(No Model.)

N. TEAS.

SADDLE TREE.

No. 256,514. Patented Apr. 18, 1882.

Fig. 1.

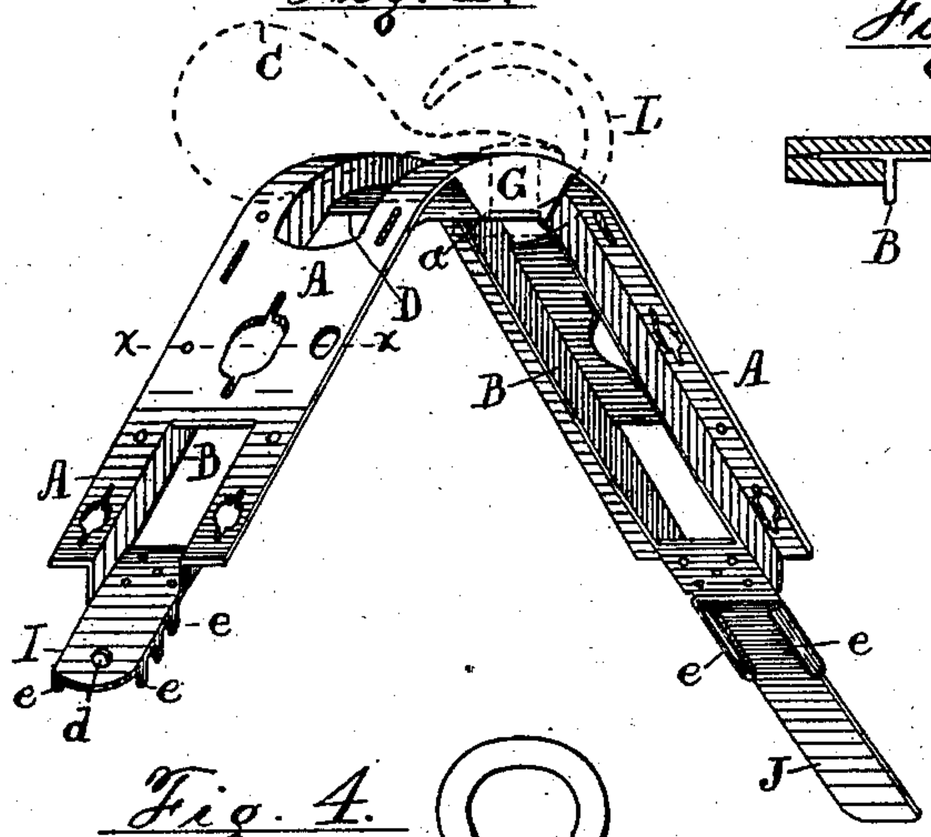


Fig. 2.

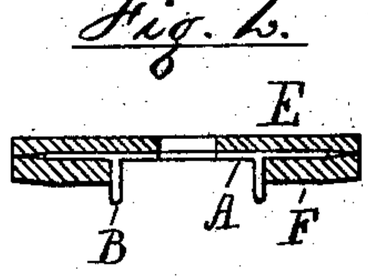


Fig. 3.

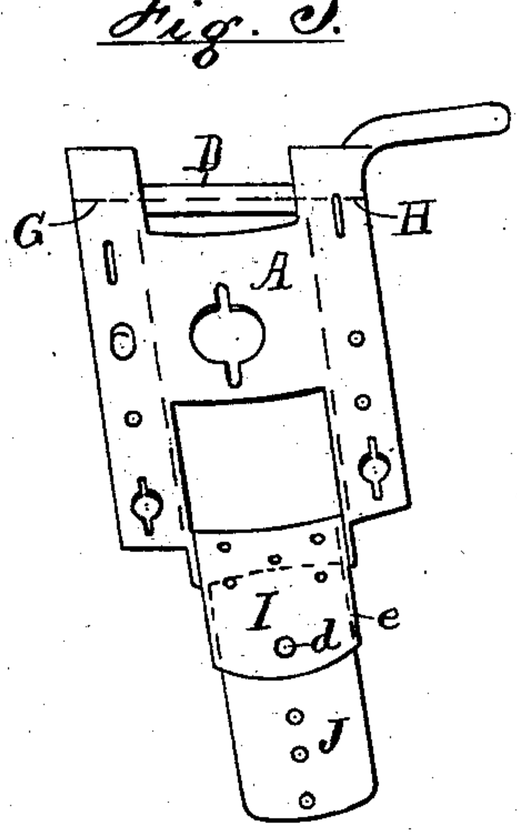


Fig. 4.

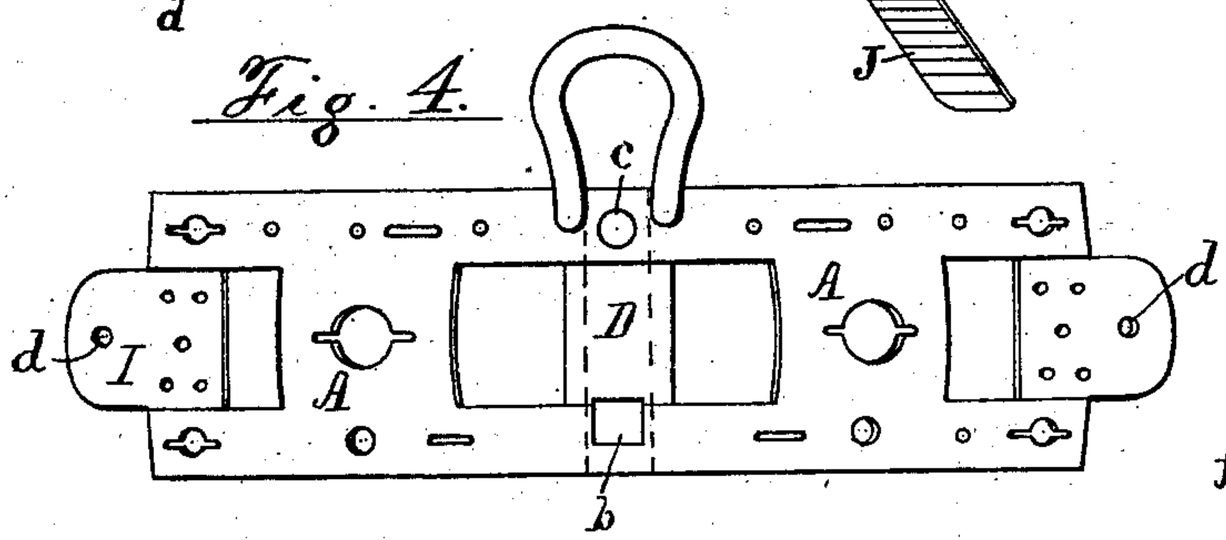


Fig 5.

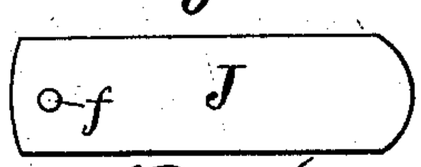


Fig. 6.

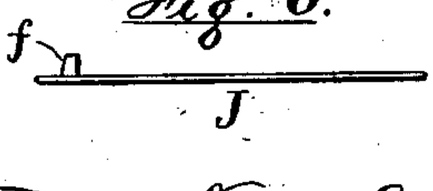


Fig. 7.

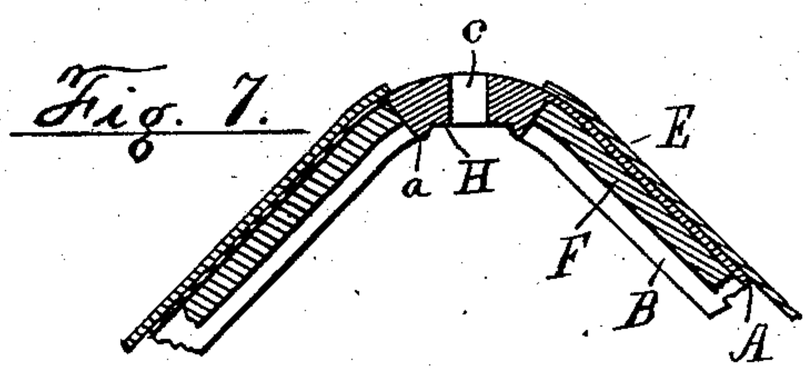


Fig. 8.

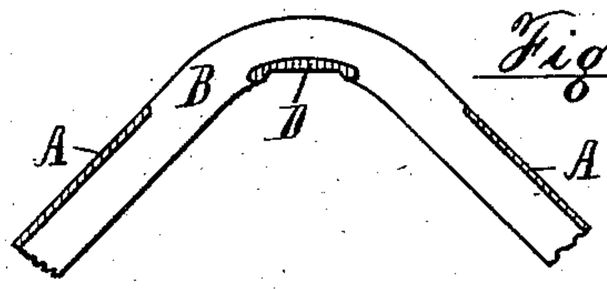


Fig. 10.

Fig. 9.

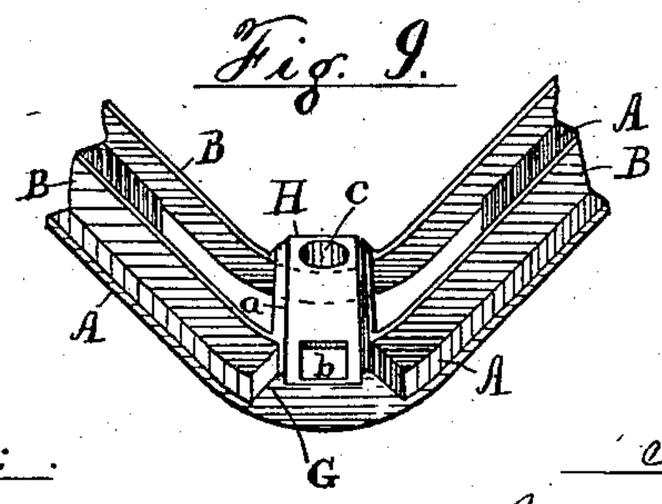
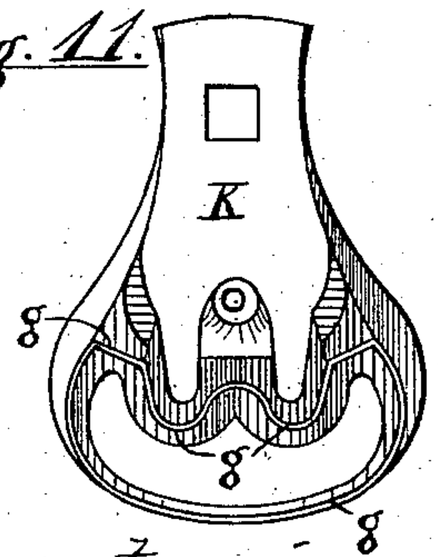


Fig. 11.



Attest:

W. F. D. Crane

C. C. Merrick

Inventor.

Noble Teas. per

Thos. S. Crane, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

NOBLE TEAS, OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY.

SADDLE-TREE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 256,514, dated April 18, 1882.

Application filed November 23, 1881. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, NOBLE TEAS, a citizen of the United States, residing in the city of Newark, county of Essex, and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Harness-Saddles, fully described and represented in the following specification and the accompanying drawings, forming a part of the same.

My invention relates to an improvement in harness-saddles; and it consists in the special construction herein shown and claimed for cheapening the construction and finishing of the saddle and for the attachment of the stiffener.

The improvement whereby the finishing of the saddle is facilitated consists in the combination, with the side flanges, of a block of metal formed under the seat at each end, the screw for the water-hook passing through the front block and the seat-screw passing through the rear block, the two blocks forming, in connection with a sunken bridge at the center of the tree, a continuous depressed ridge or strip on the under side of the tree. By this construction and by the arrangement of the side flanges of the tree flush with the upper side the flap can be sewed to the jockey apart from the tree, (in the cheaper grades of saddles,) and then shoved up on the flanges of the tree until its ends strike the blocks provided for that purpose. When the tongue of the flap is nailed to the tree with clinch-nails in the usual manner the abutting of the block against the ends of the flap makes the same very stiff and firm and the whole construction cheap and durable when the terrets are screwed in.

The construction of the blocks and the other improvements claimed will be understood by reference to the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is an oblique view of the tree. Fig. 2 is a section of the same on line *x x* in Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a side view of the tree; Fig. 4, a top view, Fig. 5 a top view, and Fig. 6 an edge view, of the stiffener; Fig. 7, a section of the top of tree through the center of seat-screw; Fig. 8, a section at top through the middle of the sunken bridge; Fig. 9, a perspective view of the lower side of the tree; Fig. 10, an edge view, and Fig. 11 a bottom view, of the seat, showing the standing ribs for leather cover.

A is the main plate or top flange of the tree, stiffened by longitudinal ribs B upon the under side and cut away upon the top beneath the seat C, so as to make plenty of room for the back-band to pass over the sunken bridge D. The ribs B are far enough apart to insert the back-band between them; but the top flange, A, extends over them at each side, so as to fit between the jockey and flap when the saddle is finished, their arrangement at the terret being shown in Fig. 2, where E is the jockey or saddle-cover and F is the flap.

G and H are the front and rear blocks, cast beneath the projecting part of the flange A at each end of the sunken bridge, and forming with the latter a continuous ridge upon the lower side of the arch, as shown in Fig. 9. The block G is provided with a little rib, *a*, at each edge to keep the foot of the rein-hook L in position, the latter being inserted beneath the tree, as shown in Fig. 1. A square hole, *b*, is formed through the block G for the bolt of the water-hook, and a hole, *c*, is formed through the block H at the rear of the arch to receive the seat-screw; and the space above the sunken bridge D is formed the entire width of the back-band, so that the latter can be passed through the arch of the tree without cutting it down any, as is usual. The band is therefore enabled to play back and forth to any desired extent, and the tree adapted to many uses for which an expensive wooden tree is commonly employed.

In Fig. 7 the arrangement of the flap and jockey is shown at the arch of the tree, the flap being butted against the shoulders formed by the blocks G and H, as described above.

To secure an extended bearing upon the back of the horse, and to fasten the stiffener to the tree more firmly and cheaply than heretofore, I form a projecting ear, I, at each lower end of the tree, and provide the ear with a rivet-hole, *d*, and clinching-lugs *e*, by which the stiffener J can be secured without loose rivets directly to the tree.

The stiffener, as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, is preferably cast with a rivet-stud, *f*, upon it, and when laid upon the ear I can be secured permanently to the latter by riveting the stud into the hole *d* and bending the clinching-lugs down upon it at both sides, as shown in Fig. 1.

By this method stiffeners of any thickness can be employed, and such strength imparted to the lower ends of the tree when required as to keep the saddle entirely above the withers of the horse.

The improved construction for the seat K consists in forming the lower side, at the rear in such seats as are leather-covered, with bearing-ribs all about the margin where the patent-leather bottom is secured to the top covering, to avoid the use of the wood-filling now required and used in leather-covered seats. I am aware that ribs are provided at some parts of the margin to support a metal back when such backs are used in place of leather, as in japanned seats; and I do not therefore claim ribs, broadly, but only the continuous rib, as shown at *g* in Fig. 11, when used in combination with a leather cover upon the whole surface of the seat. The advantage of such construction is a saving of about seventy-five cents per dozen seats.

An incidental advantage in the use of the block G under the tree-arch and the lowering of the foot of the rein-hook by securing it upon the lower side of such block consists in the space thus secured beneath the top surface of the seat for the roll of the pad, which is usually formed upon a piece of round bent cane, and the leather covering of which is often chafed entirely through by the rubbing of the check-rein when the hook is located higher.

By these various improvements the construction of the saddle is materially cheapened and its durability increased.

I am aware that a sunken bridge is not new and that a partial filling up of the space at the ends of the bridge has been made upon the under side of some trees, as in Patent No. 125,011, of 1872; but the purpose of such thickening was to allow a rabbet to be formed upon the upper side for the insertion of wooden mountings, and no provision has ever been made in such or any other case for the butting of the flap against a shoulder, as provided by my blocks. I do not therefore claim the sunken bridge in itself, or the mere thickening of the arch at its ends, but the formation of shoulders for the flap to butt upon.

From the above description the nature and operation of my invention will be easily understood, and I therefore claim the same as follows:

1. In a harness-saddle, the combination of a tree provided with a sunken bridge, and having the blocks G and H, or either of them, formed upon the lower side of the arch, as described, with a flap secured to the jockey, as set forth, and butted against the shoulders formed by the said blocks, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The fastening for the stiffener J, consisting of the lugs *e*, cast upon the lower ends of the tree and adapted to be clinched upon the stiffener, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination, in a casting for a leather-covered seat, of the ribs *g* with the lower side of the cantle, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

NOBLE TEAS.

Witnesses:
THOS. S. CRANE,
WM. F. D. CRANE.