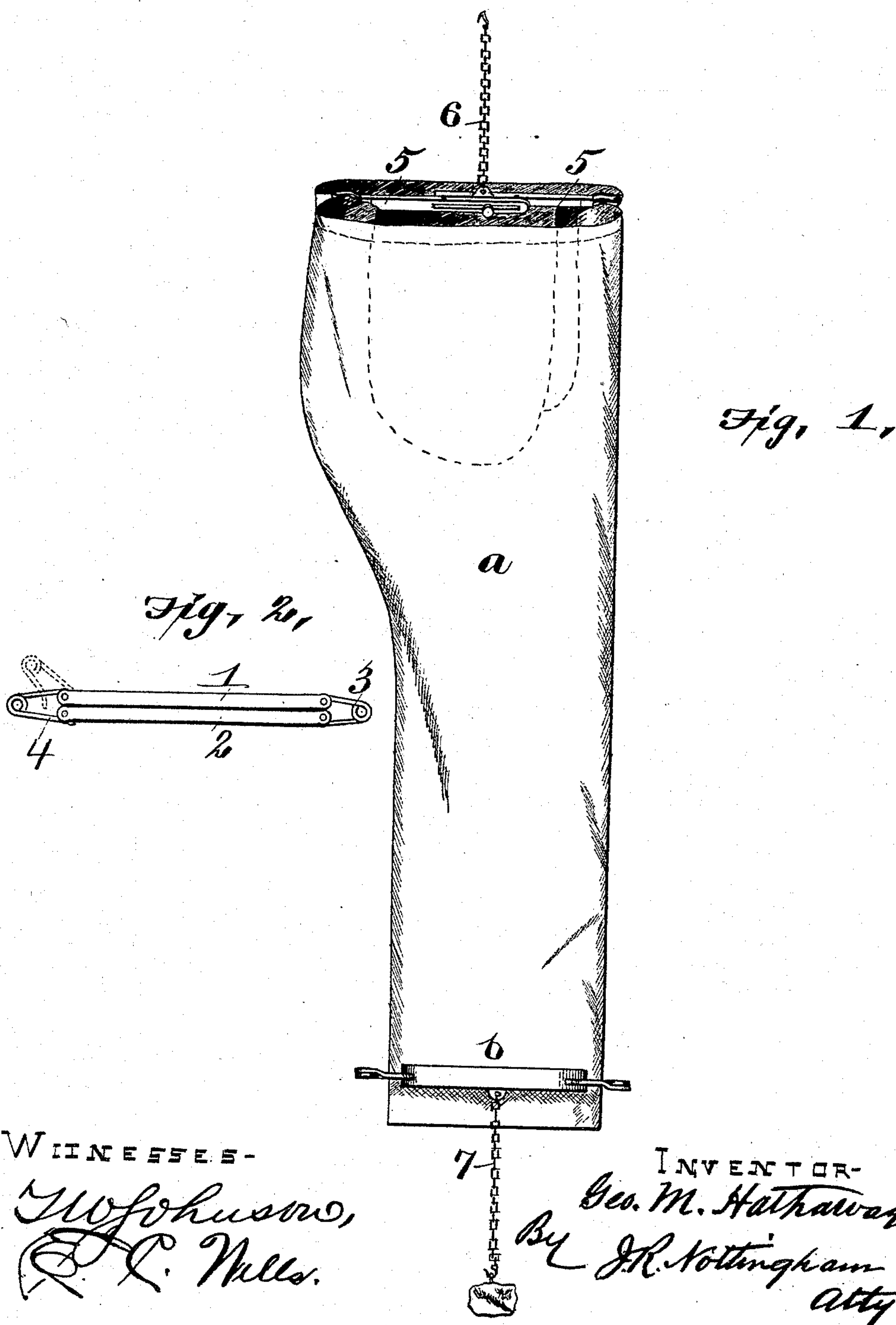


(No Model.)

G. M. HATHAWAY.
TROUSERS STRETCHER.

No. 526,651.

Patented Sept. 25, 1894.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE M. HATHAWAY, OF WELLSBOROUGH, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNOR
TO THE IDEAL STRETCHER COMPANY, OF SAME PLACE.

TROUSERS-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 526,651, dated September 25, 1894.

Application filed November 26, 1893. Serial No. 491,982. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. HATHAWAY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wellsborough, in the county of Tioga and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trousers-Stretchers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in trousers-stretchers; and it consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described and specifically pointed out in the claim.

The principal object of the invention is to produce a simple and effective device for effecting "bagging" at the knees and wrinkles in trousers.

A further object is to provide against the crimping or breaking of the trousers at the fold or crease at or about the hem at the bottom of the legs, and a still further object is to render such device capable of being easily and quickly adjusted to the garment.

These objects are attained by means of the device illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a garment having my improved device applied thereto, and Fig. 2, a top plan view of the stretcher-clamp, which is applied to the bottom of the trousers.

In the drawings—the letter *a* indicates a pair of trousers, properly folded, and *b* the clamp, which confines the bottom of said trousers at a point just above the hem. This clamp consists of two flat bars or strips 1 and 2 respectively, constructed of any suitable material, hinged together at one end by a coiled-wire spring-hinge, 3, and adapted at the other end to be fastened by a coiled-wire spring-catch 4, pivoted in a slot made in the free end of one of the bars or strips. The spring-hinge and the spring-catch are of peculiar construction, each being composed of a single piece of wire, coiled, as shown, to

give the requisite spring. Both hinge and catch pass outward from the outer face of one bar to the outer face of the other bar.

The numeral 5 indicates a suitable bar, which is adapted to support the waist-band in folded position, and is provided with a chain or cord, 6, by means of which the garment may be suspended from a hook. The stretcher-clamp is provided with a chain or cord 7, to which may be attached a suitable weight, for instance, a pair of shoes, a traveling-man's weight,) which will give the proper tension to effectually remove all wrinkles from the garment and prevent tendency to bag at the knees.

By the use of my improved device, a person may be able to preserve the proper set of his trousers, and, at the same time maintain therein the front and rear crease, which is a great desideratum with persons of fashion.

To apply my stretcher, the trousers are first folded in at the front, bringing the first two suspender buttons together on the inside, and then folded in at the back, bringing the first two rear suspender buttons together in the same manner. Thus manipulated the trousers will be folded in the same manner as they are for display in a store. The stretcher-clamp is then slipped over the bottom of both legs and fastened just above the hem, with the front and rear creased portions received within the loop formed by the spring-hinge and spring-catch, respectively, so as to prevent crimping or breaking of the trousers at the crease or fold at that point, as would be the case if the bars or strips were made sufficiently long to extend the entire width of the legs of the trousers. The garment is then suspended from a hook by means of the chain, and the weight attached to give the proper tension.

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

A trousers stretcher, comprising a clamp for the bottoms of the trousers, consisting of two bars hinged together at one end by an extended spring-hinge, said hinge passing

outward from the outer face of one bar to
the outer face of the other bar, and fastened
at the other end by an extended spring-catch
of similar construction, whereby said bottoms
5 are clamped between the front and rear
creases, with the creased portions received
within the loop formed by the said spring-
hinge and spring-catch, respectively, to pre-

vent crimping or breaking of the trousers at
the fold or crease at that point. 10

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

GEORGE M. HATHAWAY.

Witnesses:

E. A. PAUL,
J. R. NOTTINGHAM.