No. 685,861. Patented Nov. 5, 1901.

C. I. ORMSBEE.

REIN GUIDE AND SUPPORTER.

(Application filed Sept. 8, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

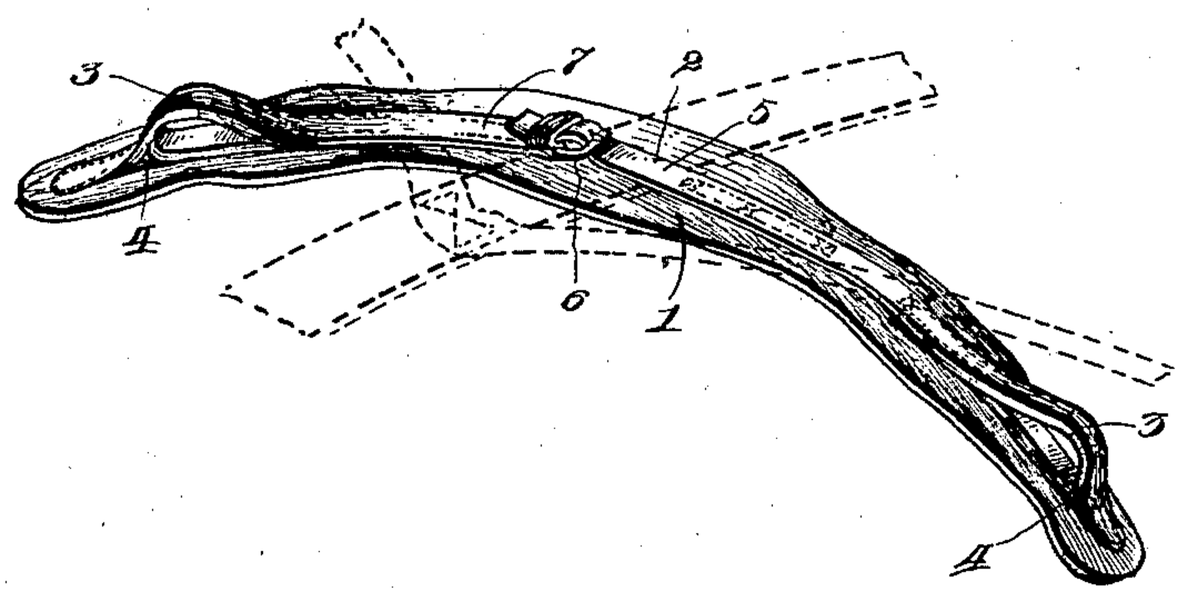
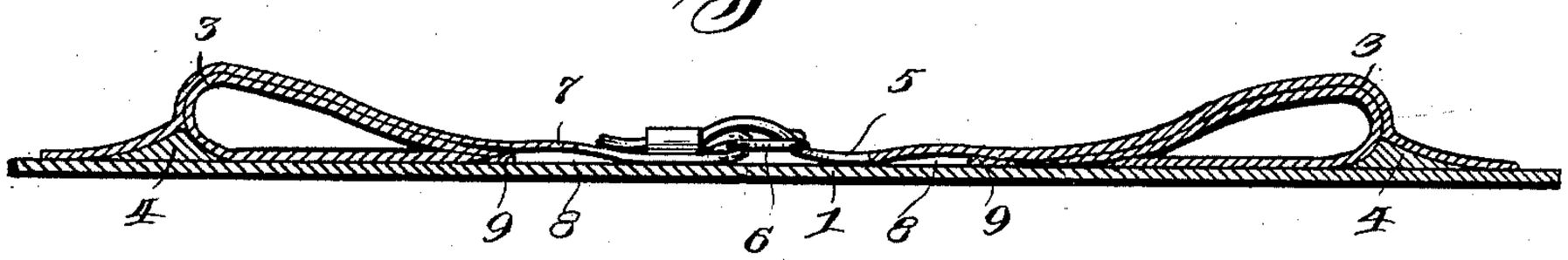


Fig. 2.



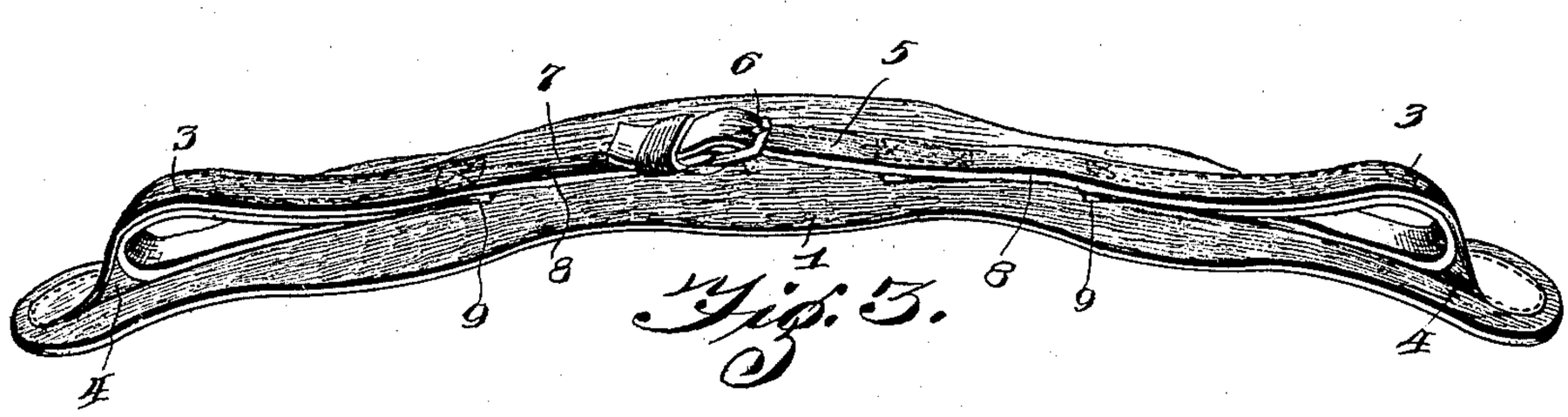


Fig. 3.

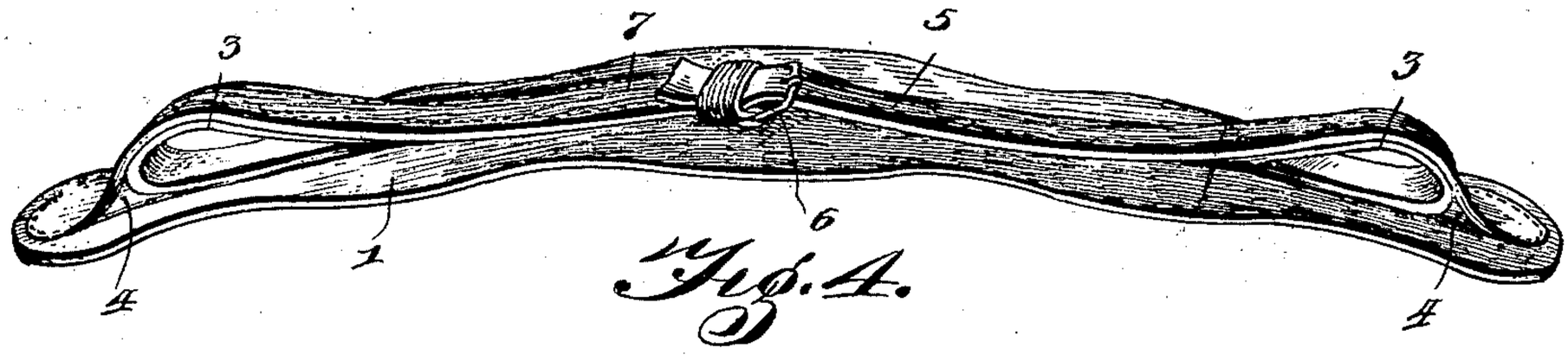


Fig. 4.

Witnesses
Leo. P. Dondue
Chas. S. Hoyer.

C. I. Ormsbee Inventor
By C. A. Snow & Co.
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES I. ORMSBEE, OF PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN.

REIN GUIDE AND SUPPORTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 685,861, dated November 5, 1901.

Application filed September 8, 1900. Serial No. 29,459. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES IRA ORMSBEE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Platteville, in the county of Grant and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and useful Rein Guide and Supporter, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to rein guides and supporters; and the object of the same is to provide simple and effective means for preventing the reins from becoming crossed or falling into the mud or dust after a horse is hitched; to obviate catching the reins under parts of harness below the same or under the whiffletree and held out of reach of a horse's tail; to render driving easy and avoid a clumsy appearance or an inornate effect when the device is applied, and to readily apply the device to harness without changing the structure of the latter or necessitating additional fastening devices and obtain a positive and reliable securement whereby the guide or supporter will always be maintained in operative relation to the parts of harness in engaging relation therewith.

The invention consists in the construction and arrangement of the several parts, which will be more fully hereinafter described and claimed.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rein guide or supporter embodying the features of the invention and shown applied to dotted harness parts. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical section of the improved guide or supporter. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the guide or supporter on a larger scale than shown by Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of a slightly-modified form of the guide or support.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts in the several views.

In the construction of the improved guide or supporter it is proposed to use all of one kind of material or a composition of rigid and flexible materials, such as metal and leather or any other substances adapted for the purpose. It has been found that leather, owing to its lightness, durability, and flexibility, is preferable for general use, though different users may desire other materials, and it is also intended that the device be ornamented with suitable metal or other trimmings to correspond to the harness with which it is used, and in the application of the guide to heavy harness the several parts may be reinforced and strengthened as may be found necessary. Therefore it will be understood that in the subsequent description a practical embodiment of the invention will be disclosed as formed of flexible material, such as leather; but the use of the latter material contemplates the substitution of any other suitable material, as set forth.

The numeral 1 designates a hip-pad of elongated form and preferably continuous from end to end. This pad will also be preferably constructed of leather to make it pliable or flexible and to produce an easy bearing on the rear portion of the body of the animal, as well as afford convenient means of applying the entire device in operative position in connection with ordinary harness. As shown by Figs. 1, 2, and 3, the pad is centrally traversed in a longitudinal direction by a two-part attaching-strap 2, passing over outer end loops or terrets 3, of thicker material, and then attached at its terminals adjacent the terminals of the said pad, the space between the outer lower portion of the strap and the similar portion of the loop or terret at each end being filled by suitable plugs 4. The center of the strap is left unattached to the pad to provide means for passing the back-strap of harness between the same and the pad, as shown by Fig. 1, and one end 5 of the strap is formed with one or more apertures to detachably engage the buckle or other analogous device 6 on the opposite end 7. Portions of the strap near the inner connecting ends 5 and 7 are also left unattached to the pad to form openings 8 for the passage therethrough of the hip-straps or breeching-supports, and the outer portions of these openings 8 are reinforced by the introduction of plugs 9, as clearly shown by Fig. 2. This construction will permit the guide or supporter as an entirety to be positively held in operative position and so that the loops or terrets will have a proper direction, and when once placed in such position it will remain intact with the set of harness and be always ready for use at the time the harness is applied.

The construction shown by Fig. 4 includes

all the parts just described with the exception of the plugs at the intermediate points, the confining-strap in this instance being secured to the hip-pad completely to the center opening for the passage of the back-strap, and in applying this form of the device the hip-straps are rested or passed over a two-part attaching-strap and pad between the central fastening means and the end loops or terrets. This form will in many instances be preferred by some and is more easily applied, as will be understood, and in both constructions a seat for the hip-straps is provided on each side of the center between the central fastening means and the loops or terrets. There is no right or left adaptation necessary, as either side edge may be placed in advance. It is also intended to have the loops or terrets in some instances at a distance apart equal to the distance between the terrets or loops of the harness-saddle or back-pad, there being commonly but two widths, so as to carry the reins regularly in straight lines from neck to tail of the animal.

In applying the improved device in either form it is preferred that the same be fastened to the back-strap of harness in rear of the hip straps or supporters. The reins will always be maintained in proper driving condition and out of reach of a horse's tail and can never fall below the level of the loops or terrets. By the use of the guide or supporter set forth crossing or twisting of the reins will be prevented and the said reins can always be picked up in precisely the same position in which they were dropped by a driver.

Many other advantages will appear from time to time to those using the device, and changes in the form, size, proportions, and minor details may be resorted to without in the least departing from the principle of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. A rein-guide comprising a flexible hip-pad of a single thickness, to extend transversely across and conform to the shape of the back of the animal adjacent to the hip-straps, an attaching-strap extending longitudinally over and secured to the upper side of said pad and having its inner terminals directly provided with separable and adjustable connecting devices which are adapted to be united and forming with the portion of the pad beneath a passage for the free movement therethrough of the back-strap of harness, and outer end stationary loops inside the terminals of the hip-pad over which pass the opposite portions of the said attaching-strap to the terminal portions of the pad where they are secured, the loops being of thicker material than the latter strap.

2. A rein-guide comprising a flexible hip-pad for arrangement transversely of and to conform to the back of the animal adjacent the location of the hip-straps, an attaching-strap having loose inner terminals directly provided with separable and adjustable connecting devices which are adapted to be united and form a passage with the portion of the pad beneath for free movement of the back-strap of harness therethrough, the outer portions of the attaching-strap being secured adjacent to the ends of the pad, and loops near the ends of the pad over which the opposite portions of the attaching-strap pass, the said strap being fastened to the pad and loops its full length from the inner loose terminals except at points between said terminals and the loops where openings are formed for passage between said strap and the pad of the hip-straps.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CHARLES I. ORMSBEE.

Witnesses:
T. L. CLEARY,
J. E. FAWCETT.