

No. 767,003.

PATENTED AUG. 9, 1904.

H. M. MASON.
RACING SADDLE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 25, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

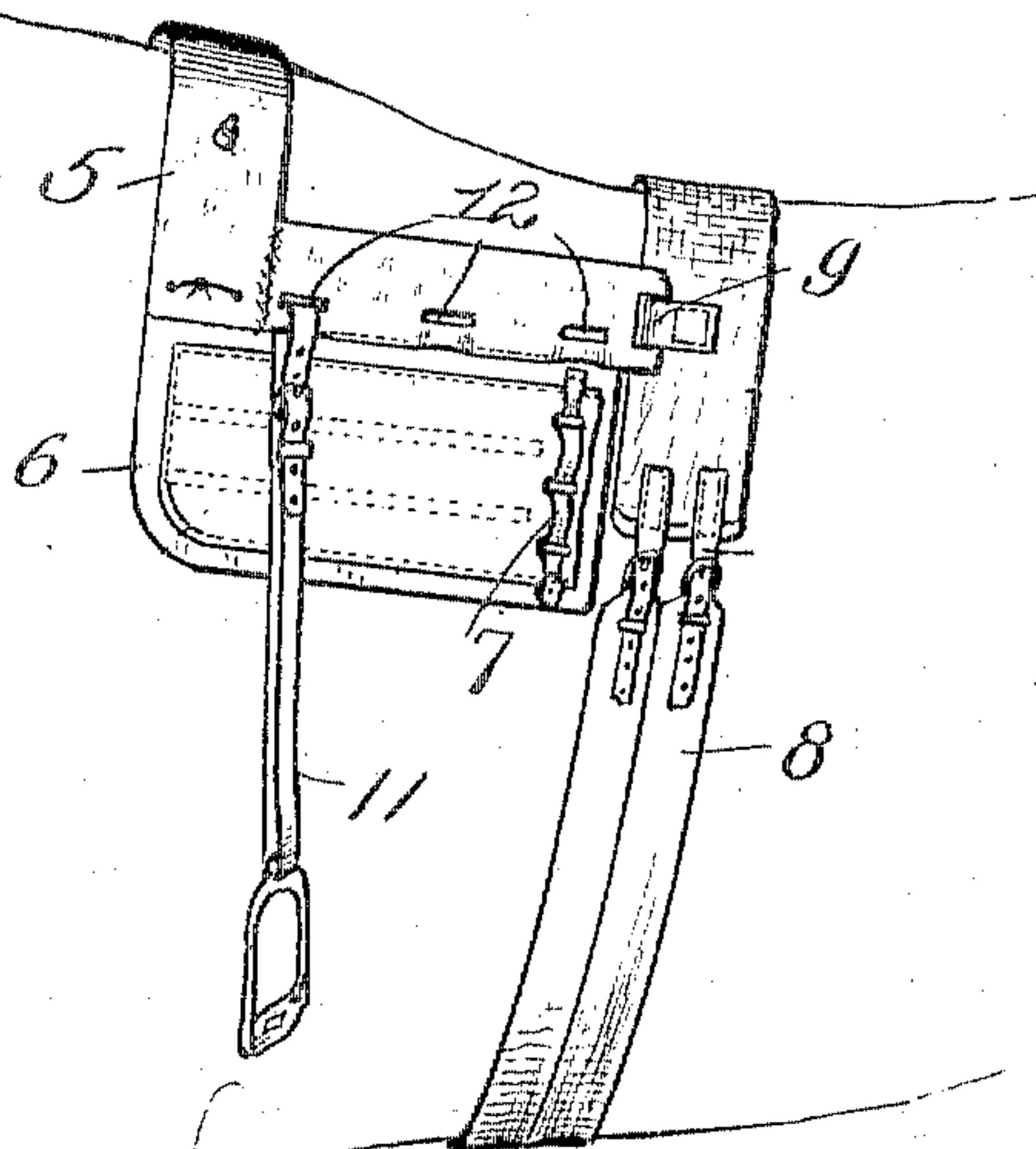


Fig. 2.

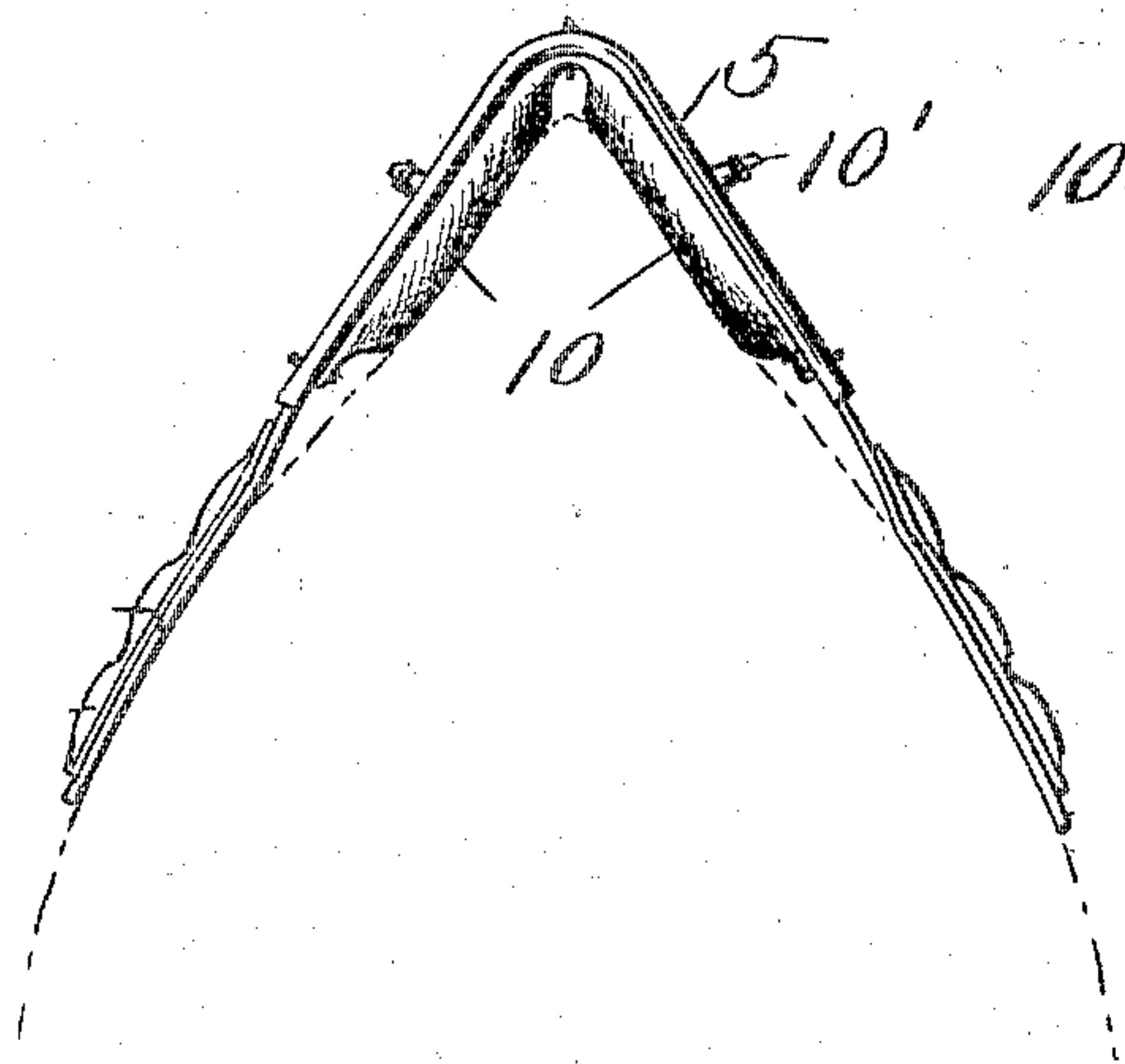
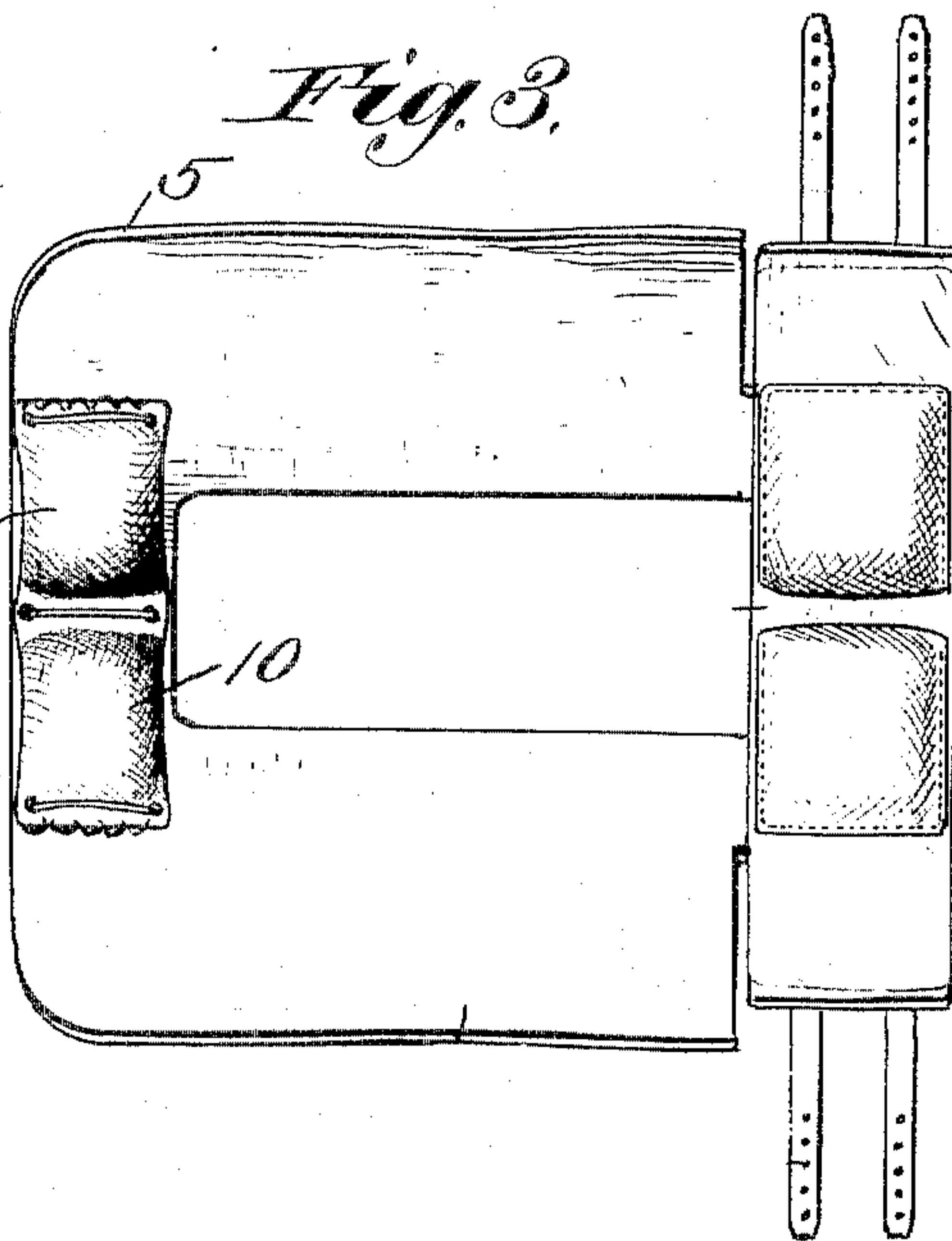


Fig. 3.



Witnesses,
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY M. MASON, OF GRAVESEND, NEW YORK.

RACING-SADDLE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 767,003, dated August 9, 1904.

Application filed March 25, 1903. Serial No. 149,575. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY M. MASON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Gravesend, in the county of Kings and State of New York, have invented new and useful Improvements in Racing-Saddles, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to racing-saddles.

The primary object of the invention is to provide a light yet thoroughly strong article of this character wherein the weight of the rider or jockey is sustained practically wholly by the withers of the horse.

It has been found by long experience in racing short distances that where the weight of a saddle and a jockey is applied to the back of a horse it presses against the back to such an extent as to considerably harass or impede the horse. I avoid this difficulty by supporting the saddle practically wholly by the withers of the horse, where experience has indicated the animal can best bear such weight in racing short distances at rapid speeds. Therefore I do not by my invention harass or impede the horse, but am enabled to obtain the highest degree of speed.

In the drawings accompanying and forming part of this specification and showing the device in one simple and convenient embodiment thereof, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the saddle, showing the manner of using the same. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of said saddle, and Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the same.

Like characters refer to like parts in the several views.

The improved saddle 5 is of approximately U shape, it including in its make-up a tree, which may be made of any suitable material, such as sheet metal, whereby strength and lightness are secured. The tree of course corresponds in shape to the saddle and is covered with leather, cloth, or any other desirable material. The transverse portion of the saddle, as seen in Figs. 1 and 2, is arched or of substantially inverted-V form to embrace or straddle the withers of the horse. Therefore the saddle and the rider are supported by the withers, so that the combined weight of the two is applied to that part of the horse

where it will have the least effect upon his movements. The legs or side branches of the saddle do not bear with any appreciable force against the animal. The leather covering the tree of the saddle depends from the sides of the branches thereof to form the skirts 6, the latter being pocketed to removably receive leads or handicap-weights (indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 1) and held in the pockets of the skirts by straps, as 7.

The saddle 5 has a lever-like motion, and to secure such function the rear ends of the branches thereof have means for flexibly connecting the saddle to a relatively fixed part at the rear of the stirrup-strap connections hereinafter described, which relatively fixed part may be a surcingle, as 8, suitably applied to the horse at the usual place or any equivalent member.

The means for attaching the branches of the saddle 5 to the surcingle 8 is shown as a slot-and-loop connection, said branches being slotted, as shown in Fig. 1, to receive loops, as 9, suitably connected with the surcingle 8. The flexible connection indicated permits a lever-like motion of the saddle upon the horse.

To protect the animal as far as possible, I locate upon the inner side of the branches of the arched portion of the saddle 5 inflatable pads, as 10, which are covered with leather and suitably held to the saddle. These inflatable pads have the usual nipples 10' for the application of an air-pump, whereby said pads can be inflated, in which latter condition they hold the apex of the arched portion out of contact with the vertebræ of the horse.

Stirrup-straps, as 11, are shown as adjustably connected with the branches of the saddle in front of the flexible connection 9, and in the present case the adjustable connection is secured by forming in the branches of the saddle longitudinally-disposed slots 12, adapted to removably receive the respective straps. In Fig. 1 the several slots 12 are shown as situated between the arched portion of the saddle and the flexible connection 9, three of said slots being illustrated in each branch.

The jockey of course does not sit upon the saddle, but is supported by the usual stirrups at the lower ends of the appropriate straps,

and no matter what the position of the jockey may be his weight, as well as that of the saddle, is applied to the withers of the horse.

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

1. A racing-saddle of approximately U shape, the transverse portion thereof being arched, and the branches thereof having means
10 for the attachment thereto of stirrup-straps, and also having means for flexibly connecting the said branches to a relatively fixed part at the rear of the stirrup-straps, to permit a lever-like motion of the saddle, said transverse
15 portion being arranged to be supported on the withers of an animal and constituting the sole weight-applying bearing of said saddle against said animal.

2. A racing-saddle of approximately U shape, the transverse portion thereof being arched and the branches thereof having means
20 for the adjustable attachment thereto of stirrup-straps, and also having means for flexibly connecting said branches to a relatively fixed
25 part at the rear of the stirrup-straps, to permit a lever-like motion of the saddle, said

transverse portion being arranged to be supported on the withers of an animal and constituting the sole weight-applying bearing of
said saddle on said animal. 30

3. A saddle of approximately U shape, the transverse portion thereof being arched and each branch thereof having a slot at its rear end to secure a flexible connection between the
saddle and a relatively fixed part, whereby a
35 lever-like motion of the saddle is obtained, said branches each having a series of slots longitudinally thereof and between the transverse portion and the other slots, for the adjustable connection of stirrup-straps, said
40 transverse portion being arranged to be supported on the withers of an animal and constituting the sole weight-applying bearing of said saddle against said animal.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set
my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses. 45

HENRY M. MASON.

Witnesses:

JAMES L. NORRIS,
THOMAS M. CASSIDY.