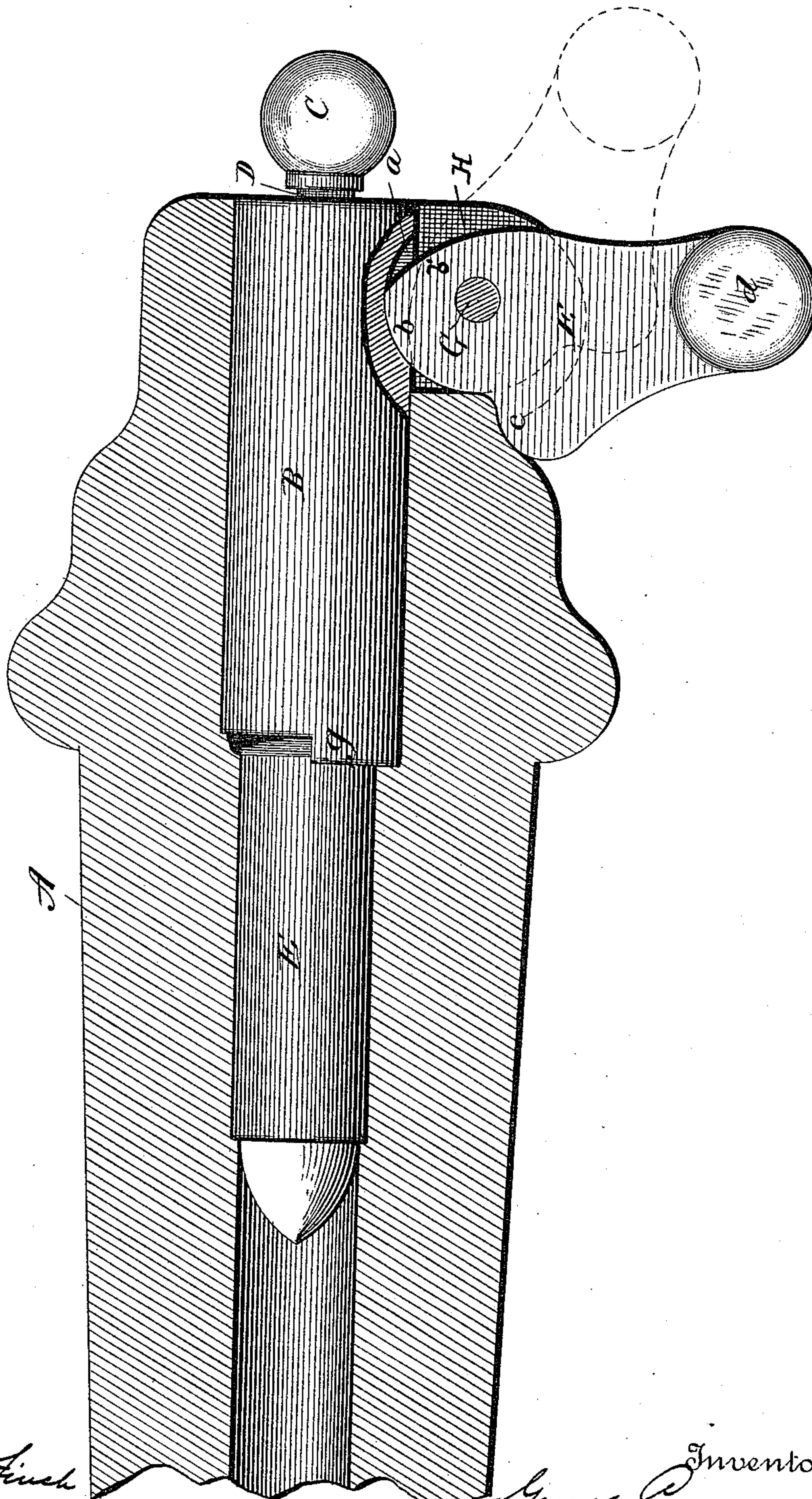


(No Model.)

G. CONOVER.  
BREECH LOADING ORDNANCE.

No. 413,598.

Patented Oct. 22, 1889.



Witnesses  
*John S. Finch*  
*C. H. Davis*

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By his Attorneys  
*W. H. Alexander*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE CONOVER, OF SOUTHTON, CONNECTICUT.

## BREECH-LOADING ORDNANCE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 413,598, dated October 22, 1889.

Application filed June 6, 1889. Serial No. 313,303. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, GEORGE CONOVER, a citizen of the United States, residing at South-  
ington, in the county of Hartford and State  
5 of Connecticut, have invented certain new and  
useful Improvements in Breech-Loading Ord-  
nance, of which the following is a specifica-  
tion, reference being had therein to the accom-  
panying drawing, in which is represented a  
10 longitudinal vertical sectional view of a can-  
non provided with my invention.

The object of the present invention is to pro-  
vide an extremely simple and efficient device  
for automatically locking and holding the  
15 breech-pin employed in certain classes of  
breech-loading cannon, the device being so  
arranged that the greater the back-pressure  
exerted by the recoil from the discharge the  
greater will be the force exerted upon the  
20 breech-pin to hold it in place in the rear or  
breech of the cannon, as will be more fully  
hereinafter set forth.

The device will be readily understood by ref-  
erence to the accompanying drawing, in which  
25 the letter A designates a cannon of suitable  
construction and having the bore extended en-  
tirely through it. In the rear slightly-enlarged  
end of the bore the cylindrical breech-pin B  
is inserted, and in the flange *g* upon the for-  
ward end of the breech-pin is removably held  
30 the cartridge E, which fits the bore of the  
gun and is withdrawn and inserted with the  
breech-pin. A firing-pin D, provided with a  
head or knob C, is inserted in the breech-pin.  
35 Formed in the lower side of the breech-pin  
B, near its rear end, is recess or groove *a*,  
which extends longitudinally of the pin and  
has its bottom curved, as shown. Pivoted  
upon a pin G in depending ears H, formed in-  
40 tegral with the cannon, is a cam-lever E, the  
upper end *b* of which works through a slot  
in the cannon and is adapted to engage the  
groove *a* in the pin or plug B. The forward  
portion of the upper end *b* of the lever E is  
45 curved, so as to fit the bottom of the groove  
*a* snugly, whereby when the lever is dropped  
down to its normal position, as shown in full

lines in the drawing, the pin B will be ef-  
fectually prevented from being forced out by  
the recoil of the discharge. The curved up- 50  
per portion of the lever E, working against  
the similarly-curved bottom of the groove *a*,  
has a tendency to force the pin B forward to  
its seat in case it is not pushed entirely in  
when first inserted, as is evident. A forward- 55  
ly-projecting shoulder *c* may be formed upon  
the lever E to abut against the rear of the  
gun when the lever is in its normal position,  
and thereby assist in holding the lever in  
proper position, and also assist in resisting 60  
the back-pressure exerted upon the pin B.  
The lower end of the lever E is provided with  
a weight *d*, which serves to keep the lever  
normally in a vertical position and in engage-  
ment with the pin B. 65

To withdraw the pin B it is simply neces-  
sary to turn the lever up to the position shown  
in dotted lines, when its upper end will be  
free from the groove *a*, the rear portion *b'* of  
the lever being cut away, so that the pin B 70  
will be free to be withdrawn.

By thus securing the breech-pin in the  
breech it will be observed that the greater  
the recoil the greater will be the force exerted  
upon the breech-pin by the lever, thus effect- 75  
ually binding it in place.

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

The combination of a cannon, a breech-pin 80  
inserted in the breech thereof and provided  
with a recess in its under side, a weighted  
cam-lever pivoted in a slot in the breech of  
the cannon and adapted to automatically en-  
gage the said recess in the breech-pin and 85  
prevent the withdrawal of the latter, substan-  
tially as and for the purposes set forth.

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

GEORGE CONOVER.

Witnesses:

CHARLES P. HOBART,  
MARCUS H. HOLCOMB.