(No Model.)

W. CRAFORD & J. S. ATKINSON.

NECK YOKE IRON.

No. 577,360. Patented Feb. 16, 1897.

Fig. 1.

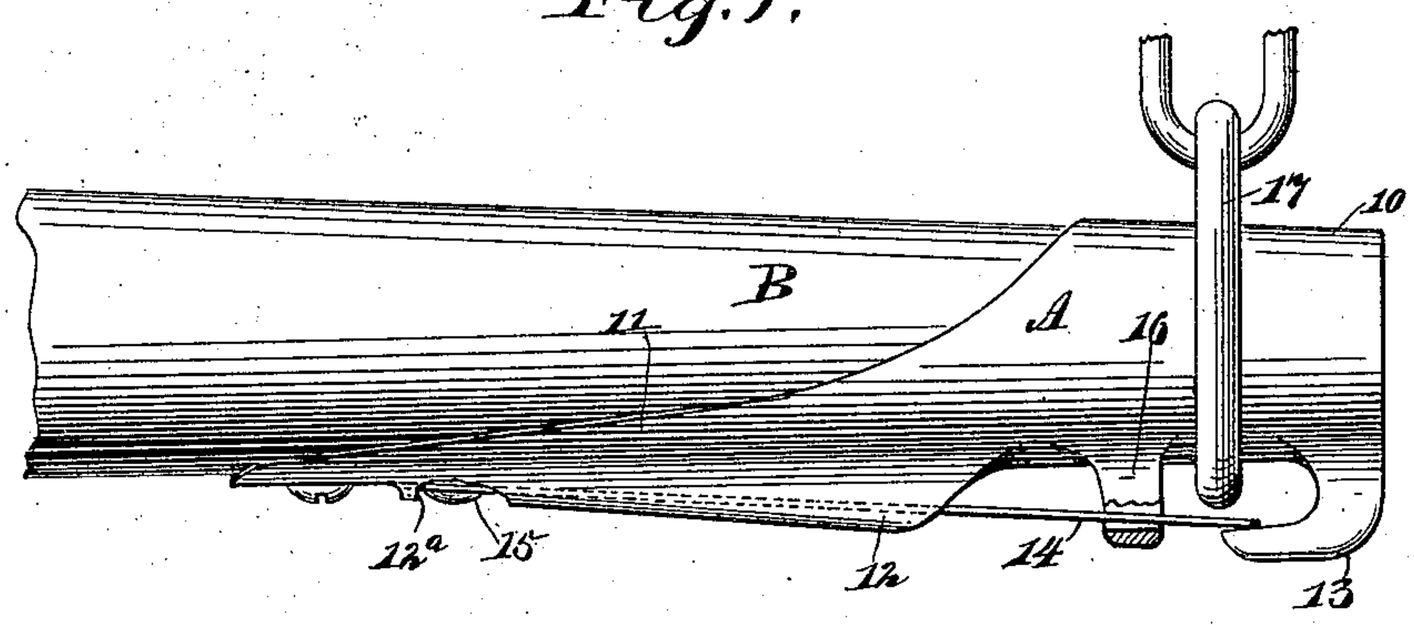
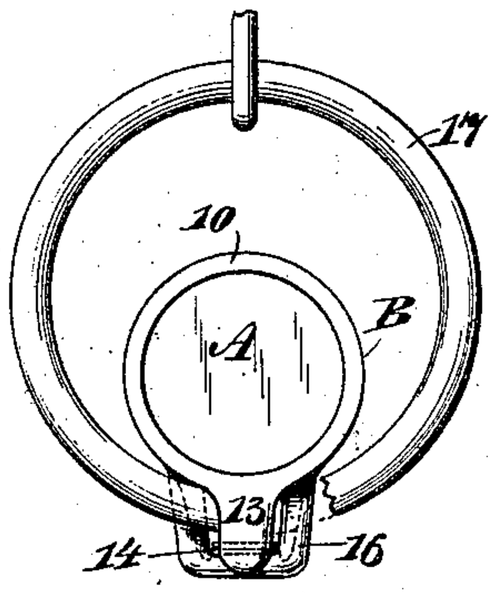


Fig. 2.



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WELCOME CRAFORD AND JOSEPH S. ATKINSON, OF BAYFIELD, WISCONSIN.

NECK-YOKE IRON.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 577,360, dated February 16, 1897.

Application filed July 28, 1896. Serial No. 600,749. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WELCOME CRAFORD and JOSEPH S. ATKINSON, of Bayfield, in the county of Bayfield and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and Improved Neck-Yoke Iron, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to so construct the irons of neck-yokes that they will be simple, durable, and economic and conveniently and readily repaired when necessary, and whereby, with the aid of but two snaps, a teamster may couple or uncouple the horses in the coldest weather without removing his mittens or other coverings from the hand; and the invention consists in the novel construction and combination of the several parts, as will be hereinafter fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

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

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a neck-yoke having the improved iron applied to one of its ends, and Fig. 2 is an end view of the neck-yoke and the attached iron.

In carrying out the invention the iron A is applied to the neck-yoke B in the usual manner, namely, at the ends. The iron consists of a tubular end section 10 and a rearwardly and downwardly inclined lip-section 11, which mainly engages with the bottom and bottom side portions of the yoke, as is shown in Fig. 1. A heel-flange 12 is formed longitudinally upon the bottom of the lip-section 11 at each side of the center thereof, and the said flanges are made to terminate at a point near the connection of the lip with the body of the iron.

The flanges 12 form virtually heel-guards for the space between the flanges, said space being designated by the reference-numeral 12^a, and likewise serve to protect the inner end portion of a spring 14, which is fitted between the aforesaid flanges 12 and is secured to the lip portion of the iron by means of a rivet 15 or the equivalent of the same—as, for example, a screw may be substituted for the rivet and extend through the spring and the iron into the neck-yoke.

At the outer end of the bottom portion of the body 10 an inwardly-extending hook 13 is formed, preferably integral with the body, and the outer end of the spring 14 rests upon the top portion of the said hook 13, which serves as a guard for the spring. The space between the hook and the forward terminals of the flanges 12, forming the heel-guard, is more or less outwardly arched, as illustrated in Fig. 1, and at or near the center of this arched surface a stirrup 16 is downwardly projected from the body of the iron, through which the spring 14 is loosely passed. The ring 17, adapted for attachment to the harness, is made to surround the body portion of the neck-yoke between the stirrup and the spring-guard 13.

It is evident that this iron may be operated, even in the coldest of weather, with the gloves on the hand of the operator, since all that is necessary will be to push up the spring 14 at that point between the forward ends of the heel-guards 12 and the stirrup 16, whereupon the ring 17 may then be readily removed from the space between the stirrup and the spring-guard 13 or as readily inserted in the said space to occupy a position around the iron, as shown in the drawings.

The device is exceedingly simple and economic. The spring 14, as heretofore stated, normally engages with the guard 13, and the outer portions of the guard-flanges 12 are of sufficient depth or width to protect the spring 14 even when in its lowermost position, enabling the spring also to be carried upward to a close contact with the body portion of the iron.

It may be further stated that one feature of our invention which strongly recommends its use is the fact that it does away with eight harness-snaps to a double harness, which snaps are much more liable to break than the ones upon our irons.

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

1. A neck-yoke iron comprising a tubular body, a lip projected from the lower rear portion of the body, the said lip being provided on its under face with a longitudinal flange at each side of its center, the said flanges terminating at a point near the junction of the lip with the body, a spring located in the space between the said flanges, a bearing for

the spring located at the outer end portion of the body, and a stirrup located between the end of the lip-flanges and the said bearing and through which the said spring passes, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. A neck-yoke iron comprising a tubular body, a lip projected horizontally from the lower end portion of the said body, the said lip being provided with a flange at each side of its center, increasing in width in direction of their outer ends, a spring located in the space between the said flanges, having its inner end attached to the iron, a stirrup secured to the body, through which the spring passes, and a support located at the under forward portion of the body, with which the spring is normally in engagement, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. In a neck-yoke iron, the combination, with a tubular body portion and a lip extending horizontally from the lower rear end of the body, the said lip having a flange at each side of the center of its bottom surface, which flanges increase in depth in direction of their outer ends, of a spring located in the space between the flanges, having its inner end secured to the iron, a hook-shaped and rearwardly-extending guard located at the under forward portion of the body of the iron, the free end of the spring normally engaging with the upper face of the horizontal member of the said hook-shaped guard, and a stirrup located between the hook-shaped guard and the outer end of the lip-flanges, through which stirrup the aforesaid spring passes, as and for the purpose specified.

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