cylinder to the inner end of the other cylinder takes place simultaneously with the change of supply of air from the outer end of one cylinder to the outer end of the other cylinder.
- 20 In order to effect the simultaneous action of the air, I provide two valve-chests D D², wherein are two valves separated from and operating independently of each other, one, the operating air-valve d, controlling the ex-
- 25 haust and supply of air to the outer ends of the cylinders, and the other one, the locking cushion-valve d^2 , controlling the passage of air from the inner end of one cylinder to the inner end of the other cylinder.
- 3° The valve d may be of any preferred type, and in this instance is shown as an ordinary slide-valve, sliding over the ports d³ d⁴ d⁵, controlling the supply of air to the port cylinder, the exhaust from the cylinders, and the sup-35 ply of air to the starboard cylinder, respectively.

It will be noted by reference to Fig. 4, wherein the parts are shown as occupying the position they would hold when the rudder is 40 in line with the keel of the vessel, that there is no lap to the valve over the ports leading to the two cylinders, but that there is a slight space which will allow air from the inlet-pipe C always to pass through the ports leading 45 to the respective cylinders. This is done to afford at all times thorough and adequate cushioning of the outer ends of the pistons, so that when at rest or in line with the keel the rudder will be as effectually cushioned 50 as when moving to port or to starboard.

The locking cushion-value d^2 is an ordinary piston working in a casing d^6 , the latter being provided on each side with a threaded extension into which the pipes a^2 and a^3 are 55 screwed, the said pipes being tapped into the cylinders near their inner ends, as clearly shown in Figs. 1 and 2. The casing d^6 is provided with a series of inward-projecting flanges d^7 , on which the value d^3 works, these 50 flanges constituting ports through which, when the value d^2 is moved to one side, the air escapes from the inner end of one cylinder to the inner end of the other, the passage being closed when the parts are in the position 55 shown in Fig. 4, air being supplied to the outer ends of the cylinders through pipes a^4 and a^5 .

In order to supply a constant flow of air to the inner end of the cylinders, so as to compensate for loss, as from leakage, a cushion 70 air-pipe a^6 is provided, one end of which is tapped into the inner end of one of the cylinders and the other end into the supply-pipe C. By this arrangement air is supplied to the inner ends of the cylinders at each operation of the apparatus, as will be obvious by reference to Fig. 2.

The values $d\,ec{d}^2$ are moved in unison through the medium of the two-part rock-lever E, to one member e of which is coupled the stem d^7 80 of the operating air-value d and to the other member e^2 the stem d^8 of the locking cushion-valve d^2 . This two-part lever may be operated in many ways, but in this instance I prefer to operate it by mounting the roller e^3 , 85constituting the fulcrum of the lever, on a horizontally-disposed slide-rod F, the outer end of which is bifurcated for the purpose of permitting the two members of the rocking lever working between it. The rear end of 90 the slide-rod \mathbf{F} is squared, as shown at f, and works in a similar-shaped bearing formed at the rear end of the valve-casing, the function of this square portion being to prevent any rocking or lateral play of the parts. 95

The slide-rod is operated by a lever G, constituting one member of a follow-up system, whereof the other members comprise a lever g, a bell-crank lever g^2 , and a lever g^3 , connecting with the steering-head post or with 100 the tiller, the object of this follow-up system being to cause the amount of movement of the helm to correspond with the amount of movement given the wheel by the helmsman to cause the motion of the rudder to be stopped 105 at the proper instant. The lever G is connected with a screw-threaded block H, working in a suitable casing h, adjacent to the valve-chests, the block being reciprocated by means of a screw-shaft I, actuated either from 110 the steering-wheel or by a motor, as may be When the block is desired, when necessary. moved by the rotation of the screw-shaft I, motion is imparted to the lever G to move it in or out, according as the screw-shaft is ro- 115 tated, thus shifting the operating air-valve to allow ingress of air to one cylinder and exhaust from the other cylinder and also moving the locking cushion-valve to allow the air in the inner end of one cylinder to 120 escape to the inner end of the other cylinder. As the tiller is moved by the cross-head it imparts motion to the follow-up system, and the latter closes the values $d d^{\tilde{z}}$ when the rudder reaches the predetermined point, and 125 thereby locks the latter in place until the valves are again opened in the manner described.

In order to determine the amount of movement to be given to the rudder, the steering- 130 wheel post J is provided with a dial j, over which traverses a pointer j^2 , actuated by bevel-gears j^3 j^4 , mounted, respectively, on the steering-wheel shaft j^5 and a short shaft

 j^{6} , arranged above the shaft j^{5} , as clearly shown in Fig. 9.

Within the wheel-post are two incandescent lamps $j^7 j^8$, which may, if desired, be green 5 and red, to designate, respectively, the starboard and the port sides of the vessel and are connected by suitable wires with a reversingcoil K, located in this instance at the base

- of the wheel-post, a lever k being provided 10 to reverse the current when necessary, as will appear farther on. A vertical shaft L is also arranged in the post and is actuated by bevel-gears j^3 and l upon movement of the steering-wheel. This shaft carries at its lower 15 end a sprocket-wheel l², around which passes
- a sprocket-chain l^3 to and around another sprocket-wheel m on a shaft M, which extends down through the lower deck and car-
- ries a second sprocket-wheel m^2 , around 20 which passes a sprocket-chain m^3 to and around a drum N, and from the latter extends a wire rope o, to and around the drum O. (Shown in Fig. 7.)
- It is to be understood that there will be a 25 like arrangement of sprocket-wheels, sprocket-chains, wire ropes, and drums for every wheel-post employed, so that an explanation of one will serve for all.
- The drum O carries a sprocket-wheel o², 30 around which passes a sprocket-chain o^3 to and around a spocket-wheel i on the screwshaft I. Thus when the steering-wheel is turned motion is imparted to the screw-shaft I, thence to the lever G, thence to the valves
- 35 $d d^2$, thence to the rudder and the follow-up system, and back again to the valves to close the same. The operation is the same with all the steering-wheels and therefore needs no further description.
- In order that motion from the drums O O² 40 O³ may be transmitted to the shaft I, a number of clutches i^2 are provided, which are adapted to be locked into clutch-faces i^3 , carried by the sprocket-wheel *i*. In this instance
- 45 it is to be assumed that the drum O is operated directly from the main steering-wheel located in the pilot-house and that all the clutches except the one for this drum are out of locked engagement with the clutch-faces
- 50 of the sprocket-wheels i. Should an accident happen to this steering-wheel, a signal will be transmitted to a seaman or helmsman, who will be stationed in the stern of the boat, to unclutch the clutch i^2 and to throw one of
- 55 the other clutches into locked engagement with the clutch-face on another of the sprocket-wheels *i*. In case of engagement, where the steering will have to be done from the turret, all of the clutches will be thrown out
- 60 of engagement with the sprocket-wheels, and the helmsman will then operate the valves by means of a hand-wheel P on the shaft I. It is to be understood that when the steering is accomplished in this manner a suitable 65 signaling device may be employed to notify

will be obvious, a more detailed description thereof is deemed unnecessary.

Where the steering is to be effected electrically, a motor Q is employed, the shaft of 70 which is provided with a beveled gear q in engagement with a similar gear i^4 on a shaft I. These gears are normally out of engagement with each other and may be thrown into operative engagement by means of a lever q^2 , 7 which operates to shift the gear q into and out of engagement with the gear i^4 . In order to stop the motor when the rudder is hard over, a cut-out R is employed, comprising a bed r, secured to the sole-plate or base of the 8 apparatus, and a lever r^2 , fulcrumed on the lever G and having one end slotted to engage a pin h^2 on the screw-block H and the other end provided with a transversely-arranged bar r^3 carrying insulated end pieces r^4 . Upon this 8 plate are pivoted two arms r^5 , which are held in contact with conducting-pieces r^6 by means of springs r^7 . The contact-pieces r^6 are secured to a plate r^{s} , attached to the under side of the plate R, and from the plate r^{s} extends 9 a wire r^{9} to the reversing-coil K at the wheelpost, the arms r^5 being connected with the dynamo or other source of electricity by wires r^{10} and r^{11} . When the parts are in the position shown in Fig. 8, the motor is free to run, 9 but as soon as the screw-block H has moved a sufficient distance to bring one of the contact-points r^4 into engagement with one of the arms r^5 the circuit is broken and the motor stops. To restart the motor, it will only be 1 necessary to shift the lever of the reversingcoil, when the current will pass through the wires r^9 and r^{10} or r^9 and r^{11} , as the case may be, to reverse the direction of flow of current to the motor again to start it.

In order to guard against accident, a supplemental tiller S is employed, which may be brought into use in case any accident should happen to the mechanical part of the apparatus. This may be done by throwing a key I s out of engagement with the tiller proper, so that the steering-post may be turned without interference with the tiller B. A suitable brake T may also be used, in case of an emergency, to lock the rudder at the desired posi- 1 tion.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is-

1. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiv- 1 ing cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting with the like ends of the cylinders, exhaust- I pipes connecting with the other ends, and valves for controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, substantially as described.

2. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiving cylinders, a piston-rod common to the r cylinders, and a rudder connected by interthe helmsman which way to steer. As this | posed mechanism with the said rod, in com-

bination with fluid-supply pipes connecting | with the like ends of the cylinders, exhaustpipes connecting with the other ends, valves for controlling the passage of fluid through 5 the pipes, and mechanism for operating the

valves in unison, substantially as described. 3. A steering-gear comprising two cylinders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders, a cross-head on the said rod for actuating the 10 tiller, and valves for controlling the simultaneous admission of air or other aeriform fluid to the cylinders and exhaust therefrom, and also for cushioning the piston, the supply and exhaust taking place at like ends of the cyl-15 linders, and the cushioning at the other ends, substantially as described.

4. A steering-gear comprising two cylinders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders,

a cross-head on the said rod for actuating the 20 tiller, and two valves operating in unison, one of which controls the supply of aeriform fluid to like ends of the cylinders and exhaust therefrom, and the other the passage of fluid from one cylinder to the other to afford a

25 cushion for the piston, substantially as described.

5. A steering-gear comprising two cylinders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders, a cross-head on the said rod for actuating the 30 tiller, two valves operating in unison, the one for controlling the supply of aeriform fluid

- to like ends of the cylinders and exhaust therefrom, and the other the passage of fluid from one cylinder to the other to afford a 35 cushion for the piston, and a cushion fluid-
- pipe for supplying a constant feed of fluid to the cylinders to compensate for leakage, substantially as described.
- 6. A steering-gear comprising two cylin-40 ders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders, a cross-head on the piston-rod for actuating the tiller, two valves, one of which controls the supply of aeriform fluid to the cylinders and the exhaust therefrom, and the other the 45 passage of the fluid from one cylinder to the other to afford a cushion to the pistons, and a rock-lever for actuating the valves, substantially as described.

7. A steering-gear comprising two cylin-50 ders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders, a cross-head on the piston-rod for actuating the tiller, two valves, one of which controls the supply of aeriform fluid to the cylinders and the exhaust thereform, and the other the 55 passage of the fluid from one cylinder to the other to afford a cushion to the pistons, and a two-partrock-lever for actuating the valves, substantially as described.

8. A steering-gear comprising two cylin-60 ders, a piston-rod common to both cylinders, a cross-head on the said rod for actuating the tiller, two valves, one of which controls the passage of aeriform fluid to the cylinders and the exhaust therefrom, and the other the pas-65 sage of fluid from one cylinder to the other to afford a cushion to the pistons, a two-part low-up system actuated from the tiller and connected by interposed mechanism with the rock-lever, whereby the amount of movement 70of the helm is made to correspond with the amount of movement given the wheel by the helmsman, substantially as described.

9. A steering-gear comprising two cylinders, a piston rod common to both cylinders, 75 a cross-head on the said rod for actuating the tiller, two valves, one of which controls the passage of aeriform fluid to the cylinder and the exhaust therefrom, and the other the passage of fluid from one cylinder to the other 80 to afford a cushion to the piston, a two-part rock-lever for actuating the valves, a followup system, connected at one end to the tiller and, at the other end by interposed mechanism with the rock-lever, a movable block 85 connected to one member of the system, and a shaft actuated by suitable mechanism to reciprocate the block and thereby shift the valves, substantially as described.

10. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiv- 90 ing cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting with like ends of the cylinders, exhaust-pipes 95 connecting with the other ends, valves for controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, and mechanism adapted to be operated from different points on the vessel to work the valves, substantially as described. ICO

11. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiving cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting 105 with like ends of the cylinders, exhaust-pipes connecting with the other ends, valves for controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, and mechanism adapted to be operated from different points on the vessel to work 110 the valves, comprising a lever connecting at one end with the valve-operating mechanism, and at its opposite end through interposed mechanism with the rudder, a block secured to the lever, a shaft adapted upon rotation to 115 reciprocate the block, and independently-operating mechanism leading from the different steering-stations on the vessel and connecting with the shaft, substantially as described.

12. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiv- 120 ing cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting with like ends of the cylinders, exhaust-pipes 125 connecting with the other ends, valves for controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, mechanism adapted to be operated from different points on the vessel to work the valves, comprising a lever connecting at one 130 end with the valve-operating mechanism, and at its opposite end through interposed mechanism with the rudder, a block secured to the rock-lever for actuating the valves, and a fol- | lever, a shaft adapted upon rotation to recip-

rocate the block, independently operating mechanism leading from the different steering-stations on the vessel and connecting with the shaft, and clutch mechanism on the shaft to cut into or out of operative connection therewith any of the steering-stations, sub-

stantially as described. 13. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiv-

ing cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the 10 cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting with like ends of the cylinders, exhaust-pipes connecting with the other ends, valves for 15 controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, mechanism adapted to work the valves, comprising a lever connecting at one end with the valve-operating mechanism, and at its opposite end through interposed mechanism 20 with the rudder, a block secured to the lever, a shaft adapted upon rotation to reciprocate the block, an electric motor normally out of engagement with the shaft, but adapted to be brought into engagement therewith, a cut-25 out device in electrical connection with the motor, the source of electrical energy and with reversing-coils located at the different steering-stations, and a shifting lever actuated by the block to operate the cut-out to 30 cause it to break the circuit to the motor and

thereby stop the rotation of the shaft when the rudder has reached a predetermined point,

and, upon reversal of the current, again to start the motor, substantially as described.

14. In steering-gear, aeriform-fluid-receiv- 35 ing cylinders, a piston-rod operated from the cylinders, and a rudder connected by interposed mechanism with the said rod, in combination with fluid-supply pipes connecting with like ends of the cylinders, exhaust-pipes 40 connecting with the other ends, valves for controlling the passage of fluid through the pipes, mechanism adapted to be operated from different points on the vessel to work the valves, comprising a lever connecting at one 45 end with the valve-operating mechanism, and at its opposite end through interposed mechanism with the rudder, a block secured to the lever, a shaft adapted upon rotation to reciprocate the block, independently-operating 50 mechanism leading from the different steering-stations on the vessel and connecting with the shaft, clutch mechanism on the shaft to cut into or out of operative connection therewith any of the steering-stations, and a hand- 55 wheel on the shaft to operate the same independently of the mechanism from the steering-stations, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses. HARRY A. SPILLER.

Witnesses: DAVID H. MEAD, F. B. KEEFER.