

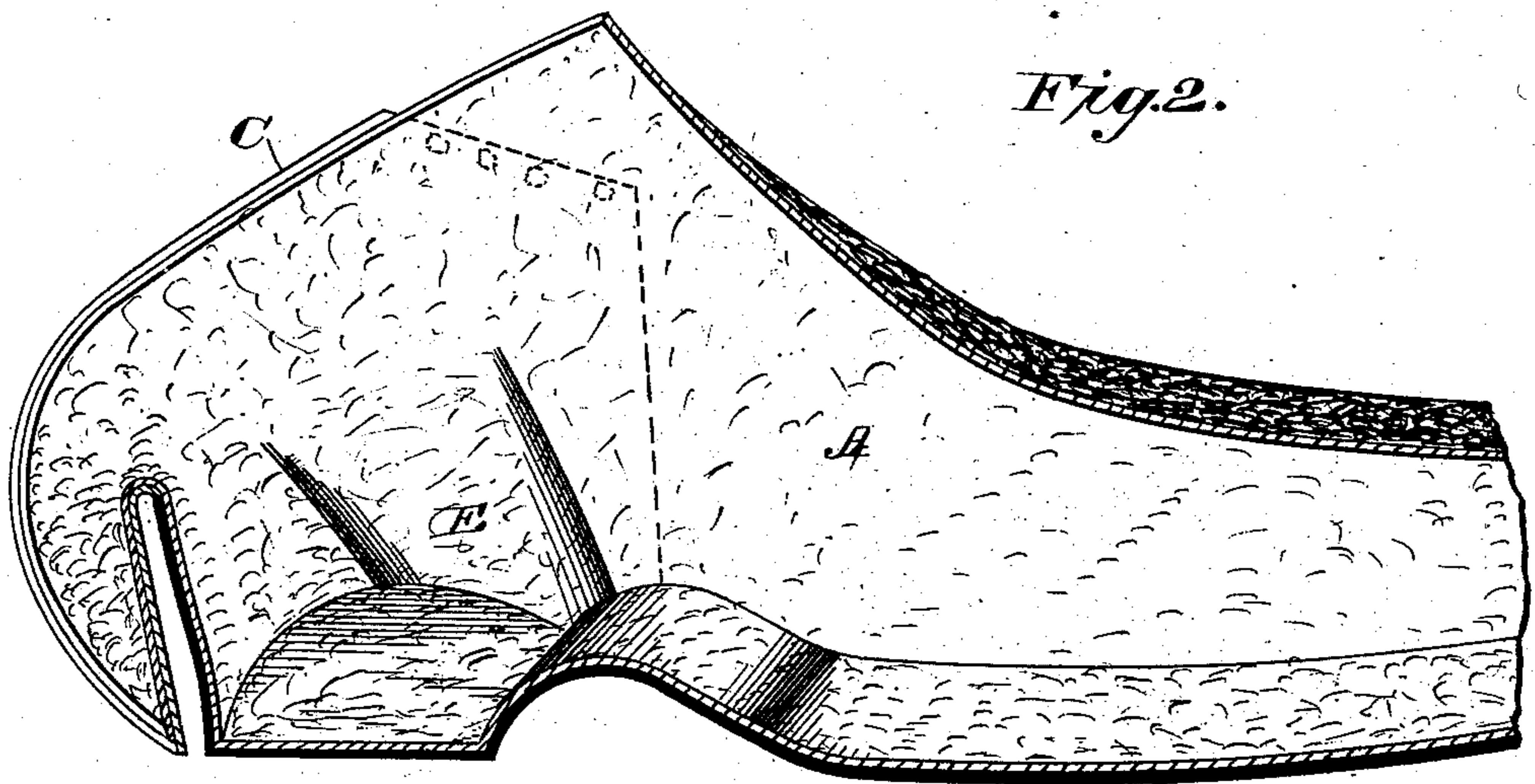
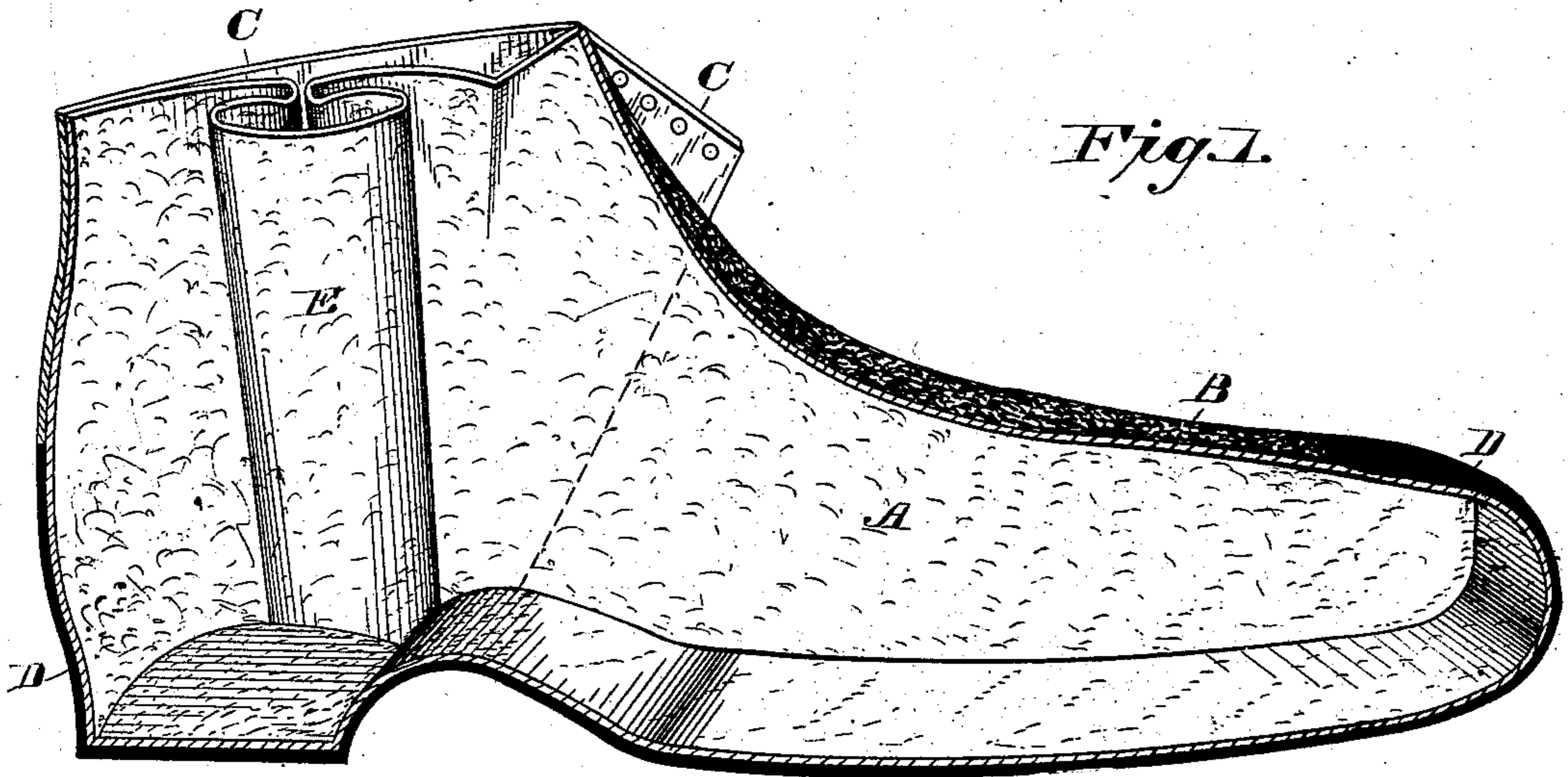
(No Model.)

J. B. BELCHER.

SHOE.

No. 302,089.

Patented July 15, 1884.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. BELCHER, OF CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN.

SHOE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,089, dated July 15, 1884.

Application filed January 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. BELCHER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Charlotte, in the county of Eaton and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention pertains to improvements in shoes, more especially felt or snow overshoes, the part to which the improvement is applicable being the upper, between the vamp and quarter, to allow the folding back upon itself 5 of the heel portion or quarter, for the ready entrance of the undershoe, and whereby the openings heretofore provided—one in each side of the upper—and chafing of the ankle-joint are avoided.

20 The invention therefore consists of a gusset, the material of which is caused to fold or lap from each side toward the middle, and may be a continuation of the vamp, substantially as hereinafter fully set forth and claimed.

25 In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of my improvement. Fig. 2 is a similar view thereof with the quarter or heel portion turned down or folded back upon itself for the entrance of the undershoe.

30 In carrying out my invention, I first shape and apply to the last the lining A, which is preferably made of fabric, which is treated to a coating of rubber in a liquid state. Over the rubber and fabric lining A is placed the vamp B, and around the rear or heel portion 35 thereof is placed the quarter C, the lower outer marginal portion of which is covered with a strip of rubber, D, after which the bottom or sole is applied, said vamp and quarter being 40 made of felt, or a composite material of rubber and fabric.

45 E is a gusset, of which there are two, one arranged in each side of the upper, between the vamp and the quarter, to replace the openings heretofore left thereat, to enable the shoe to be readily put on or afford easy access for the undershoe. This gusset may be made by removing, opposite the ankle-joint, a portion of the vamp, and securing to the side and lower

edges of the opening thus formed, or along said 50 edges, a piece of felt or composite substance of rubber and fabric, said gusset-piece being of sufficient width to allow the heel portion or quarter to be turned down or folded back upon itself, for its intended purpose, as above point- 55 ed out, while, when the quarter is in its normal position, said gusset-piece folds or laps upon itself toward, but does not fill, the middle space, thus avoiding the leaving of openings at this point, and whereby what would otherwise be openings is closed up water-tight completely to the top of the upper, obviating the entrance of snow and water. The quarter, as is usual, is provided with forward extensions of lapels, with one of which is integrally made, 65 or to it is connected, the fastening-strap, and to the other one is secured a fastening or buckle. The folds of the gussets rest upon opposite sides of the ankle-joint, and not against or behind it, either of which latter positions causes the 70 gusset-fold to chafe or hurt the ankle, while in the former position they serve as braces to the ankle-joint, and prevent chafing thereof.

In lieu of making the gussets as aforesaid, they may be made by forming the vamp with 75 continuously rearwardly-projecting extensions of sufficient length to serve the purpose of the gussets, and adapted to fold or lap upon itself as the latter. This latter method of making them would avoid the slitting of the vamp 80 and quarter, and removing portions of the vamp and replacing the same with separate pieces.

I am aware that in a gaiter-shoe folding or plaited pieces have been inserted in the top 85 or ankle portion, with their folds or plaits folding in one direction, which it is obvious would crowd the ankle-joint and tend to impair its movement, while it will be observed that in my invention the folds or plaits fold 90 toward, but do not occupy, the center or middle portion of the space inside of the outer or main portion of the gusset, thus leaving the ankle-joint untrammelled, or with sufficient space for freedom of movement.

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

In a felt or rubber and fabric overshoe, the combination, with the vamp and quarter, of the gusset arranged in each side of the upper between the vamp and quarter, and in line with the ankle-joint, with its folds or plaits to sustain the ankle, and to prevent chafing, folding toward, but not occupying, the central space intermediate between the outer lateral portions of said gusset, substantially as shown and described, and for the purpose set forth. 10

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

JOHN B. BELCHER.

Witnesses:

HENRY B. TEN EYCK,

L. O. SMITH.