

(No Model.)

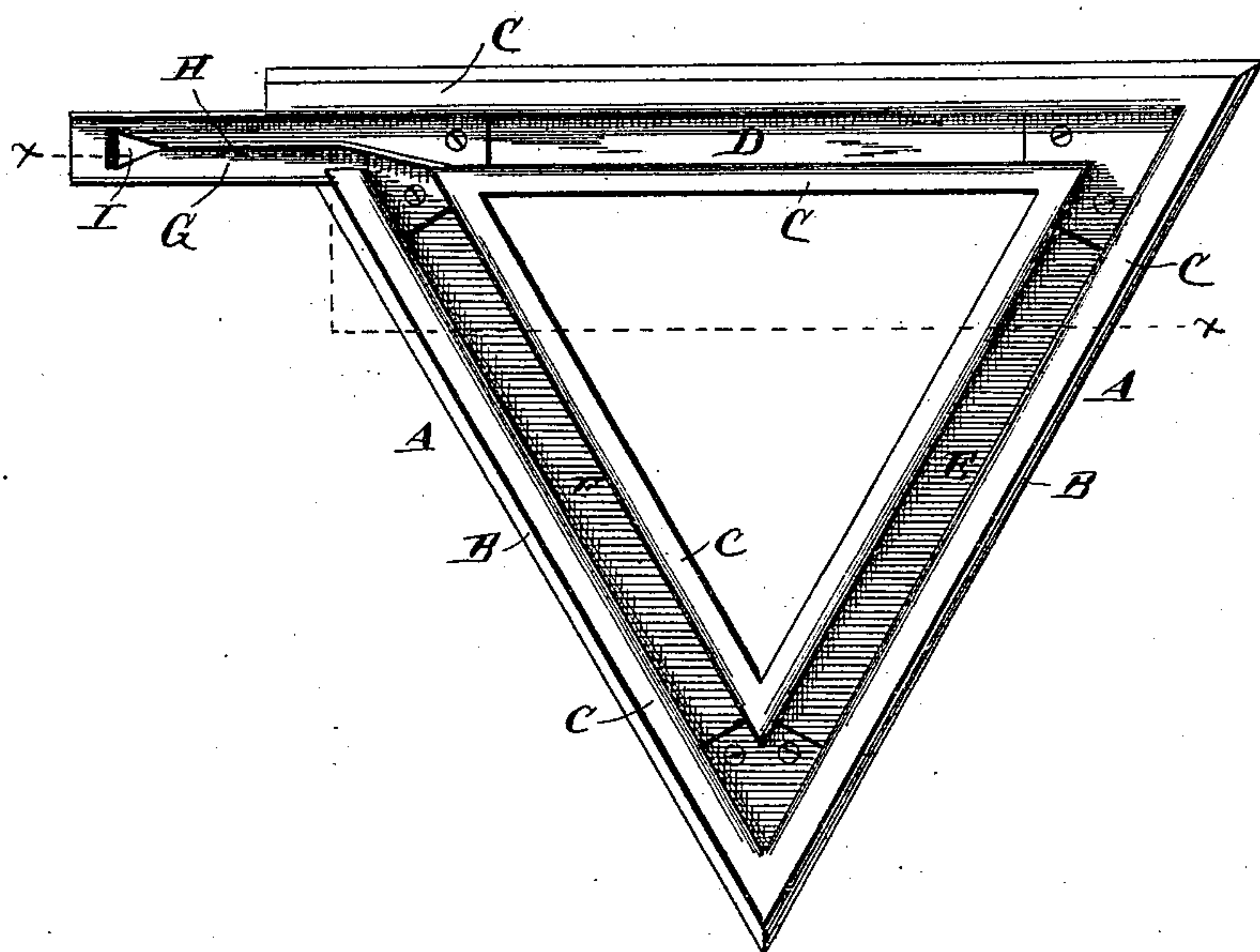
D. WISE & R. ROUNTREE.

ANT TRAP.

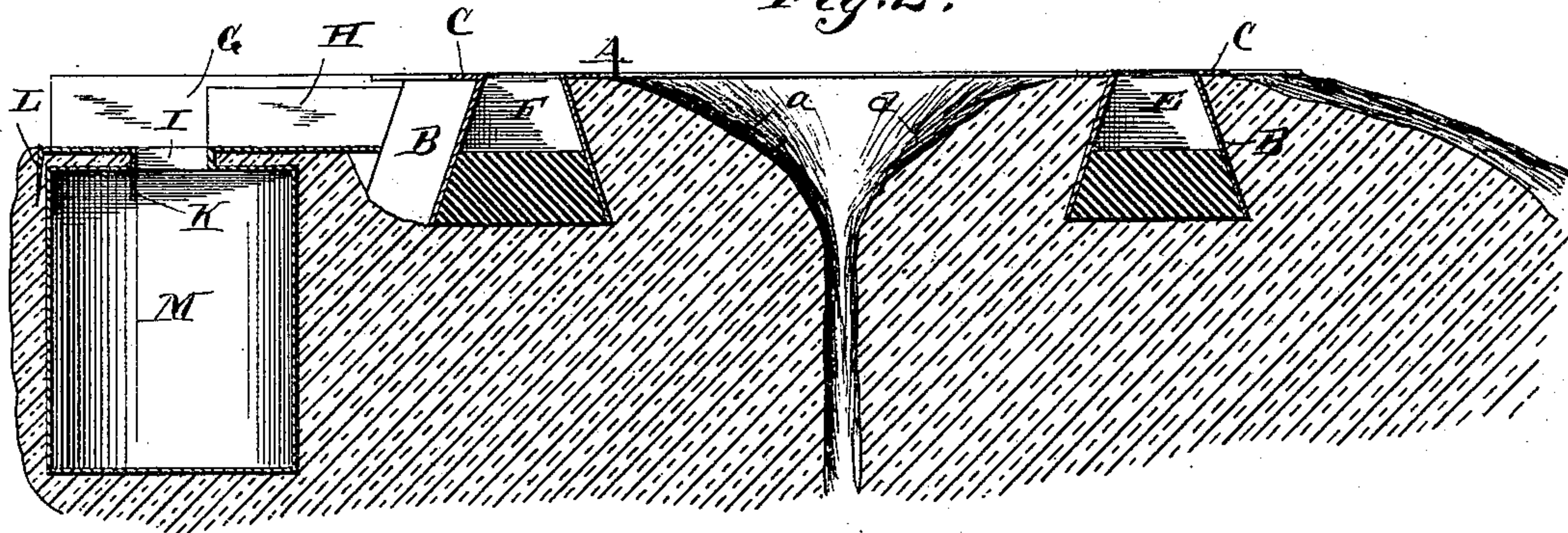
No. 355,366.

Patented Jan. 4, 1887.

Fig. 1.



*Fig. 2.*



Witnesses.

Chas L. Taylor

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David Wise  
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By *their* Attorneys

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID WISE AND REUBEN ROUNTREE, OF COTTONDALE, TEXAS.

## ANT-TRAP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 355,366, dated January 4, 1887.

Application filed October 6, 1886. Serial No. 215,492. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, DAVID WISE and REUBEN ROUNTREE, citizens of the United States, residing at Cottondale, in the county of Wise and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ant-Traps, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to an improvement in ant-traps; and it consists in a frame which is adapted to be placed over the ant-hill, so as to surround the entrance thereto, and provided with parallel surrounding flanges or sides which converge toward each other and lead to an exit-spout, as will be more fully set forth hereinafter, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

The object of our invention is to provide an ant-trap which is adapted to catch the ants both on their attempt to leave the hill or to return to it, whereby the entire colony may be exterminated; and this object we accomplish by the device hereinafter described and illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of an ant-trap embodying our improvements. Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view of the same, taken on the line *x x* of Fig. 1, and illustrating the trap in operative position.

A represents a triangular frame, which is provided with a central triangular opening. From the inner sides, and also from the outer sides, of the frame project sides B, which incline toward each other, and are provided at their upper edges with flanges C, which are turned outwardly from the spaces inclosed by the sides. The said sides and flanges are made of sheet metal, preferably tin.

From the foregoing description it will be readily seen that three channels or passages, D, E, and F, are formed around the triangle, which communicate with each other. From the angle formed by the channels D and F projects an exit channel or spout, G, and a vertical plate, H, extends from the angle formed by the inner sides of the said channels D and F longitudinally through the center of the exit channel or spout D. The latter is provided near its outer end with an opening, I, which is made by cutting a V-shaped incision in the bottom of the channel or spout and turning down the tongue K, formed thereby, to a vertical position. At the extreme outer end of

the exit channel or spout is a second downturned tongue, L, (see Fig. 2,) which is also V-shaped.

The operation of our invention is as follows: The ant-trap is placed upon the ant-hill with the inlet-opening thereof directly in the center of the central opening in the trap, and the latter thereby entirely surrounds the entrance to the hill. The earth is then drawn on opposite sides of the trap to form inclines *a* and *b*, which extend upwardly to the flanges C, so as to form gradual ascents both on the inner and outer sides of the trap, that lead to the channels D, E, and F. Below the exit channel or spout a bucket or other suitable receptacle, M, is buried in the ground by the side of the ant-hill. The ants, both on going to and leaving the ant-hill, travel up the inclines and fall down into the channels D, E, and F. As the sides of the said channels are made of sheet metal and are very smooth, and as the said sides are further inclined toward each other, it is impossible for the ants to climb up them, and consequently they cannot leave the channels, except by passing into the exit-channel G. From the same they fall down through the opening I into the bucket or vessel, and as the latter has smooth vertical sides the ants are unable to escape therefrom, and in a short time the entire colony is caught in the bucket. They may be then readily exterminated by pouring a quantity of scalding water upon them.

We do not desire to limit ourselves to the triangular shape of the trap, as it is evident that it may be made of any form desired.

Having thus described our invention, we claim—

The ant-trap having the channel adapted to surround the entrance to the hill, and the exit-channel extending from the said surrounding channel, and the sides B, inclining toward each other on opposite sides of the channels and provided with the flanges C at their upper edges, substantially as described.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own we have hereto affixed our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

DAVID WISE.

REUBEN ROUNTREE.

Witnesses:

N. KEEN,

J. W. KEEN.