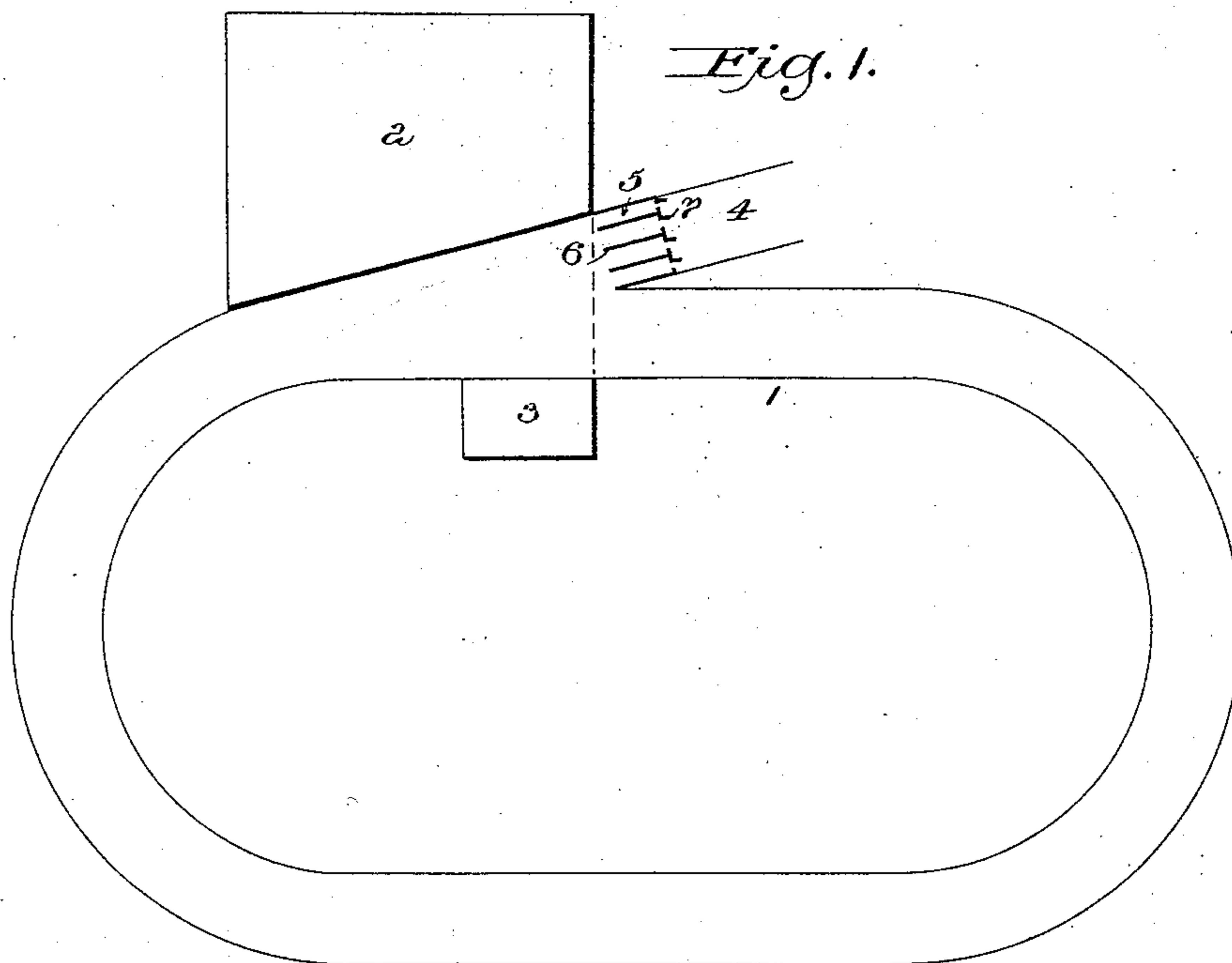


(No Model.)

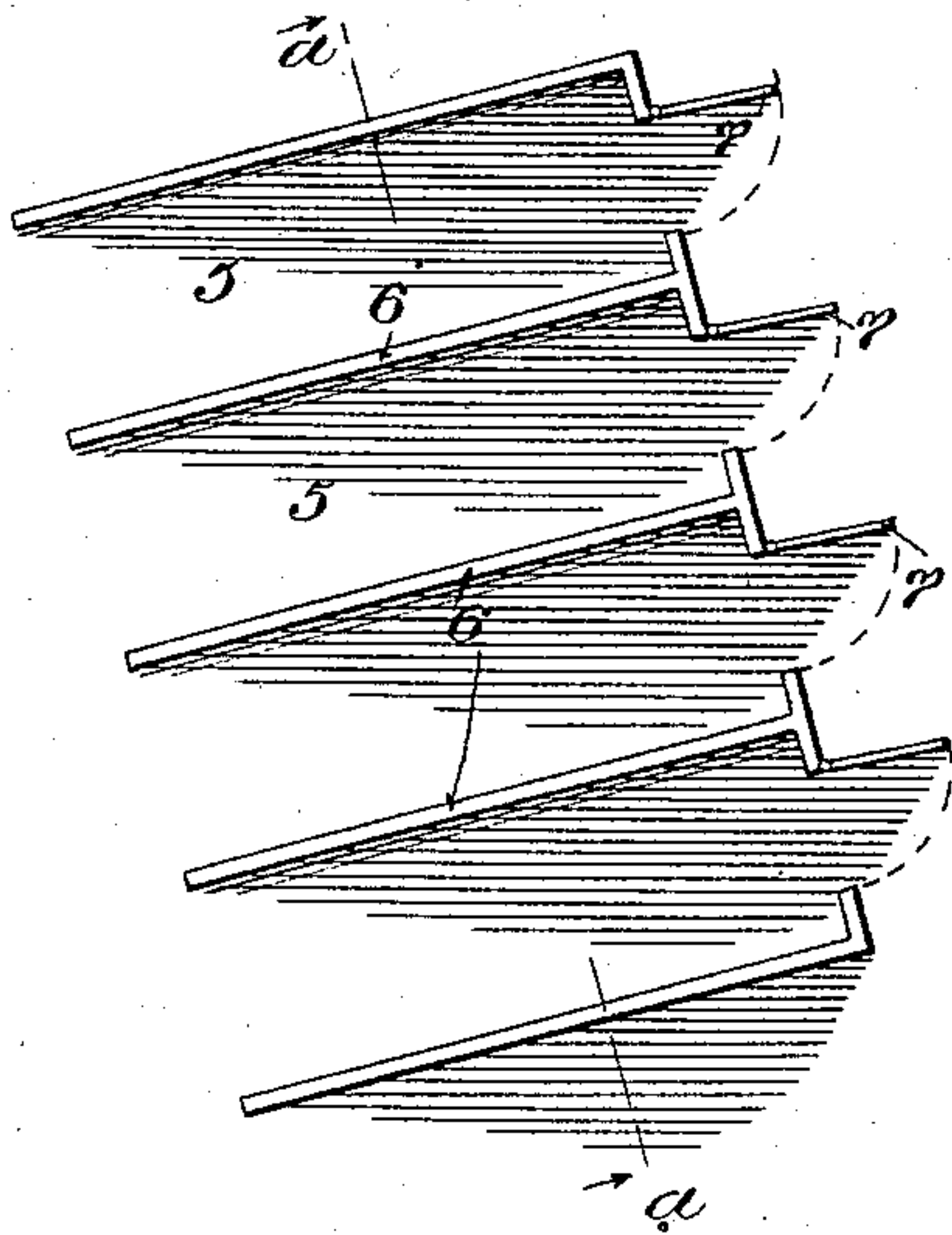
J. B. DODGE.  
RACE TRACK.

No. 529,162.

Patented Nov. 13, 1894.

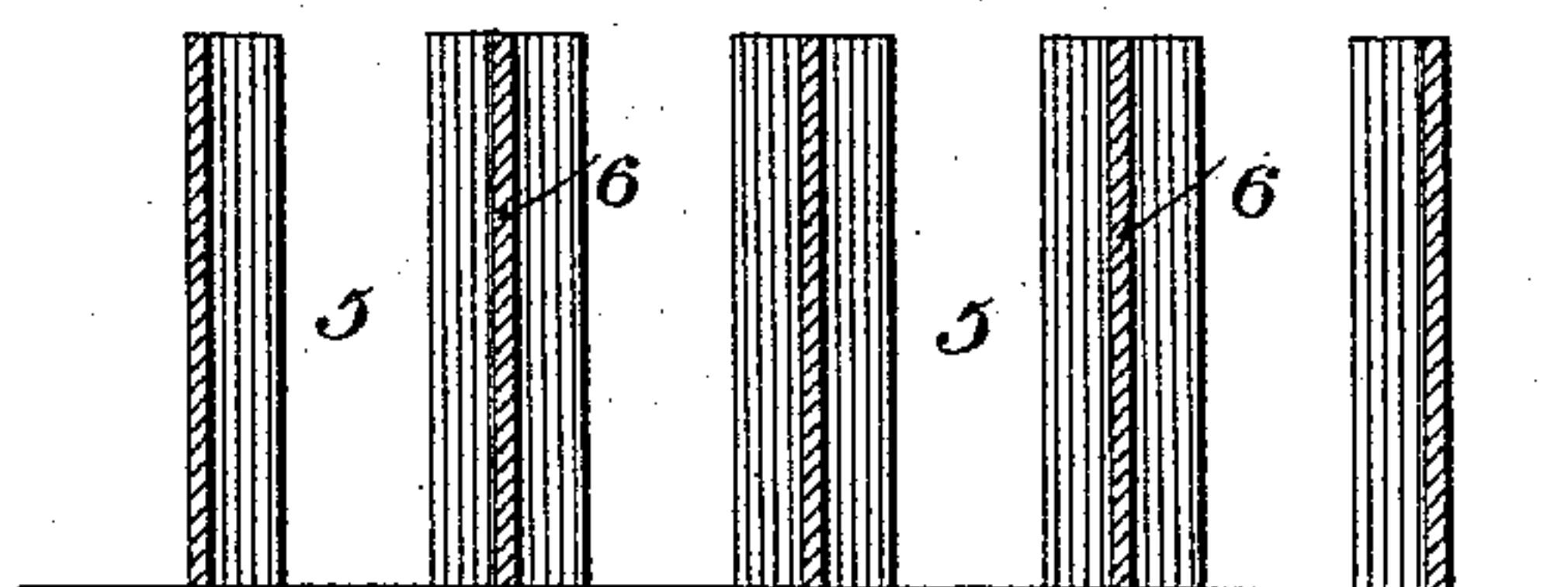


*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*

On line - a - a



WITNESSES

Arthur Ashbery  
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INVENTOR

J. B. Dodge  
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSIAH B. DODGE, OF SEDALIA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THOMAS E. FLEMING, OF GRAHAM, MISSOURI.

## RACE-TRACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 529,162, dated November 13, 1894.

Application filed September 6, 1894. Serial No. 522,235. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOSIAH B. DODGE, of Sedalia, county of Pettis, and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Race-Tracks, of which the following is a specification.

In starting horses in a race, it is a well known fact, that great trouble, delay and annoyance are caused by the difficulty in securing an even start of the animals.

Various mechanical contrivances have been devised and while to an extent they have answered to cause the horses to start at the same time, their use has been objectionable on account of their location on the track interfering with and obstructing the horses at the "finish."

To overcome the above objections, I form my improved track with a branch extending preferably at a tangent to the same and locate on this branch a starting device of any suitable form, this arrangement avoiding the obstruction of the main track at the finish. My invention consists further in a starting branch joining the main track adjacent to the judges' stand and this with or without the employment of a starting device.

My invention further consists of an improved device for causing the animals to start at the same time, said device comprising two or more stalls or compartments arranged side by side, containing at the rear entrances for the horses and communicating at the front with the track, said stalls being separated by the partitions to prevent the horses occupying the same from observing one another.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1— is a diagrammatical view of my improved track. Fig. 2— is an enlarged top plan view of the starting device. Fig. 3— is a vertical transverse sectional elevation on the line *a— a* of Fig. 1—.

Referring to the drawings: 1— represents a track preferably of the continuous circular or elliptical form; 2— the grand stand at the outside of the track and 3— the judges' stand located opposite the grand stand at the inner side of the track.

At a point preferably between the judges' stand and the spectators' stand I provide a

branch starting track 4, extending at a tangent to the main track and forming a continuation of the same. The purpose of this starting track is to admit of the use of devices for insuring an even start of the horses, without obstructing the track and interfering with the horses at the "finish."

A starting device of any suitable and appropriate form may be located on the branch track at its junction with the main track or at a point in advance of the same. Under this arrangement, the horses may be started from the branch track at one time, and at the "finish" they will have a clear unobstructed space in front of the judges' and spectators' stands.

In the drawings I have represented an improved device for starting the horses, consisting of a series of stalls 5, arranged side by side in the branch track at a point just in advance of its junction with the main track. The stalls are divided by partitions 6— high enough to prevent the horses occupying them from observing one another. At the rear the stalls are formed with entrance doors 7, while at the front they are open and communicate directly with the track. In starting the horses with this device the animals are entered at the rear into the stalls and at the signal they proceed on to the tangential starting track, thence to the main track traveling around the same and returning to the unobstructed space in front of the judges' stand at the "finish." By the use of these stalls as described, the horses being unable to observe one another will remain comparatively quiet so that when the signal is given they will all emerge from their respective stalls at substantially the same time, thus insuring an even start.

It will be understood that my invention is not to be limited to the combination of my improved track with the peculiar form of starting device. As far as the function of the starting branch is concerned any form of starting contrivance may be employed and any means may be used to insure an even start. The essence of the invention in this respect resides in the provision of a starting track or branch forming a continuation of the main track thus admitting of the employ-



ment of means for insuring an even start of the horses without obstructing the track at the "finish."

Having thus described my invention, what  
5 I claim is—

1. The improved race track comprising a main continuous way, a branch starting track forming a continuation of the same and a starting device located on the branch track  
10 substantially as specified.

2. In a race track the combination of a main continuous track, a judges' stand, a branch starting track joining the main track adjacent to the judges' stand and forming a  
15 continuation of the main track substantially as specified.

3. In a race track the combination of a main continuous way, a branch track forming a continuation of the same and a series of stalls separated by partitions and located  
20 on the branch track, said stalls provided at their rear with openings for the entrance of the horses and communicating at their front with the track substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my  
25 hand, this 13th day of August, 1894, in the presence of two attesting witnesses.

JOSIAH B. DODGE.

Witnesses:

E. A. BLAKEMORE,

W. M. FENWICK.