

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEIGHTON L. SHEARER, OF WEISER, IDAHO TERRITORY.

## STIRRUP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 346,174, dated July 27, 1886.

Application filed May 5, 1886. Serial No. 201,177. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, LEIGHTON L. SHEARER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Weiser, in the county of Washington and Territory of Idaho, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stirrups; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a perspective view of a stirrup constructed according to my invention; Fig. 2, a longitudinal section taken through the strap-block, and Fig. 3 a detail sectional view showing a modification of the spring attachment.

The present invention has for its object to provide a safety-stirrup that will effectually protect the rider on horseback from any accident by disengaging the feet from the stirrups when the rider is thrown from the saddle, thereby avoiding the danger of the rider being dragged by the feet and injured by an ungovernable horse.

The invention therefore consists in a stirrup constructed substantially as shown in the drawings and hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, A B represent the two sections of the stirrup suitably hinged together, as shown, any well-known form of hinge-connection being used, as found desirable. The sections A B have connected to them near their upper ends a suitably-formed strap-block, C, and guide-rods *a* for the strap, one end of said rods being attached or fastened to the stirrup-section A, and the opposite ends to the strap-block C, as shown in Fig. 2. The block C is formed with one or more chambers open at both ends to contain a spiral, rubber, or other suitable spring, D. In Fig. 2 I have shown these springs as fastened at their ends to the stirrup-sections A B; but this is not essential, as any suitable means

may be employed for connecting the spring or springs to the section B—such as a rod passing through the rubber or spiral coils and through a bearing plate or disk located in the chamber, as shown at *c*, the rod *b* at one end having a head, *d*, and at the other or opposite end connected to the stirrup-section B by hook and eye, as shown in Fig. 3. The upper end of the stirrup-section B is not fastened to the strap-block C, as is the section A, but simply held thereto by the spring-connection and stay or guide pin *e*, projecting from the end of the block and entering a hole in the movable section B. Any lateral and outward pressure against the hinged section B by the foot of the rider sufficient to overcome the resistance of the spring will open the stirrup, disengaging the upper end of the hinged section with the stay-pin on the strap-block, thereby allowing the foot to be immediately released from the stirrup, the spring drawing the hinged section back in position against the end of the strap-block. The rods *a* upon each side of the block C, through or between which the supporting-strap passes, prevent the strap from slipping outward and pressing the hinged section B off from the stay-pin, also serve to prevent the stirrup from turning over.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A riding-stirrup comprising a stationary and a hinged section and a strap-block secured to the stationary section, and having one or more chambers containing suitable springs connected by means, substantially as described, to the hinged section of the stirrup, as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

LEIGHTON L. SHEARER.

Witnesses:

D. P. MARYATT,  
A. C. MITCHELL.



(No Model.)

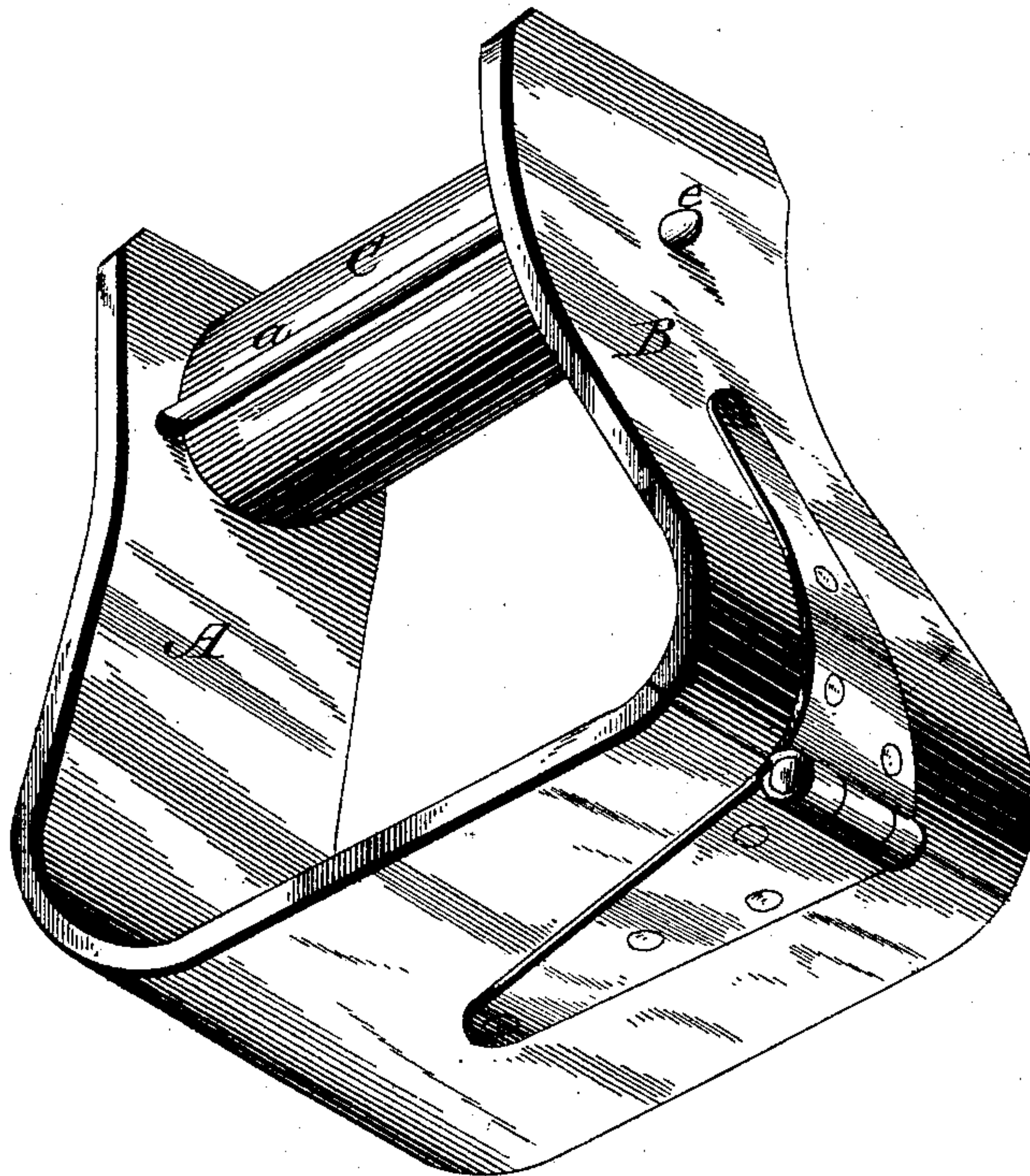
L. L. SHEARER.

STIRRUP.

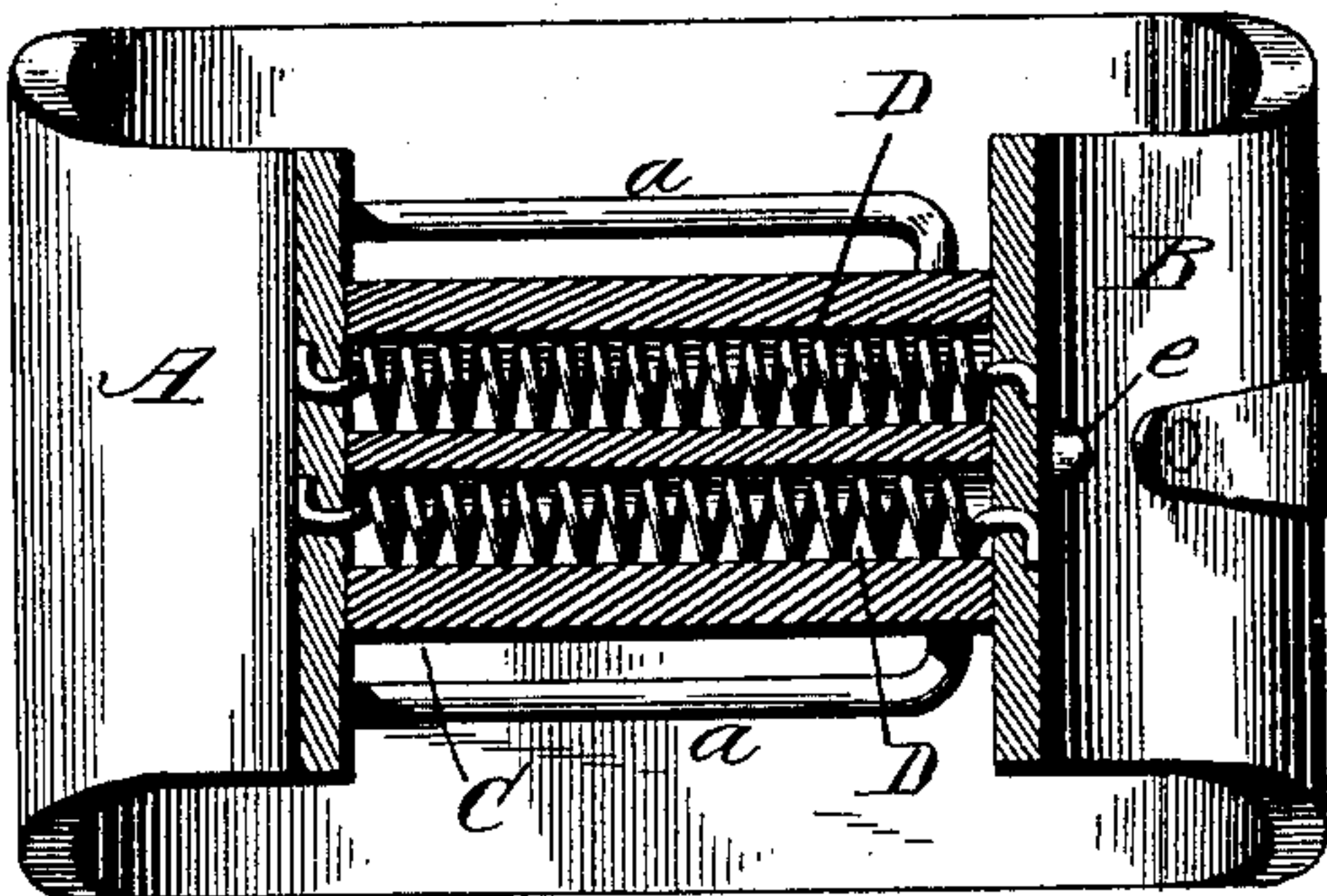
No. 346,174.

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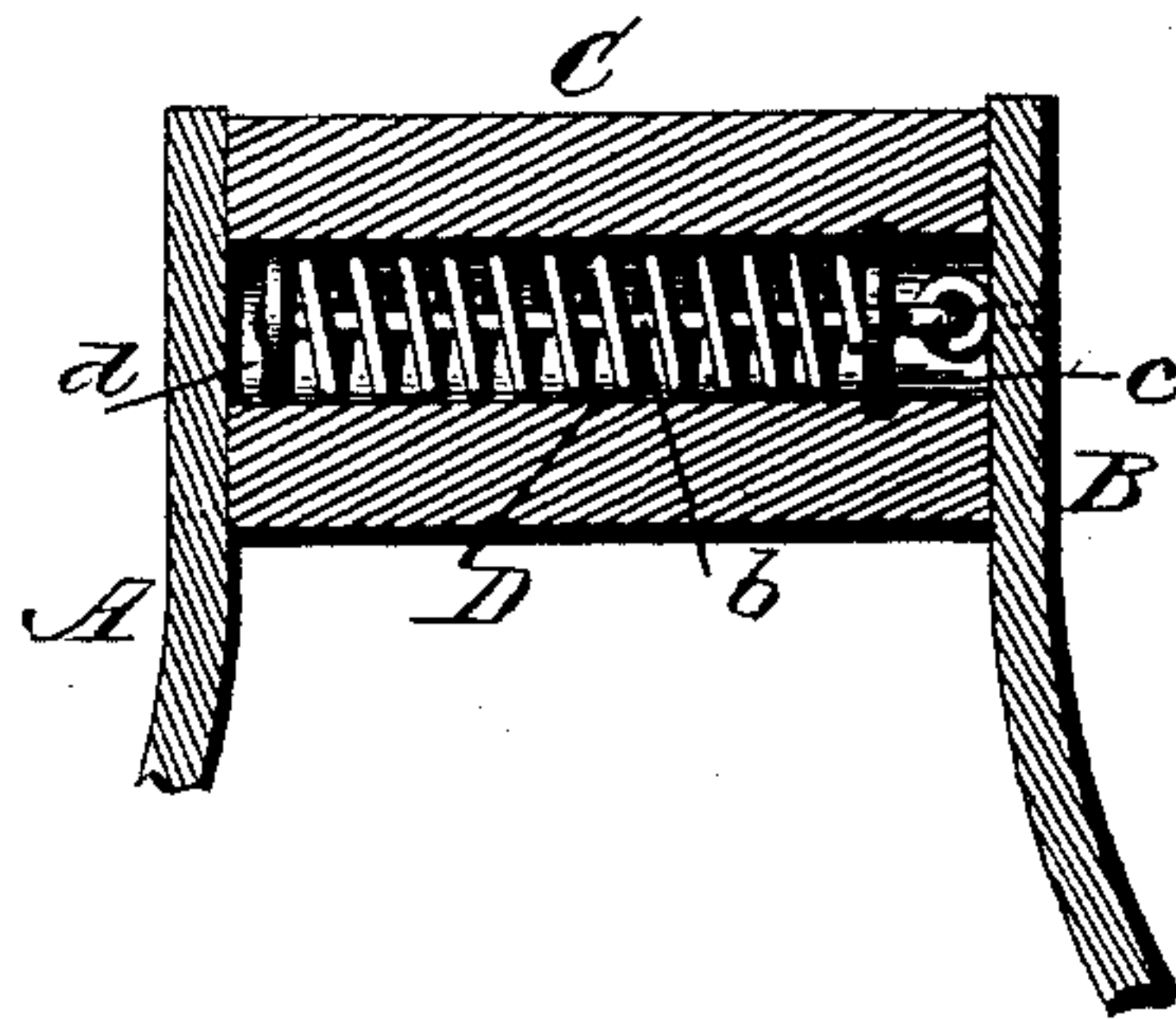
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses

*Chas. Williamson.*  
*L. L. Miller.*

Inventor

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By *his* Attorney *Chas. H. Fowler*