

GEORGE V. PIERCE.

Improvement in Extension-Bustles.

No. 115,235.

Patented May 23, 1871.

Fig.1

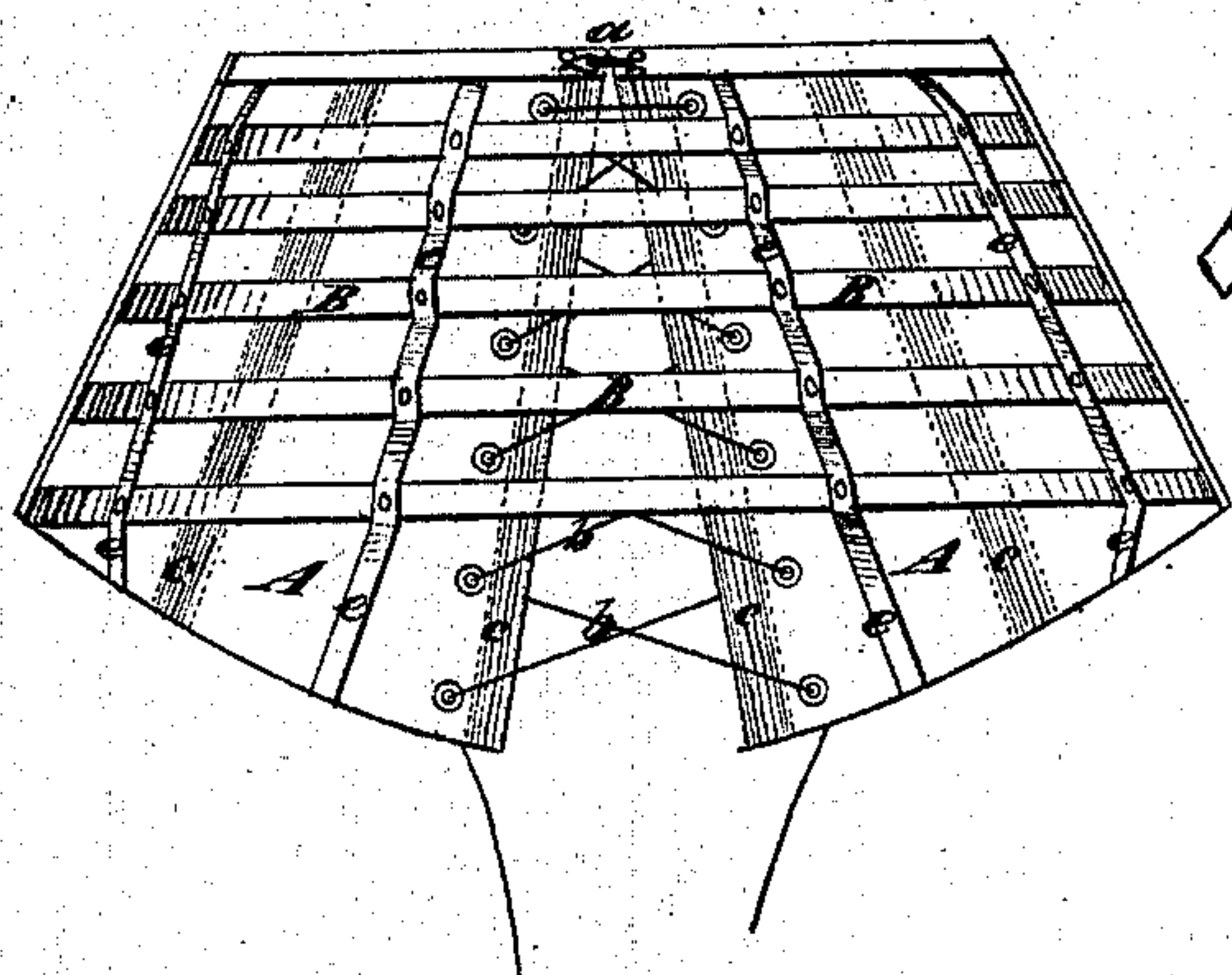


Fig.2

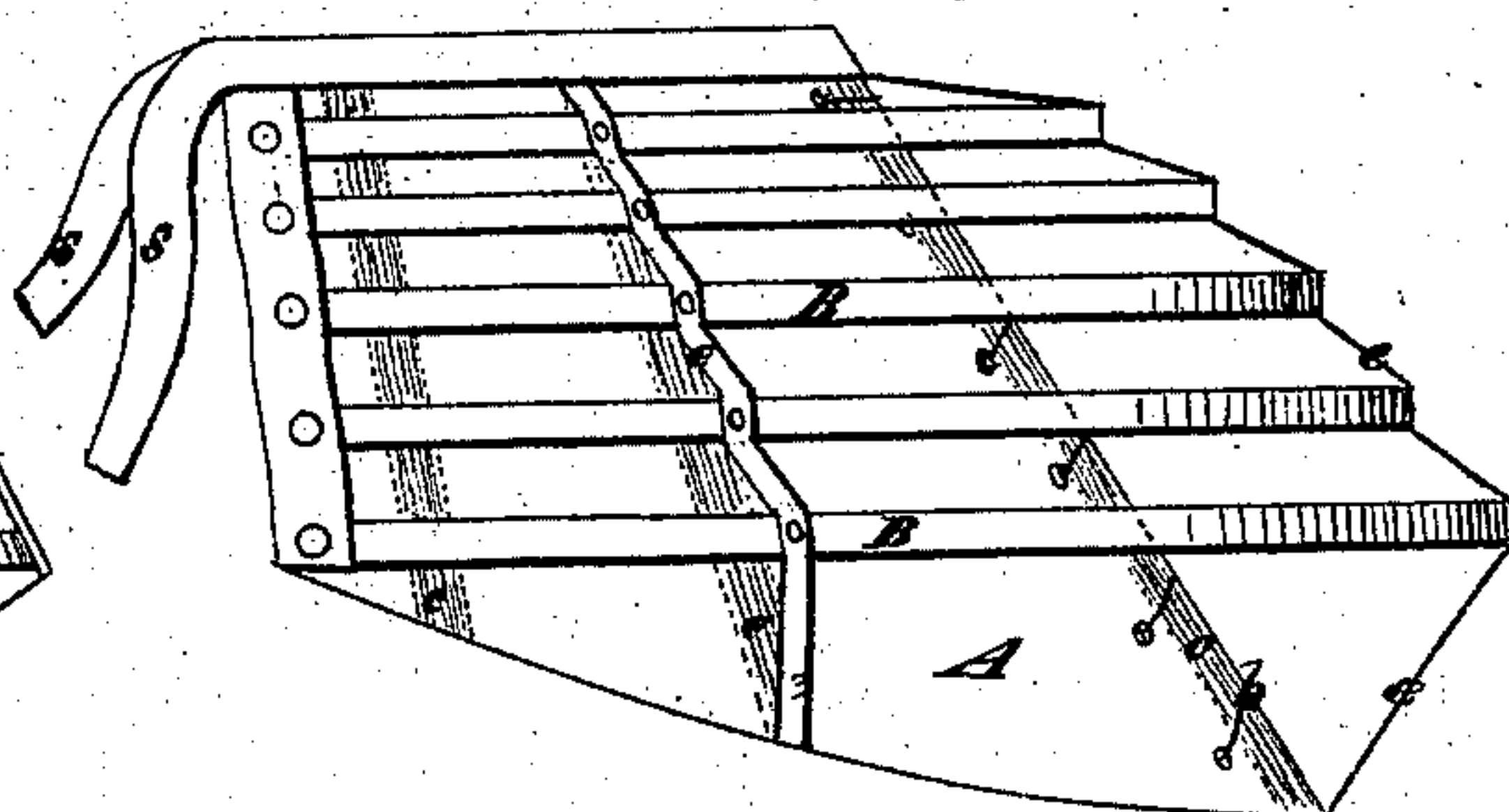


Fig.3

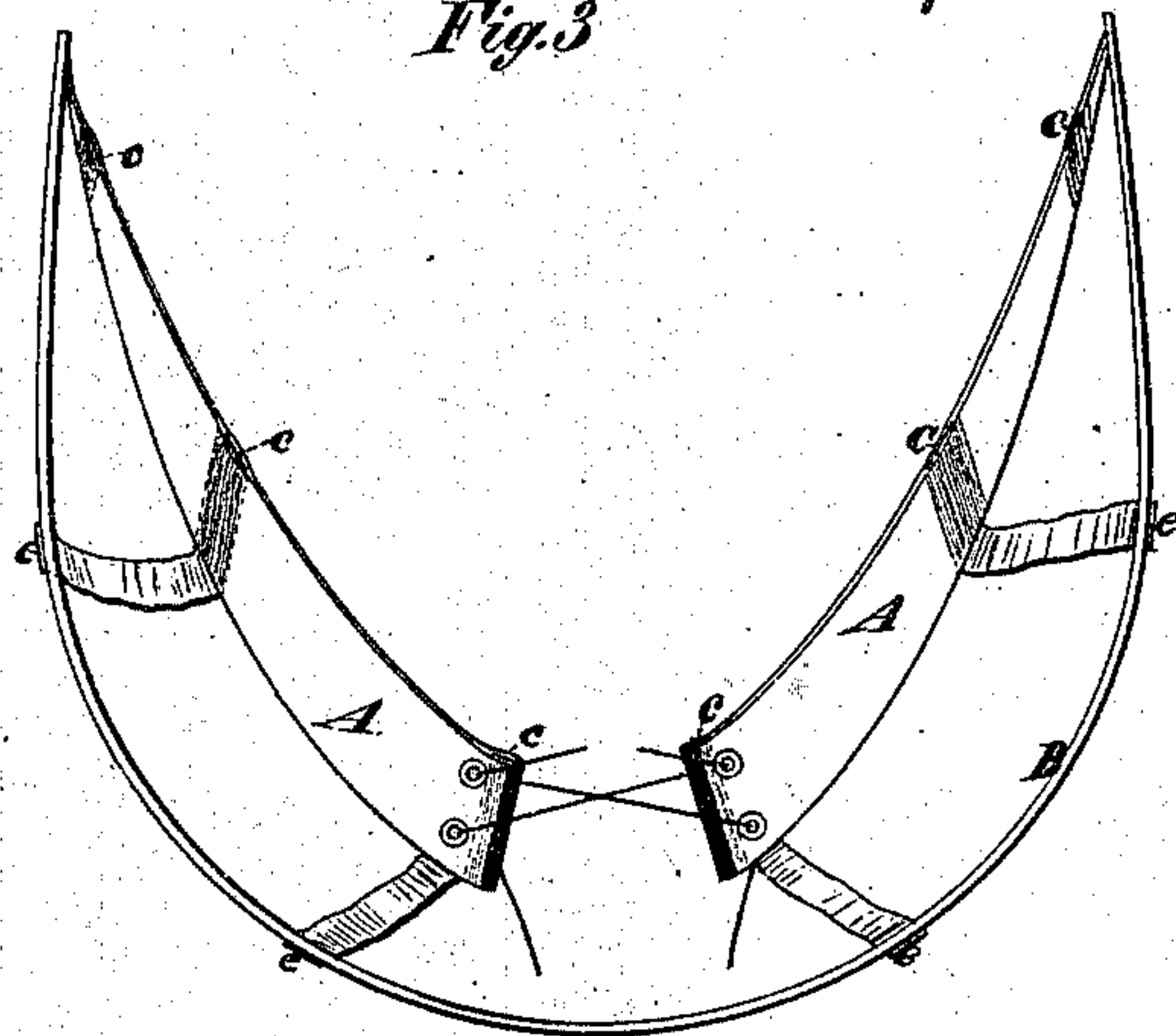
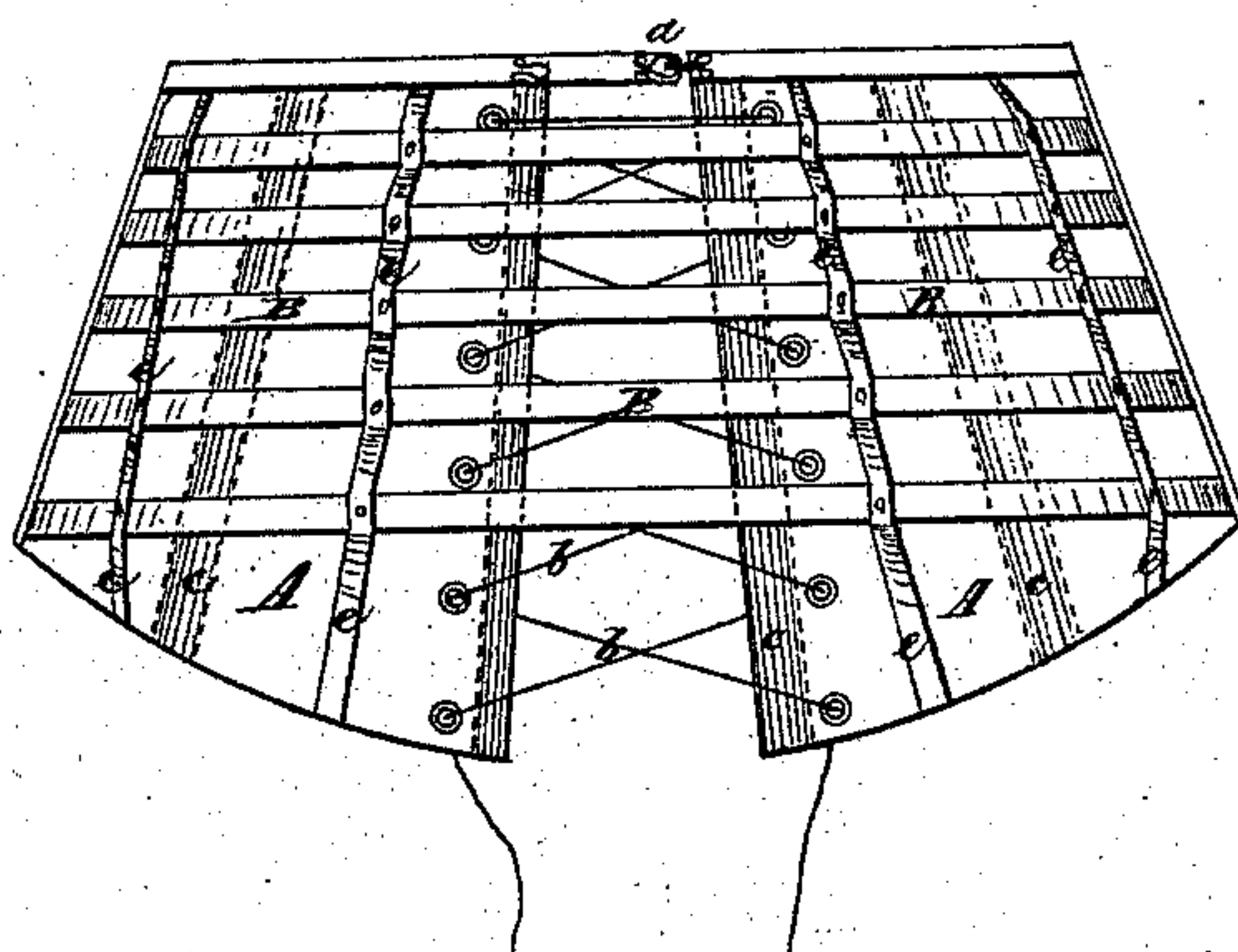


Fig.4



Witnesses.  
Fred Haynes  
vs. Tusk

George V. Pierce



# United States Patent Office.

GEORGE V. PIERCE, OF JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY.

Letters Patent No. 115,235, dated May 23, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN EXTENSION BUSTLES.

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, GEORGE V. PIERCE, of Jersey City, in the county of Hudson and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Extension Bustles; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing forming a part of this specification.

This invention consists in a novel combination and arrangement of bows, extending ribs, and straps, whereby the bustle is kept in shape and enabled to support the dress without sagging, and provision is made for its expansion, while it is prevented from incommoding the wearer in sitting down.

In the accompanying drawing—

Figure 1 is a back view of a bustle made according to my invention;

Figure 2 is a side view of the same;

Figure 3 is a horizontal section thereof; and

Figure 4 is a similar view to fig. 1, but showing the supporting portion extended so as to lower the bows of the bustle.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

A is the stay-supporting cloth of the bustle, and is made in two parts, connected at the top by a hook and eye, *a*, and from top to bottom by a lacer, *b*, which passes through holes near their edges.

Each of these parts is provided, at suitable intervals apart, with a series of extending ribs or springs, *c*, consisting of thin strips of steel, which extend through the cloth in the direction of its depth.

B B are the bows, which are of ordinary form, consisting of strips of steel or other suitable material, having a braided or woven covering, and are secured at both ends to the bustle-cloth.

These bows are connected at intervals throughout their length by a series of flexible braces, *e e*, consisting of tapes secured at their ends to the top and bottom of the stay-cloth A.

The bustle is provided with strings *s s* for its attachment to the body of a person, such strings combining with the upper part of the cloth to form a waistband.

By means of the stiffening-springs *c c*, secured with-

in the stay-cloth A, the bustle is kept extended vertically and prevented from rucking up; but as the bows are connected by flexible braces or straps they are permitted to close up, and so prevented from incommoding the wearer in sitting down.

The laced edges of the support A being arranged down the back of the wearer they are controlled to regulate the extension of the bustle by the tightening of the lacer, while to cause its contraction or flattening the hook *a* is loosed from the eye, and the waistband extended behind and tightened in front, thus separating the back edges of said supports, by which means the bows B are allowed to fall or flatten on the body of the wearer.

The cloth of the bustle fits against the lower part of the back of the person wearing it, and the closer its two parts are laced the more the bows of the bustle extend from the body in a rearward direction; and if the hook and eye, by which the upper edges of the two parts of the cloth are secured together, be detached and the lacer sufficiently loosened, the bows will tie close to the person of the wearer.

A greater or lesser fullness is therefore given to the back of the dress, according as the rear edges of the cloth are drawn more or less toward each other.

By applying the extension strips *c* to the cloth of the bustle, and connecting the bows by the tapes or flexible braces *e e*, provision is afforded for keeping the bustle properly extended in a downward direction while the wearer is standing or walking; but the bustle is permitted to yield and thereby prevented from incommoding the wearer when sitting down.

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

The bustle, composed of the supporting-stays A A provided with extending ribs *c c*, to which stays the springs B are connected at their ends, and with the upper and lower edges of said stays, by straps, tapes, or flexible braces *e*, and adjustable by the lace *b*, hook and eye *a*, and strings *s*, all arranged substantially as herein shown and described.

Witnesses:

GEORGE V. PIERCE.

FRED. HAYNES,

R. E. RABEAU,