

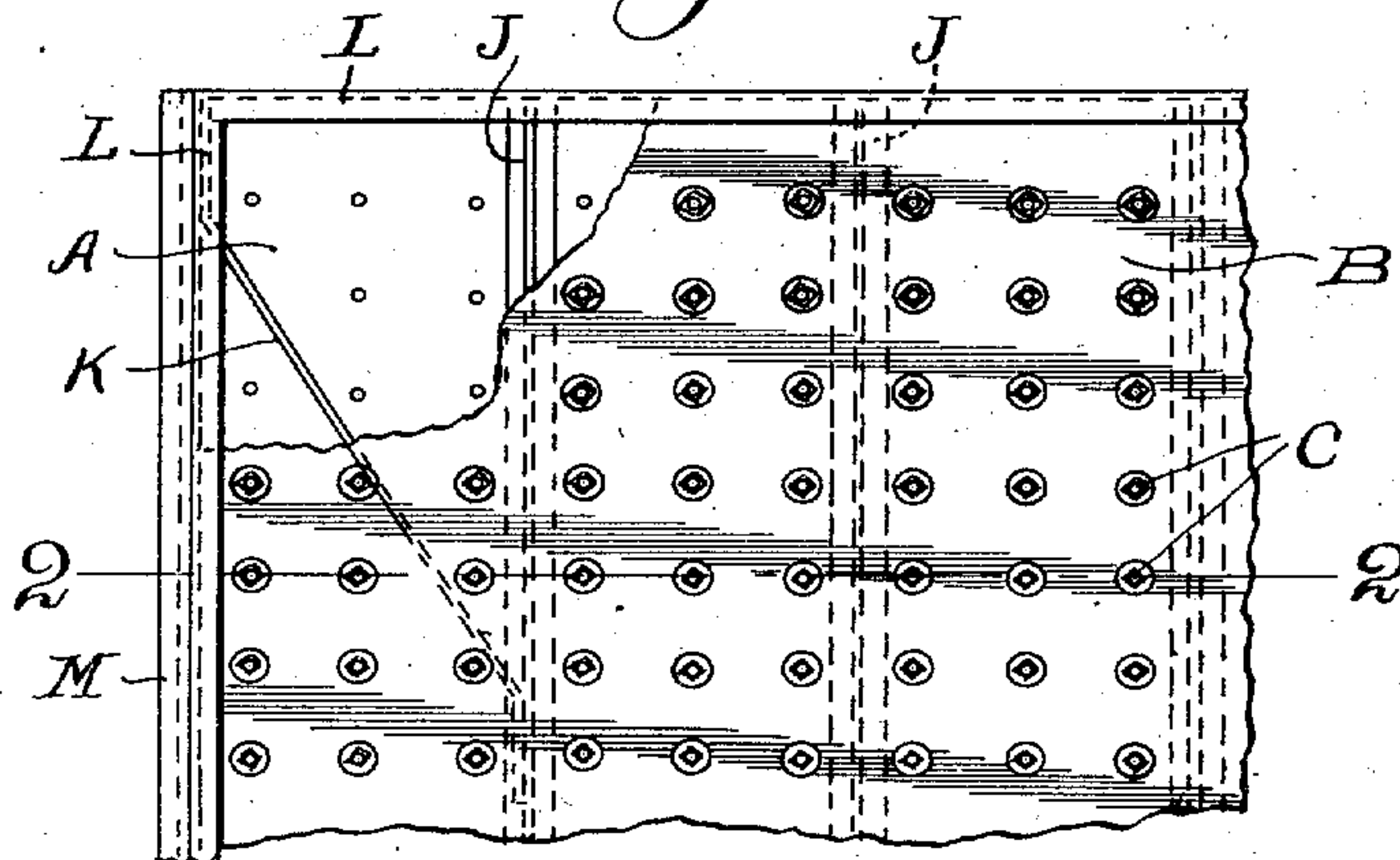
No. 769,788.

PATENTED SEPT. 13, 1904.

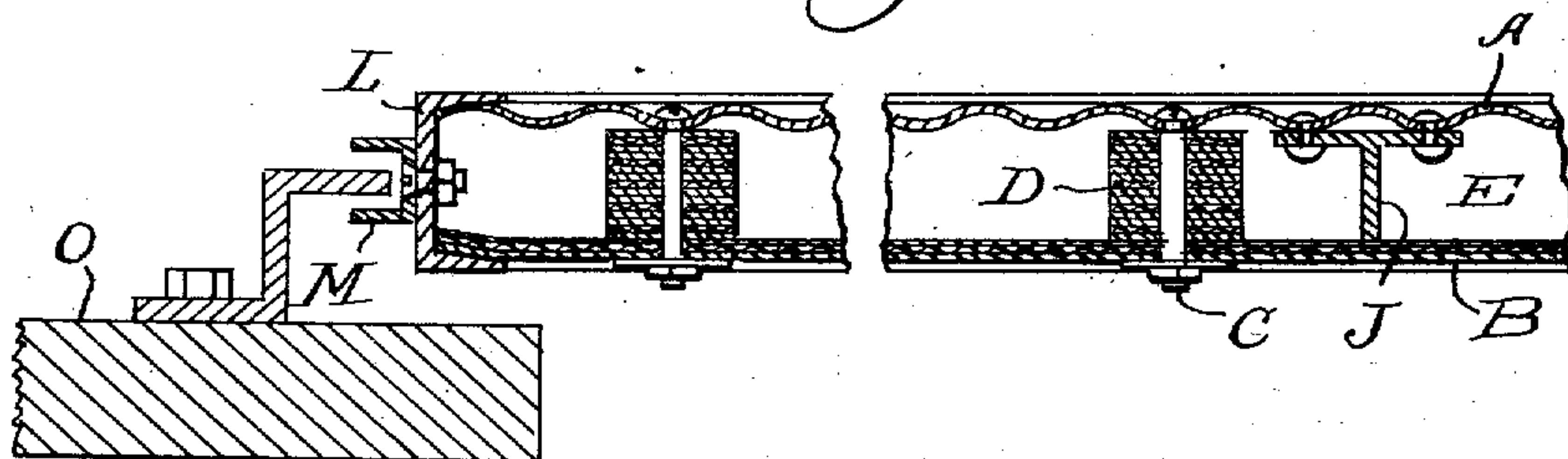
J. H. CHANNON.  
FIREPROOF DROP CURTAIN.  
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 4, 1904.

NO MODEL.

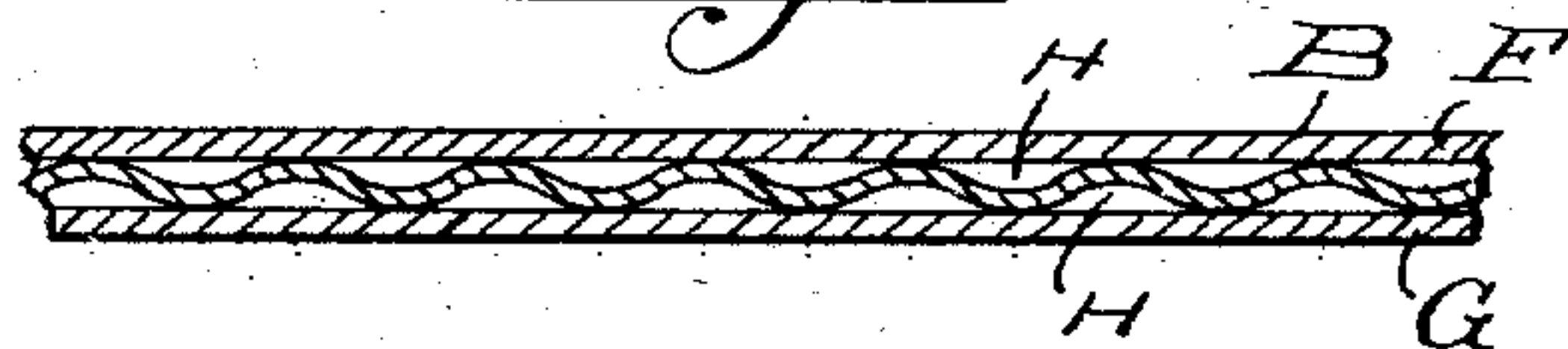
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses:  
C. F. Wilson  
F. Schlotfeldt

Inventor:  
James H. Channon  
By *Rudolph H. [Signature]*  
Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. CHANNON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## FIREPROOF DROP-CURTAIN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 769,788, dated September 13, 1904.

Application filed February 4, 1904. Serial No. 191,996. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. CHANNON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fireproof Drop-Curtains; and I do hereby 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.

My invention relates to a novel construction in a fireproof drop-curtain for theaters, the object being to provide a curtain of light and durable construction capable of withstanding high temperatures; and it consists in the features of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating my invention, Figure 1 is a fragmentary rear elevation of a curtain constructed in accordance with my invention, the rear wall being partly broken away. Fig. 2 is a fragmentary plan section of same on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a sectional view showing the construction of the inner or stage wall of the curtain.

My said invention consists, primarily, in providing a curtain the outer wall (or that which faces the auditorium) of which is composed of sheet metal, preferably corrugated sheet-steel, and the inner or stage wall of which is composed of a non-conducting non-combustible material, such as asbestos or the like, but preferably of vitrified asbestos, such vitrified asbestos consisting of asbestos sheets which, so far as the writer is informed, are impregnated with a fireproof cement or other composition and baked, such cement or other substance acting as a binder for the fiber and rendering the sheets very hard and stiff, so that they become far more durable and better adapted for this purpose. The said inner wall is substantially hollow and is separated from the front wall by an air-space, the said curtain being thus relatively reinforced and the steel outer wall being thoroughly protected from the heat, so as to prevent warping during its operation and efficiently protecting the

auditorium not only against the direct entrance of flames and smoke, but also against rapid heating to a degree dangerous to life.

To these ends my said curtain consists of an outer wall A, of sheet metal, preferably corrugated, and an inner wall B, of a non-conducting non-combustible material, preferably vitrified asbestos, such inner and outer walls being secured together by means of bolts C and held apart by means of washers D inserted over said bolts C and interposed between said walls A and B, said washers being also composed of a non-conducting non-combustible material, the free space E between said walls A and B forming an insulating air-chamber. The said wall B is preferably hollow, being composed of two sheets F and G, between which a corrugated sheet of vitrified asbestos is interposed, such corrugated sheet being the equivalent of a plurality of longitudinally-disposed strips, thus providing a large number of vertical air-spaces H, which serve to render such rear walls still further impenetrable to heat.

Owing to the large area of such curtains, it is essential that the same should be thoroughly reinforced and braced, and to this end I secure to the inner face of the metal wall or screen A a plurality of vertically-disposed parallel T-irons J and connect the same together by means of a plurality of inclined cross-braces K, such T-irons and cross-braces forming substantially a frame which carries the walls or screens A and B.

The edges of the curtain are secured in channel-beams L, and to the outer faces of the webs of the channel-beams inclosing the vertical edges are secured U-shaped guides M, which receive the flanges of Z-bars N, secured to the stage side of the proscenium-wall O at each side of the opening, such interfitting guides serving to prevent flame and smoke from issuing into the auditorium.

My said curtain is very light, durable, and efficient.

I claim as my invention—

1. A fireproof drop-curtain comprising a wall of sheet metal and a wall of non-conduct-



ing, non-combustible material secured to said steel wall, there being an air-space between said walls.

2. A hollow fireproof drop-curtain having one wall composed of sheet metal and its other wall composed of a layer of non-conducting, non-combustible material.

3. A fireproof drop-curtain consisting of a wall of corrugated sheet metal, a wall of non-conducting, non-combustible material secured to said sheet-metal wall and separated therefrom by an air-space.

4. A fireproof drop-curtain consisting of an outer wall of corrugated sheet-steel, and inner wall of non-conducting, non-combustible material separated from said outer wall by an air-space, bolts securing said walls together, and sleeves of non-conducting, non-combustible material interposed between said walls and inserted over said bolts.

5. A fireproof curtain comprising two screens of fireproof material, one of which is a non-conductor of heat, bolts securing said screens together, and means interposed between said screens at intervals for holding

same apart to provide an air-space between the same.

6. A fireproof curtain comprising two parallel fireproof screens, one of said screens consisting of corrugated steel plates and the other thereof of a hollow sheet of non-conducting, non-combustible material, parallel T-irons mounted on the inner face of said metal sheet, cross-braces secured at their ends to said T-irons, bolts securing said sheets together, and sleeves of non-conducting, non-combustible material inserted over said bolts and interposed between said screens.

7. A fireproof curtain comprising two parallel fireproof screens separated by an air-space, one of said screens consisting of a sheet of non-conducting, non-combustible material having air-spaces therein.

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

JAMES H. CHANNON.

Witnesses:

RUDOLPH WM. LOTZ,  
F. SCHLOTFELD.

### DISCLAIMER.

769,788.—*James H. Channon*, Chicago, Ill., FIREPROOF DROP-CURTAIN. Patent dated September 13, 1904. Disclaimer filed January 21, 1909, by the patentee.

Enters this disclaimer to—

"The use of 'non-conducting, non-combustible' material broadly for one wall of my curtain and desire to confine my claims to a structure in which the wall next the stage is made up of sheet-asbestos as the non-conducting, non-combustible material."  
[*Official Gazette*, February 2, 1909.]

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