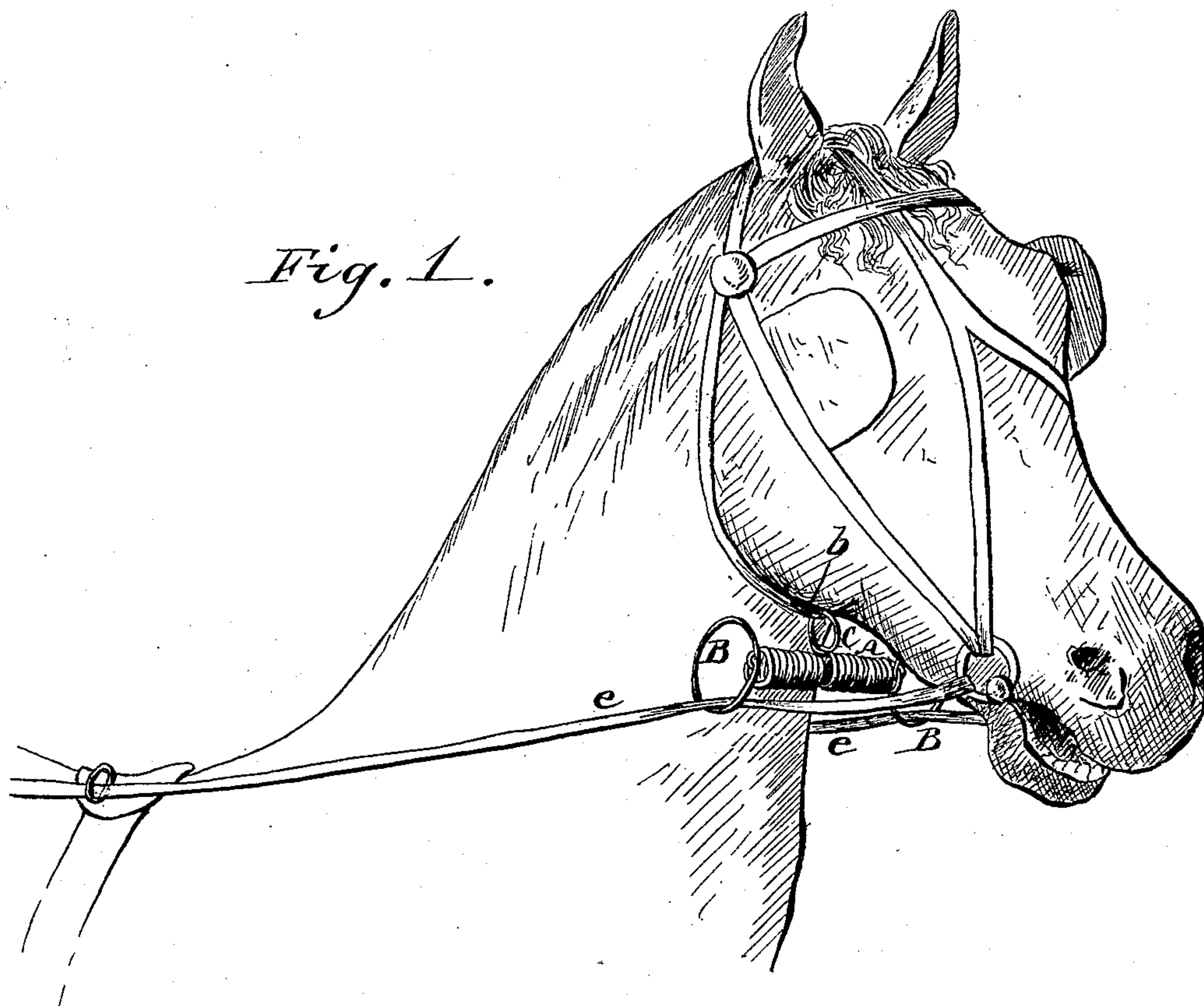


(No Model.)

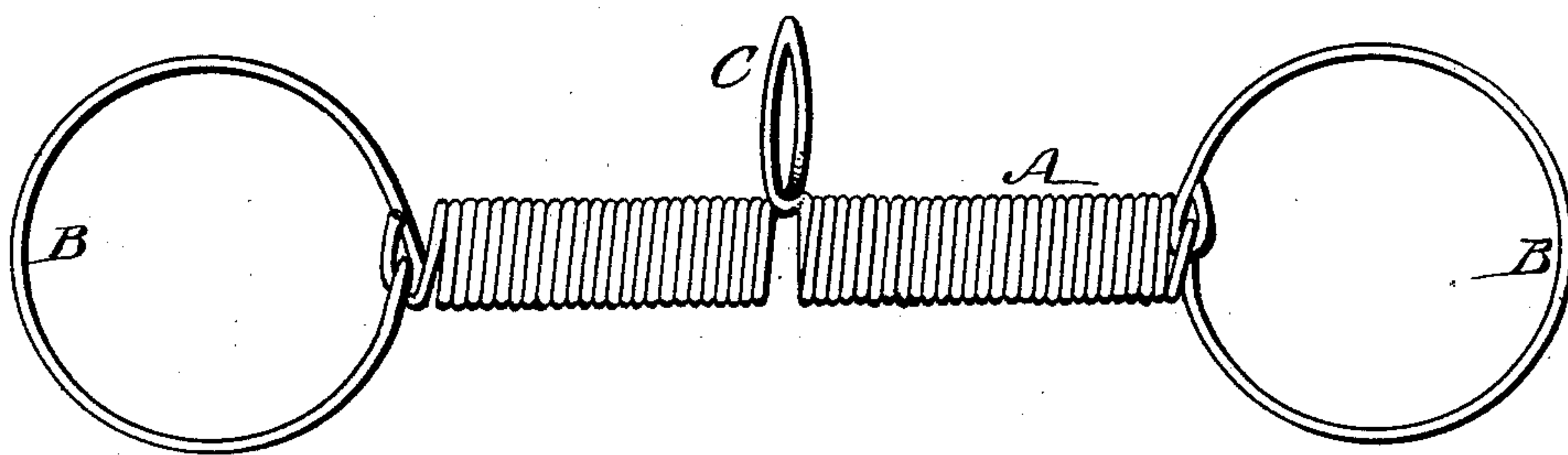
J. W. STOAKES & T. F. FRITH.  
REIN GUIDE.

No. 428,868.

Patented May 27, 1890.



*Fig. 2.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES W. STOAKES AND THOMAS F. FRITH, OF MILAN, OHIO.

## REIN-GUIDE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 428,868, dated May 27, 1890.

Application filed August 27, 1889. Serial No. 322,072. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that we, JAMES W. STOAKES and THOMAS F. FRITH, both of Milan, in the county of Erie and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Rein-Guides, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention has for its object the production of a device which shall prevent the driving-reins from being accidentally wrapped around the thills or shafts of single vehicles. To more clearly explain this, it may be stated that when a horse is hitched to a single vehicle and swings his head about, as he is apt to do, he is very liable, when the reins are slack, to swing the reins—that is, either one—under the end of the shafts. This so draws upon the bit of the horse as to make him unmanageable until the rein is released from such entanglement, and many accidents have happened from this very cause, inasmuch as a horse's first impulse under such circumstances is to turn sharp around on the side the rein has become fouled.

Our invention obviates this risk and liability by guiding and supporting the reins so that they will be free from such entanglement with the thills or shafts; and to this end the invention consists in a rein guide and support of novel construction and designed to be suspended from the throat-latch of the bridle, substantially as hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

Figure 1 represents a view in perspective of a rein guide and support embodying our invention as applied to the harness of a horse shown only in part, and Fig. 2 a longitudinal view of said rein guide and support detached.

The rein guide and support, as shown in the accompanying drawings, is mainly composed of a flexible body-piece A, having a loop or ring B at or near each of its opposite ends, arranged to be in like vertical planes or thereabout, and an upper upright intermediate ring or loop C, arranged to lie in a plane at right angles or thereabout to the end rings or loops. The center ring or loop C is for the

purpose of attaching the device to or suspending it from the throat-latch *b* of the bridle at the lowest part of the latter, as shown in Fig. 1, and the end rings or loops B B are for the purpose of receiving the reins *ee* through them. When a horse having this device suspended from the throat-latch of the bridle by the passage of the latter through the loop C, is checked, and the driver has a tight rein or hold upon the reins which pass through the loops or rings B B, the device readily swings into a position which will allow of the reins being rendered back and forth without their bearing to any appreciable extent upon it, and by making said device of a flexible character no possible harm can be done, and no perceptible interference takes place in the reining in of the horse, just as if such device were not attached; but when the reins are slack the loops B B of the device will then serve to guide and support the reins from being swung by the horse under the end of the shafts.

The whole rein guide and supporter may be constructed of various materials and in different styles or forms; but to give it that flexible and elastic character, which is desirable, we prefer to make it of coiled wire, as here shown, throughout the length of the body-piece A, with the loops B B and C formed out of or with the said body-piece.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A rein guide and support for vehicle-harness, adapted for suspension from the throat-latch of the bridle, and consisting of a body-piece, a pair of rein guiding and supporting loops at the ends of said body-piece, and a throat-latch-engaging loop intermediate of said end loops and arranged to project from the one side of said body-piece in a plane approximately at right angles to the end or rein loops, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. A rein guide and support for vehicle-harness, consisting of a flexible body-piece having rein guiding and supporting rings or loops at its ends, and an upper central loop for suspension from the throat-latch of the bridle, essentially as specified.

3. The within-described rein guide and support for vehicle-harness, constructed of a coiled wire body-piece A, having rein guiding and supporting loops B B at its ends, and an upper central cross-loop C, as and for the purpose herein set forth.

4. A rein guide and support for vehicle-harness, adapted for suspension from the throat latch or strap of the bridle, constructed of a continuous wire and composed of a body-piece, rein guiding and supporting loops at

the ends of said body-piece, and a projecting throat-latch-engaging loop on the upper side of said body-piece in a plane approximately at right angles to the end loops, all of said parts being integral, substantially as specified.

JAS. W. STOAKES.  
THOMAS F. FRITH.

Witnesses:

G. W. BOTTOMLEY,  
PETER LAWRENSE.