

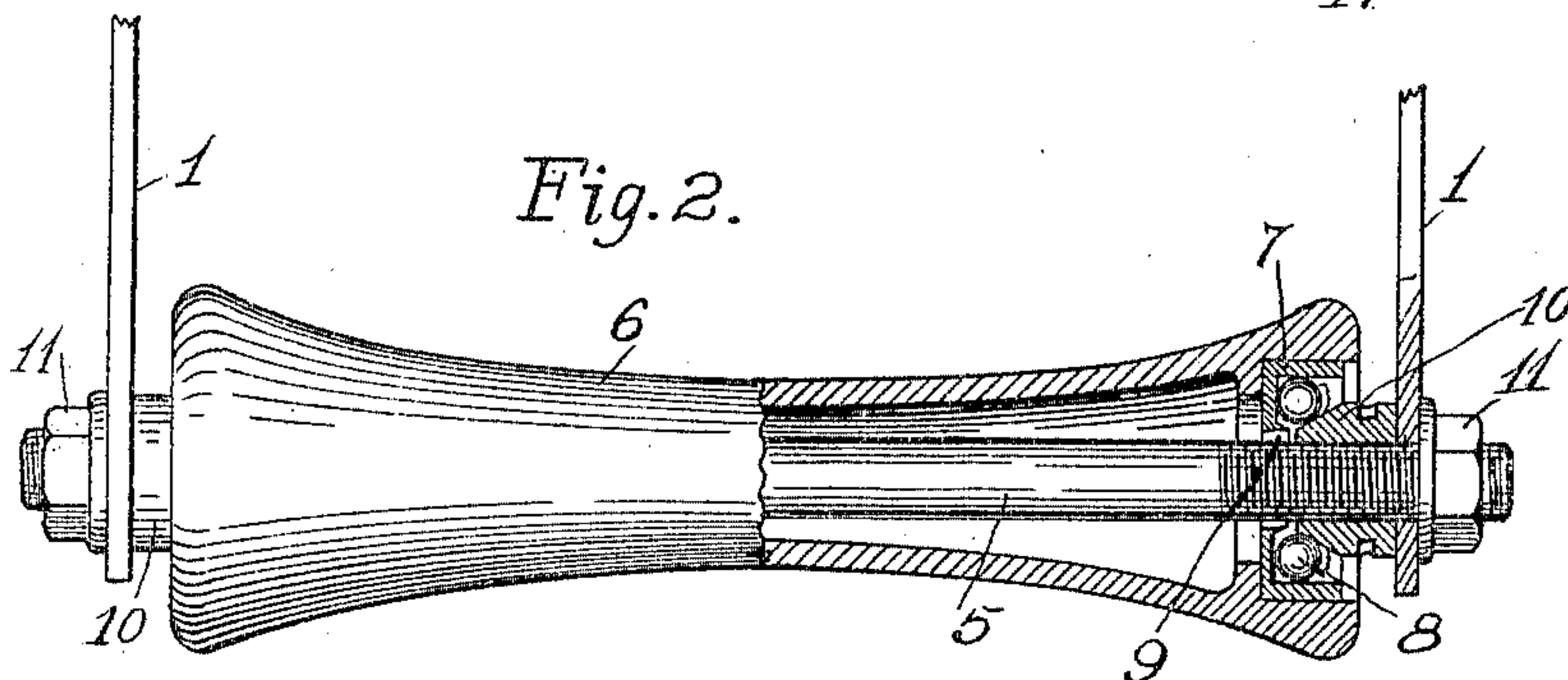
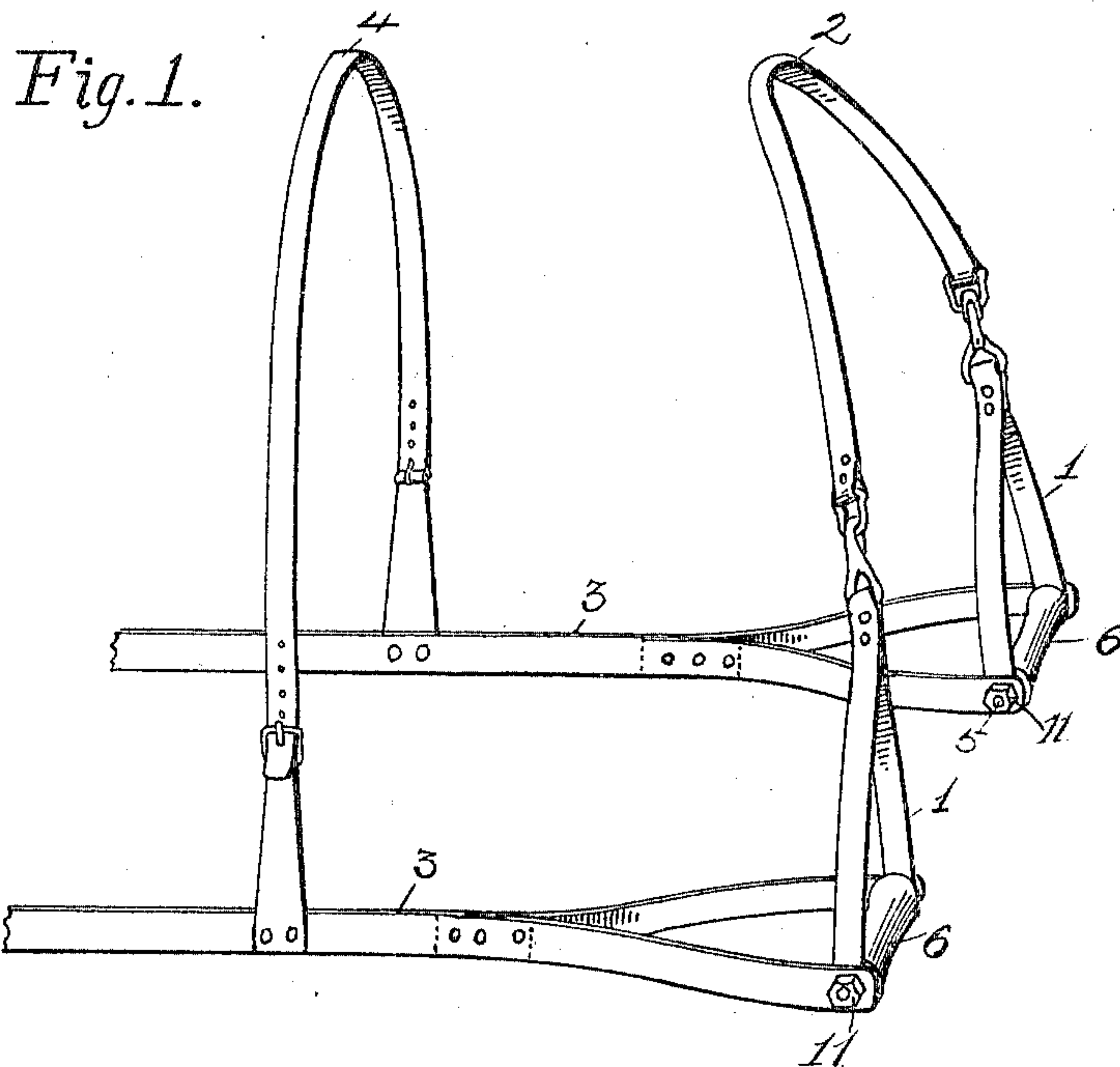
No. 811,014.

PATENTED JAN. 30, 1906.

F. D. WELLER.

HOPPLE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 24, 1905.



WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK D. WELLER, OF TOLEDO, OHIO.

## HOPPLE.

No. 811,014.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 30, 1906.

Application filed March 24, 1905. Serial No. 251,781.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, FRANK D. WELLER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Toledo, in the county of Lucas and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hopples; 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 ap-  
10 pertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in the class of hobbles used on racing-horses for preventing breaking and controlling the gait thereof, so that a horse may be caused to either trot or pace, depending upon the manner of the connecting hobble-loops.

20 The great objection incident to the use of hobbles is that the constant reciprocating of the hobble-loops on the legs of a horse when in motion causes the same to be severely chafed at their point of contact and also irritates and  
25 frets the horse. Attempts have been made to obviate this objection by wrapping the hobble-loops with a soft material—such as wool, sheepskin, or the like; but these attempts have been only partially successful.

30 The object of my invention is to entirely overcome the objections above noted by the provision of a rotatable element in the outer end of each loop, which is adapted to engage and move freely up and down on the portion  
35 of the legs engaged by the outer end of the loops without occasioning friction and a consequent chafing thereof, and also to retain the sides of the loops in spaced position and out of contact with the sides and rear and front  
40 portions of the fore and hind legs, respectively.

The invention is fully described in the following specification and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

45 Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a hobble with the loops provided with my invention, and Fig. 2 is a plan of the rotatable element of my invention with part shown in central longitudinal section.

50 Referring to the drawings, 1 1 represent either the fore or rear loops of a hobble, which are of suitable size to receive and move freely up and down on the legs of a horse and are suitably supported in proper position  
55 on the legs by means of a strap 2, which passes

over the shoulders or hips of the horse, as the case may be. The straps 3 3 connect the fore and rear loops in pairs and are supported by one or more straps 4, which pass over the back of the horse. 60

In my invention the loops 1 are each severed or left open at their outer ends and the sides thereof firmly spaced apart by means of a spindle 5, on which is mounted a roller 6. The roller 6 is preferably hollowed or made  
65 in the form of a shell, so as to lighten its construction as much as possible, and has its ends axially bored to form a socket for the reception of a hardened bearing-box 7, in which the bearing-balls 8 are adapted to turn and  
70 which is axially apertured, as shown at 9, to receive the spindle 5. The spindle 5 has its outer ends threaded to receive the cones 10 and the binding-nuts 11, the former coacting with the bearing-balls 8 and the latter locking  
75 the cones in properly-adjusted position. The roller 6 has its outer peripheral surface preferably concaved, as shown, to adapt it to more perfectly conform to the contour of the leg and also prevent lateral movement of the roller  
80 thereon, and it may be made of any suitable material.

In securing a roller within the outer portion of a loop 1 the ends of the loop-straps, which are provided with an aperture for that  
85 purpose, are placed in engagement with the ends of the spindle and firmly retained against the outer faces of the cones 10 by the binding-nuts 11, as shown in Fig. 2. The straps 2, which support the outer portions of the loops  
90 1, may either have their forked ends connected directly to the ends of the spindle or secured to the end of the loop-straps 1, as desired.

It will thus be seen that when a horse equipped with my improved hobble is in mo-  
95 tion the loops 1 will be permitted to move freely up and down on the legs by reason of the turning of the rollers 6 thereon, thereby preventing all friction between the contacting parts and the consequent chafing of the  
100 limbs.

It is obvious that such changes in the form, proportion, and minor details of construction of the parts as fairly fall within the scope of my invention may be made without departing  
105 from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof.

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



1. The combination with the leg-loop of a  
hopple, of a rotatable element mounted there-  
in to have contact with the leg.

2. The combination with the leg-loop of a  
5 hopple, of a rotatable element mounted there-  
in and having a peripherally-concaved surface  
for contact with the leg.

3. The combination with the leg-loop of a  
hopple, of a spindle mounted transversely of  
10 the outer end of the loop and firmly spacing  
the sides thereof apart, and a rotatable ele-  
ment mounted on said spindle between the  
sides of the loop.

4. In a hopple, the leg-loops each provided  
15 at the outer ends thereof with a rotatable ele-  
ment adapted to have contact with the legs

and to retain the sides of the loops out of fric-  
tional engagement therewith.

5. A hopple, comprising leg-loops and sup-  
porting-straps therefor, said leg-loops each 20  
consisting of side straps or members, a spindle  
mounted in the outer ends of said straps or  
members and spacing them firmly apart, and  
a rotatable element mounted on the spindle be-  
tween the straps or members. 25

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed  
my name to this specification in the presence of  
two subscribing witnesses.

FRANK D. WELLER.

Witnesses:

WILBER A. OWEN,  
CORNELL SCHREIBER.