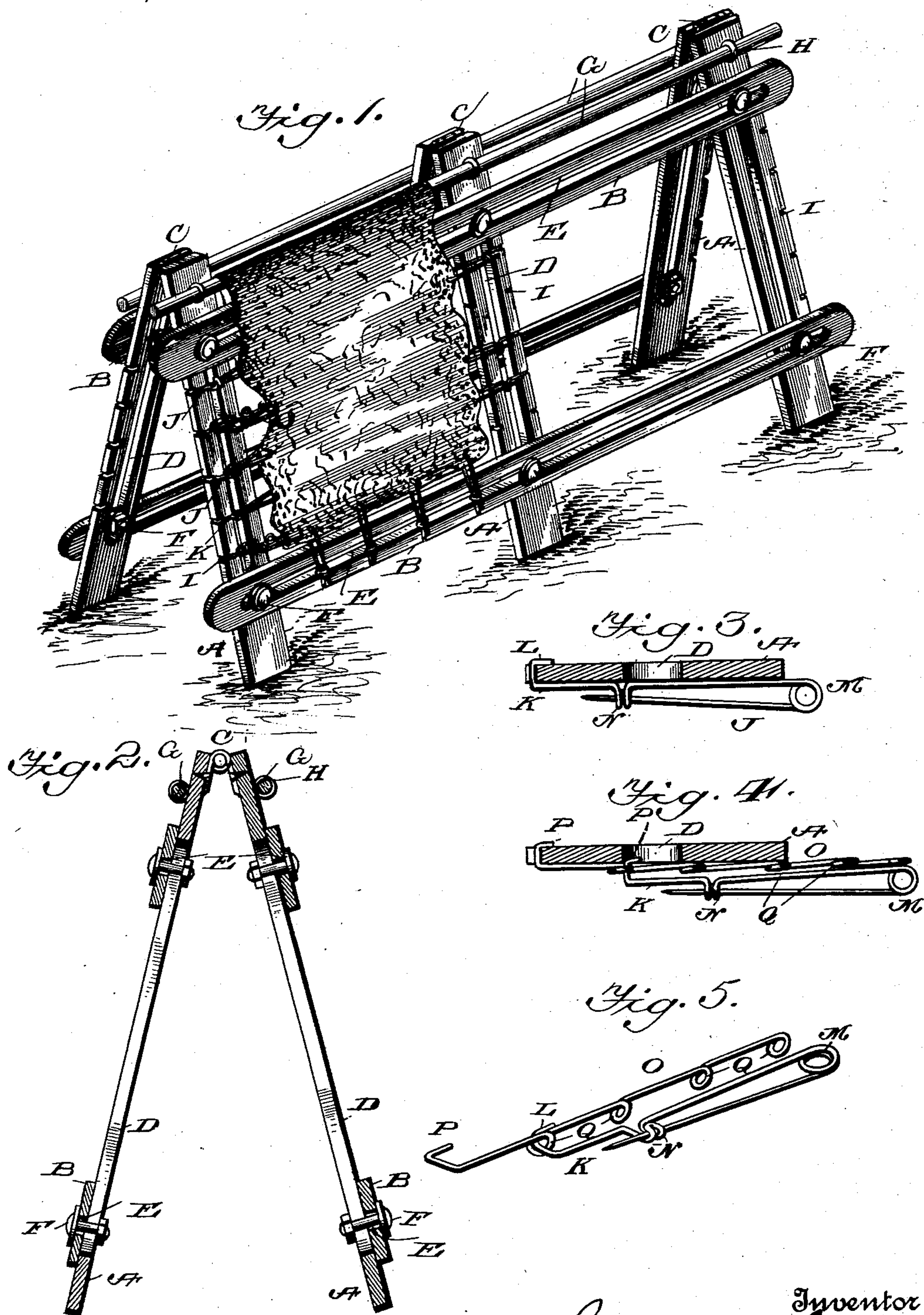


(No Model.)

J. SMITH.  
CURTAIN STRETCHER.

No. 568,991.

Patented Oct. 6, 1896.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPHINE SMITH, OF JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS.

## CURTAIN-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 568,991, dated October 6, 1896.

Application filed June 29, 1896. Serial No. 597,388. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern.*

Be it known that I, JOSEPHINE SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Jacksonville, in the county of Morgan and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Curtain-Stretchers; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in curtain-stretchers; and it consists in certain novel features hereinafter described and claimed.

In the annexed drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a curtain-stretcher embodying my improvements. Fig. 2 is a vertical section of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail section showing one of the hooks for holding the curtain. Fig. 4 is a similar view showing the manner of adjusting the hooks to scallops in the edge of the curtain, and Fig. 5 is a detail perspective view of one of the hooks and extension hangers or bars.

In carrying out my invention I employ a frame consisting of standards or supports A and bars B, attached thereto. The standards, it will be noticed, are constructed in two parts or sections connected by hinges C, so that they may be set up in substantially an A form and prove self-supporting. The sections of the standards are provided with longitudinal slots D, through which and similar longitudinal slots E in the bars B are passed set or thumb screws F for the purpose of adjustably securing the standards and said bars together. The frame can thus be quickly adjusted to the size of the curtain to be stretched and dried, and two, three, or more standards may be used, according to the size of the frame desired. Along the top of the frame are rollers or rods G, which are mounted in eyes or bearings H on the outer sides of the standards, at the upper ends of the same. In the edges of the bars B and the standards I form a series of notches I, in which are engaged the hooks J, which hold the curtain. These hooks consist of a cen-

tral stem or shank K, having one end doubled on itself, as shown at L, to form a retaining-lip, which engages the notch in the bar and bears against the flat side of the same to retain the hook in its operative position. The opposite end of the stem is bent into a pin or curtain-holding loop M, the end of which is engaged under and held by a spur N, rising from the shank or stem at an intermediate point thereof. When the edge of the curtain is scalloped or irregular, and the hooks consequently must extend varying distances beyond the bars or standards, I employ the extension-hangers O, which consist of a stem having a hook P at one end to engage the notch in the frame and provided along its length with a series of eyes Q, any one of which may be engaged by the retaining-lip L of the hook K.

The manner of using my improved curtain drier and stretcher will be readily understood. The hooks are engaged in the edges of the washed and damp curtain, and their retaining-lips are then engaged in the notches of the frame, after which the bars and standards are properly adjusted to stretch the curtain. If the curtain is small or of medium size, the hooks are engaged in all four edges of the same, but if it is very large it is first doubled over the roller at the top of the frame, and the hooks are then properly engaged in its edges, as described, or the curtain may, if preferred, be passed over both the rollers, so as to merely rest thereon, and then stretched on both sides of the frame.

It will be readily understood, of course, that the drier may be made in any desired size; but I prefer to construct it in such a size that it will hold four curtains doubled over the top roller.

When the edges of the curtain are scalloped or irregular, the hooks cannot be engaged directly over the frame without tearing out from the curtain, and I then use the extension-bars, the hooks being engaged in one or another of the eyes thereon, according to the depth of the scallop.

My device is very simple in its construction, and its advantages are thought to be obvious without detailed reference thereto.

The frame is self-supporting and can be set up anywhere. It may be folded with the

curtains thereon, and various sizes of curtains may be dried thereon simultaneously.

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

1. The combination of the hook having a retaining-lip at one end, and an extension-bar having a series of eyes adapted to be engaged by said retaining-lip and provided at one end with a hook.

2. In a curtain-stretcher, the combination of two frames hinged at their upper ends, each frame consisting of three uprights having longitudinal slots therein, the outer uprights having a series of notches in their

outer edges and the central uprights having similar notches in both edges, horizontal bars having longitudinal slots therein, adjustable bolts connecting the uprights and the bars, rods secured to the outer faces of the uprights at the upper ends of the same, and hook-and-pin connections adapted to be seated in the notches and hold the curtain.

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

JOSEPHINE SMITH.

Witnesses:

CHARLES A. BARNES,  
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