

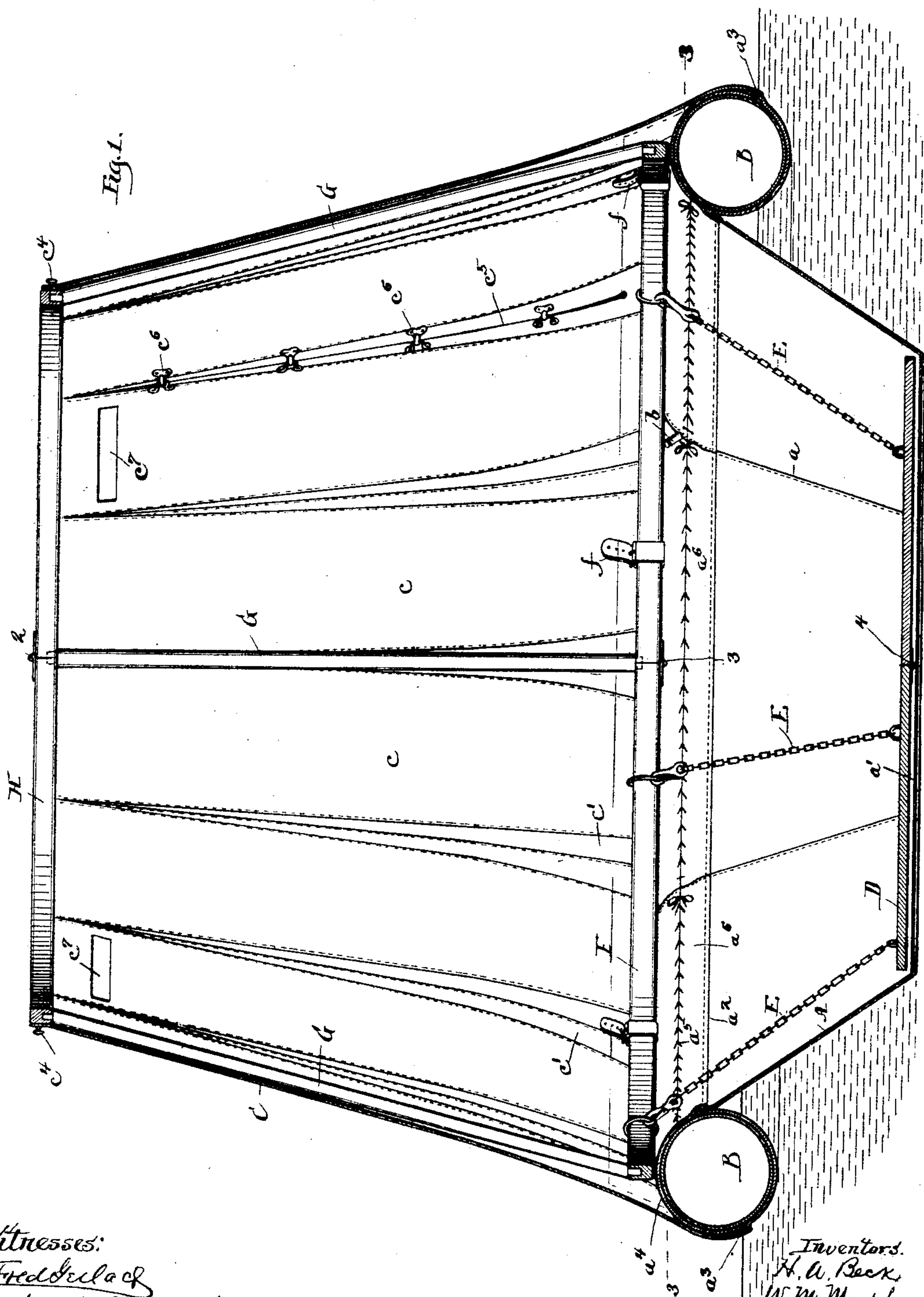
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

W. M. MURPHY & H. A. BECK.
HUNTER'S BLIND.

No. 550,762.

Patented Dec. 3, 1895.



Witnesses:
Fred Seelaef
Alberta Adamick.

Inventors.
H. A. Beck,
W. M. Murphy
By Prince Fisher
Attorneys

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Fig. 2.

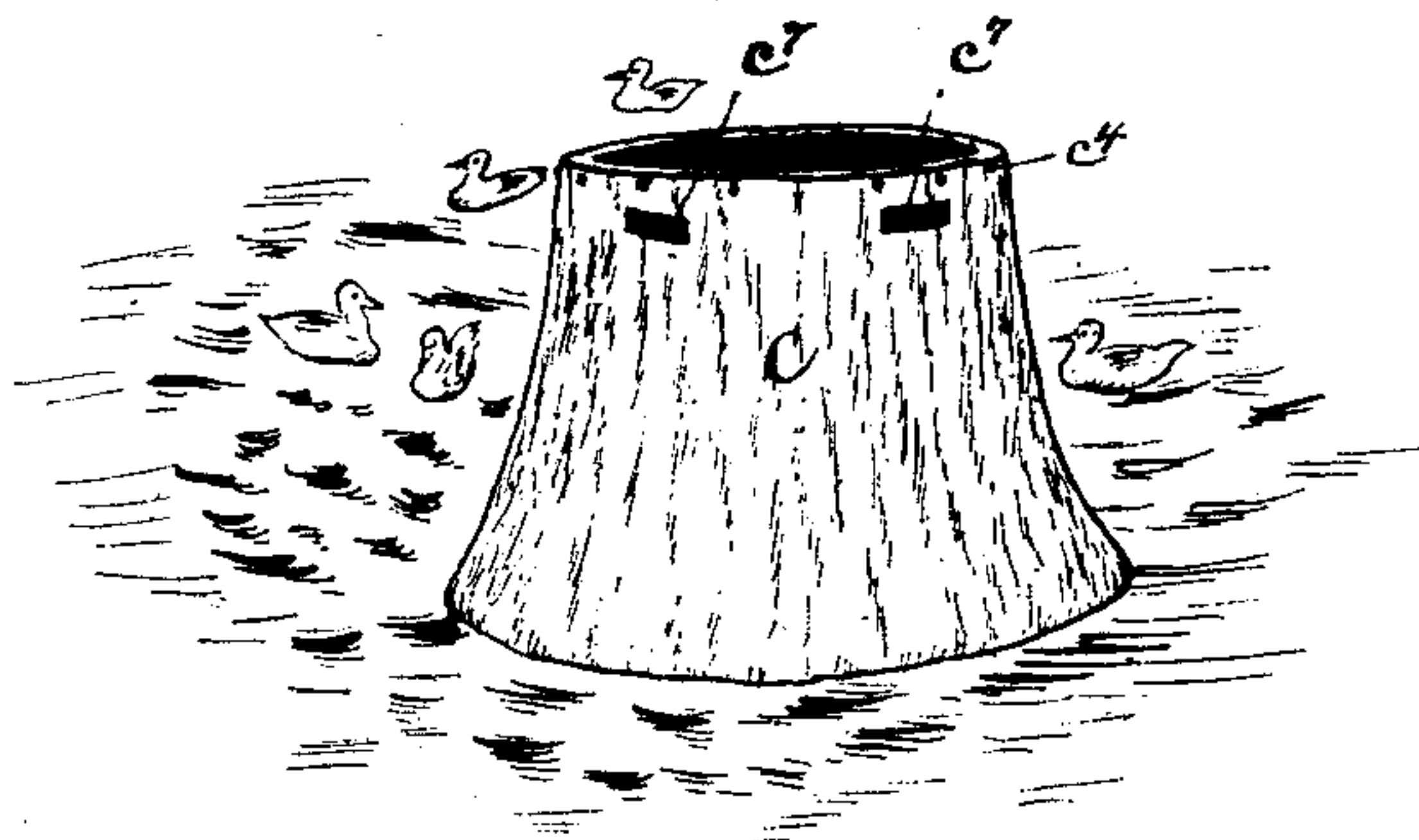
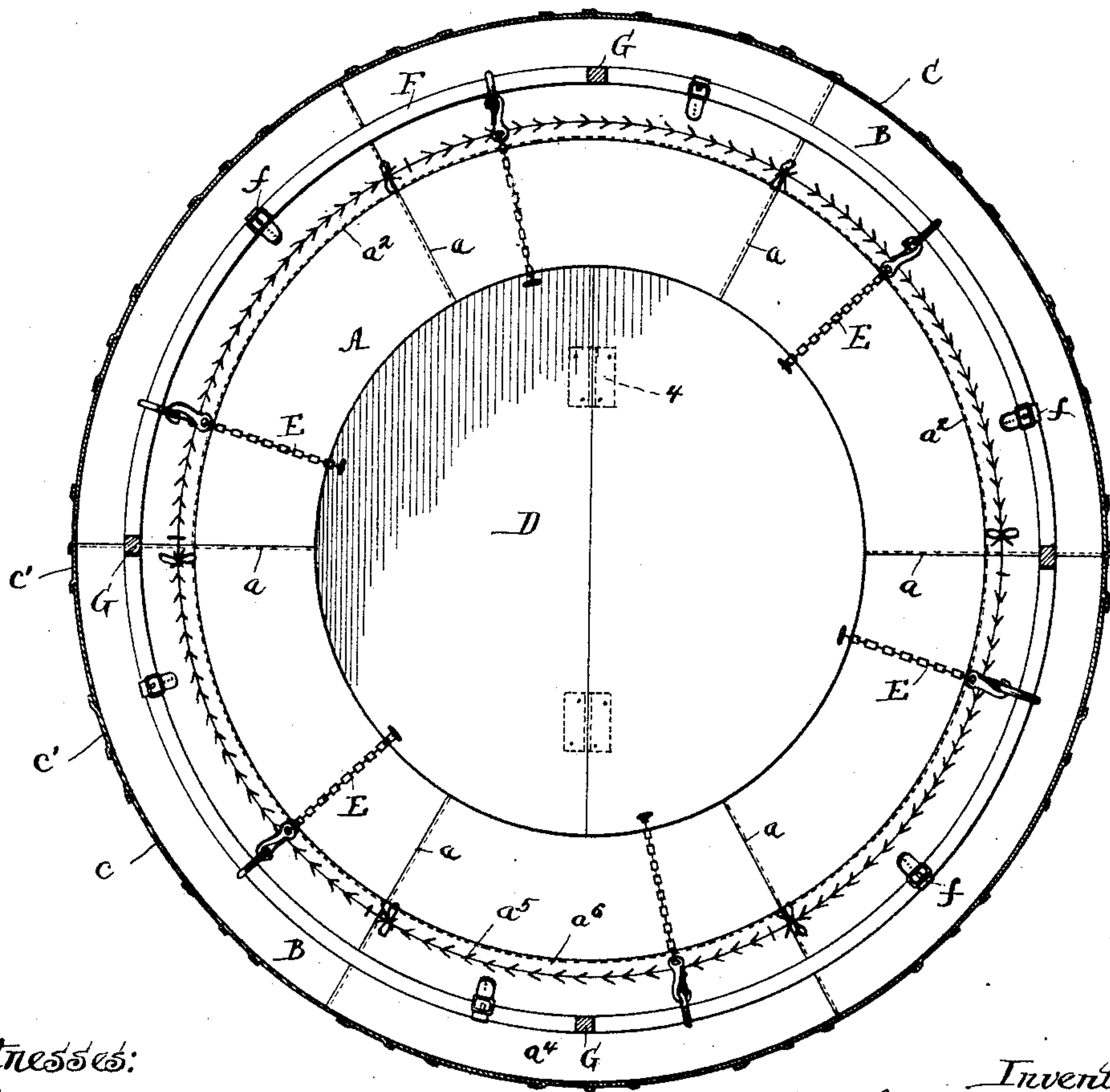


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

Fred Goelach

Alberta Adamick.

Inventors:

H. A. Beck & W. M. Murphy

By Reiner & Fisher

Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM MILES MURPHY AND HERBERT AVERY BECK, OF UNION CITY,
TENNESSEE, ASSIGNORS TO SAID MURPHY AND NANNIE E. BECK, OF
SAME PLACE.

HUNTER'S BLIND.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 550,762, dated December 3, 1895.

Application filed April 15, 1895. Serial No. 545,773. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM MILES MURPHY and HERBERT AVERY BECK, citizens of the United States, residing at Union City, Obion county, State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hunters' Blinds, of which we do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification.

Our present invention has for its object to provide for hunters of ducks, geese, and other wild fowl a simple, durable, light, and portable construction of blind that may be easily carried and may be readily and quickly set up for use, and this object we have accomplished by the features of invention hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the claims at the end of this specification.

Figure 1 is a view in central vertical section through a blind embodying our invention. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of that part of the blind that shows above the water-line. Fig. 3 is a view in horizontal section on line 3 3 of Fig. 1.

The main portions of the body of our blind consist, first, of a well A wherein the hunter may stand or sit; second, of a buoyant roll B whereby the well A is sustained, and, third, of a screen or blind proper C, that rises from the buoyant roll to a sufficient distance above the water-line to effectively hide the hunter from view. By preference these several parts of our blind will be formed of canvas or like textile material thoroughly waterproofed, although, manifestly, without departing from the spirit of our invention rubber or like waterproof material might be employed.

In order to afford a firm support for the weight of the hunter and at the same time relieve the sides of the well from strain, we provide a platform D, that is suspended by chains or cords E, these chains E being preferably sustained at their upper ends by a hoop F, that rests upon the buoyant roll B. By thus sustaining the platform D independently of the body of the well A all strain upon the well incident to the weight or movements of the hunter is avoided. From the hoop F rise the

standards G, that support the top hoop H, to which is connected the upper edge of the screen or blind proper C, the lower edge of this screen C extending over and being attached outside the buoyant roll B. The buoyant roll B being inflated with air through a suitable tube *b* or through several tubes, if the roll be formed with compartments, will sustain the blind and its occupant, while the suspended platform D will permit the occupant of the blind to move freely therein without danger of straining or injuring the well. When the hunter is within the blind, he can, by stooping or sitting, readily conceal himself from view of the incoming game and at the proper time can stand in order to shoot.

The foregoing description will disclose the main features of our invention, the details of which will be next described, although we wish it distinctly understood that, except as specifically called for by our claims, the invention is not to be restricted to such details of construction. The body of the well A is formed, preferably, of a series of vertical sections—say six—that are united together by seams *a*, and the bottom of the well is closed by the bottom sheet *a'*, united to the edges of the side walls of the well. The several sections that form the sides of the well A are preferably extended from the line *a*² around the bottom of the buoyant roll B to the point *a*³, and at such point their edges are connected to the top cover *a*⁴ of the roll. This top cover *a*⁴ of the roll B is preferably formed of sections corresponding to the sections of the well A, and the edges of the cover *a*⁴ are provided with eyelets, whereby the edge of the cover *a*⁴ may be laced, as at *a*⁵, to a strip *a*⁶, that is united at the seam *a*² to the body of the well A. The strip *a*⁶ may be formed of sections in order to better enable it to conform to the shape of the well. Our object in lacing the top cover *a*⁴ of the buoyant roll B to the strip *a*⁶ is to enable the roll to be conveniently inserted in position and withdrawn.

The buoyant roll B may be formed of sections of waterproof textile material suitably united together, or this roll might be made as a rubber tube, like the inner tube of a bicycle tire.

The screen C is preferably formed of a number of main sections *c*—say eight—and between these sections are inserted a number of smaller strips or sections *c'*—say sixteen—that serve as gores to give the proper shape to the body of the screen. Our object is to give to the screen C a configuration imitating as closely as possible that of a tree-stump, and the outside of the screen will be painted, so as to render the imitation more perfect. The lower edges of the screen C will be united at the seam *a*³ to the upper edges of the sections that form the body of the well A, and the upper edge of the screen C will be connected by suitable buttons or hooks *c*⁴ to the hoop H.

Preferably the screen C will be formed with one or two openings *c*⁵, extending from the top to approximately the bottom thereof, so as to permit the hunter to readily enter the blind, and these openings *c*⁵ will be held normally closed by hooks and eyes *c*⁶.

The standards G, that sustain the hoop H, and consequently the screen C, have their ends formed with tenons to enter mortises formed in the edges of the hoops F and H.

By preference the hoops F and H will be formed of sections united together by hinges 2 and 3, so as to permit the hoops to be folded into smaller compass and thus rendered more conveniently portable. For like reason, also, we prefer to form the support D of sections hinged together, as at 4. The hoop F will be held in place upon the buoyant roll B by straps *f*, that are attached to the cover *a*⁴ of the roll at convenient points.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that when the hunter desires to set up the blind he will inflate the buoyant roll B, will then distend the well A and set the support D in position therein and will attach the hoop F in position by means of the straps *f*. The hoop H will then be connected to the upper edge of the screen C, and the standards G will then be set in position, so as to retain the screen C in its distended position. It is manifest that when the blind is to be carried the buoyant roll can be readily deflated and the parts folded into very small compass. It will be seen, also, that the blind can be readily paddled from place to place and can be anchored.

If desired, slits or sight-openings *c*⁷ may be formed at a short distance below the top of the screen C, so as to permit the hunter to watch for approaching game without danger of being seen.

By forming the screen C in imitation of a stump we have found in practice that it serves most effectively to deceive the game and at the same time affords a roomy blind within which the hunter can stand or sit and will be protected from the wind and water.

It is manifest that the precise details of construction above set out may be varied

within wide limits without departing from the spirit of our invention.

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

1. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a buoyant roll or float and a water-proof well sustained thereby, of an internal platform or base supported by said roll or float independently of the well.

2. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a buoyant roll or float and with a water-proof well sustained thereby, of an internal platform or base and flexible connections uniting said platform with said roll independently of the well.

3. In a hunter's blind the combination with a buoyant roll or float and with a water-proof well sustained thereby, of a removable platform or base formed of folding sections.

4. A hunter's blind comprising the combination of a buoyant roll or float, and with a water-proof well sustained thereby, of an internal platform or base, and a hoop supported by said roll and with which said platform or base is connected.

5. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a buoyant roll or float and with a water-proof well sustained thereby, of a screen rising from said roll and suitable supports extending from said roll and connected to the top of said screen.

6. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a buoyant roll or float, and a water-proof well sustained thereby, of a screen having its base expanded and extending over the buoyant roll or float and having its top contracted, a hoop at the base of said screen and a hoop at the top of said screen, to which top hoop the said screen is connected and suitable standards between said hoops to hold the screen in distended condition.

7. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a buoyant roll or float and with a water-proof well sustained thereby, of a screen having its bottom extending over said roll or float, a hoop connected to the top of said screen, a hoop resting upon said roll or float; both of said hoops being formed of folding sections and detachable standards extending between said hoops.

8. A hunter's blind comprising the combination with a well formed of water-proof material, of a buoyant roll and a cover for said roll connected with the body of the well, the cover of said roll being formed with an opening to permit the roll to be readily inserted or removed.

WILLIAM MILES MURPHY.
HERBERT AVERY BECK.

Witnesses:

R. S. MURPHY,
J. P. VERHINE.