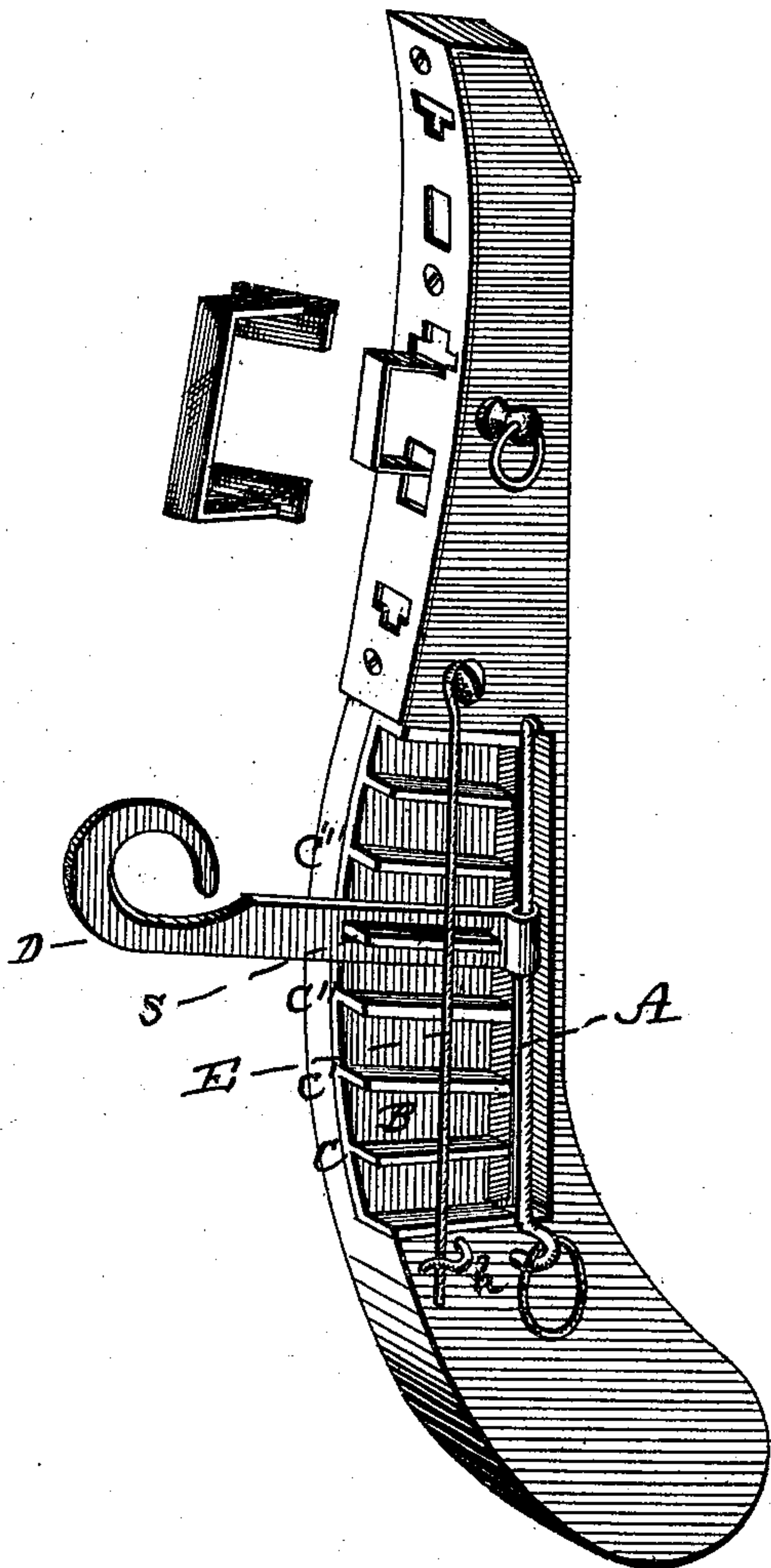


A. R. WEAKES.
HAMES.

No. 173,092.

Patented Feb. 1, 1876.



WITNESSES
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW R. WEAKES, OF MADISON COUNTY, TENNESSEE.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAMES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **173,092**, dated February 1, 1876; application filed August 26, 1875.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW R. WEAKES, of the county of Madison and in the State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hames; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improvement in an adjustable trace-connection on hames, as will be more fully hereinafter set forth.

The figure in the drawing, making a part of this specification, represents a perspective view of one hame with my invention applied thereto.

I take an ordinary hame and cut out a recess, into which is inserted a metallic plate, B, having transverse cross-bars C C C C on its face. Running parallel with this plate I attach a vertical rod, A, near the inner side. The trace-connection, or what is commonly known as the loggerhead, D, has an eye on its end which slips over this rod, and it also has a slot, S, to allow any one of the bars C to pass through. A spring-rod, E, holds the same to the hame by being caught under a staple, h. I hinge the loggerhead D upon the parallel bar A, running along the side of the hame, as shown in the annexed drawing. The loggerhead slides along upon this bar, which is in effect to hinge it thereon. Of equal length and extent with this bar A, I fasten to the side of the hame a metal plate, B, upon the surface of which, at equidistant spaces, I fix a series of metal upright transverse bars, C C C C. In the loggerhead D I cut a slot, S, of size and extent just sufficient to slip snugly over any one of these bars on which it may be desired to adjust it. When the loggerhead has been adjusted in position over any one of the bars C C C C, for the greater security of holding it in its place, a spring-bar, E, lying parallel with the plate B, and at right angles to the cross-bars C C C C, is used as shown. This spring-bar E lies (when fastened under the iron catch h) in notches cut into the cross-bars C C C C, and thereby, by being sprung into the catch a, is held rigid and firm, and will not allow the loggerhead

to slip off of the cross-bar which passes up through the slot therein. It is well known among those experienced in the use of hames on horses, that, owing to the wide difference in the shape of the shoulders of horses, a hame that would evenly fit the shoulder of one horse would lie very unevenly against the shoulder of another. In the latter event, the pressure being only applied in spots, so to speak, these points where the pressure is greatest readily become bruised, and the horse is soon disabled. The common heavy-built draft-horse has shoulders more perpendicular than those of blooded stock, and it is all-important that the position of the loggerhead upon the hame should be at that point where the direct pull of the trace will bring the entire surface of the hame evenly and uniformly against the shoulder of the horse. This result can only be reached by having the loggerhead movable, so as to vary its position upon the hame until it conforms to the peculiar shape of the shoulder to which it is attached. This, it is at once apparent, cannot be done by the use of the ordinary hame whereon the loggerhead is immovably fixed; but, by reference more particularly to the accompanying drawing of my invention, it will be seen that when the hames are once placed upon the horse's shoulders, the position of the loggerhead can be varied up or down at pleasure, until more equal pressure and more uniform conformity to the shape of the shoulder is acquired. When this adjustment is reached, the loggerhead is held firmly in its position by means of the cross-bar passing through the slotted opening in the loggerhead, and by the pressure of the spring-bar across the top. The distance between the cross-bars C C C C may be made to correspond with the width of the loggerhead, so that if a right adjustment of the loggerhead cannot be accurately obtained by a cross-bar entering the slot, the loggerhead may be dropped into a position between two of these bars, and then be held equally firm and immovable. My hame is also provided with an adjustable holder to receive the "top-tie;" but to this I lay no particular claim.

I also state that where it is found preferable, staples for this purpose may be used in lieu thereof.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The sliding connection D, having slot S, and hinged to the rod A, in combination with the plate B, having bars C, which pass through the slot in the connection for holding the same in position, and forming a draft-connection, all substantially as set forth.

2. The spring-rod E and staple h, connected to the same, in combination with the plate B

and its bars, and the slotted and adjustable trace-connection D, all substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I tion I have hereunto set my hand this 18th day of June, 1875.

ANDREW R. WEAKES.

Witnesses:

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L. T. LINDSEY.