

United States Patent Office.

CLINTON W. TERPENING, OF GENESEO, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 91,986, dated June 29, 1869.

IMPROVED HARNESS-TUG OR TRACE-SUPPORTER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLINTON W. TERPENING, of Geneseo, in the county of Henry, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and improved Harness-Tug or Trace-Supporter; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a face view of my improved tug or brace-supporter.

Figure 2 is a back view of the same.

Figure 3 is a longitudinal section of the same.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to improvement in devices for suspending the tugs or traces of the harness from the hip-strap, so that the connection can be readily separated or re-established.

The invention consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of parts, whereby the snap-hook is adapted to be locked, or held in a closed position, by means of a shoulder of the plate, and a spring, as will be hereinafter more fully described.

A, in the drawing, represents the body, or sustaining-portion of my improved supporter. It is of nearly semi-cylindrical form, with rounded ends, and is made of suitable metal.

It is fastened to a hip-strap, B, by means of a rivet, *a*, at one end, and by a small hook, *b*, at the other end.

The hook *b* projects backward and outward from

one end of the body or case A, and is fitted through a small hole of the strap, as in fig. 3.

C is a flat spring, fitted into a cavity of the plate, or case A, between the strap and said case, as in fig. 3, and can be fastened by the rivet *a*.

A hook, D, provided with projecting pins *c c*, is pivoted to projecting ears *d d*, formed on the case A, and is of nearly semicircular form, with a squared end, *e*, resting on the spring C, as shown, while its other end rests on a projecting ear, *f*, of the case A.

The spring throws the square end *e* up against a flaring plate, *g*, of the case, and holds thereby the hook closed.

The pivots *c c* of said hook rest in sockets, as shown in fig. 2 of the drawings.

The tug or trace can be readily fitted under the hook, and is then retained by the same.

This supporter supersedes the necessity of tying or unfastening the tugs, as it can be opened or closed with one hand. It holds the tug higher from the ground, thereby lessening the danger of getting the horse's foot over the tugs. Should the foot, however, get over the same, it is easy to unfasten the tug.

Having thus described my invention,

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

As a new article of manufacture, the trace-supporter, consisting of the case A, spring C, and hook D, constructed as described, and arranged to operate in the manner herein shown and set forth.

Witnesses: CLINTON W. TERPENING.

L. O. CAMPBELL,

WM. H. TERPENING.