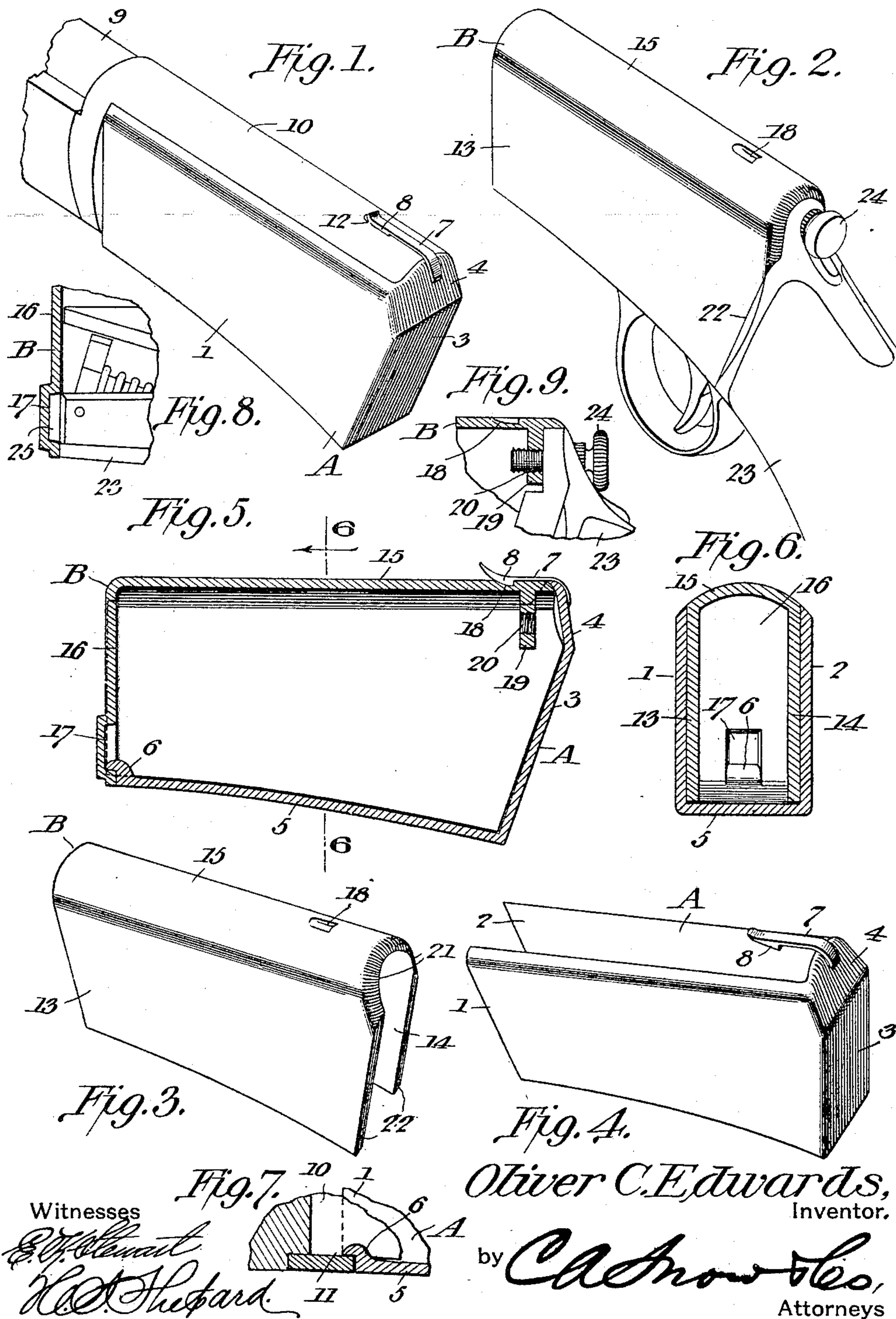


No. 859,932.

PATENTED JULY 16, 1907.

O. C. EDWARDS.
BREECH PROTECTOR FOR FIREARMS.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 17, 1905.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

OLIVER C. EDWARDS, OF HORTON, KANSAS.

BREECH-PROTECTOR FOR FIREARMS.

No. 859,932.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 16, 1907.

Application filed April 17, 1905. Serial No. 256,003.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER C. EDWARDS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Horton, in the county of Brown and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Breech-Protector for Firearms, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to breech loading fire-arms, and its object is to house and protect the breech end of the barrel and the forward end of the stock when these parts are separated.

It is a well-known fact that when the barrel of a fire-arm is removed from the stock thereof, the breech end of the barrel and the firing mechanism of the stock are exposed to the action of the atmosphere as well as to accumulations of dust, sand, etc., which will, of course, eventually work serious injury to the fire-arm. In view of this objection, I propose to provide for incasing the breeches of the barrel and stock when disconnected and to embody the invention in the nature of individual case sections capable of convenient application and removal with respect to the stock and the breech end of the barrel so as to effectually house and protect the same and also to enable the assembling of the case sections in telescoped relation when not in use so as to permit of the case sections being conveniently carried in a satchel or the like when not applied to a fire-arm.

While the present invention has been particularly designed, shown in the accompanying drawing and described in the following specification for application to Winchester rifles of the 1903 model, it will, of course, be understood that the invention is capable of application to other types of fire-arms by making such slight changes in details as may be necessary to accommodate the case sections to the peculiarities in construction of the different types of fire-arms.

The invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawing and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details may be made, within the scope of the claims, without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the accompanying drawing:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the breech end of a barrel having the barrel case member fitted thereto. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the stock with the stock case member applied thereto. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the stock case member. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the barrel case member. Fig. 5 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the case members assembled in telescoped relation when not applied to the fire-arm. Fig. 6 is a cross sectional view on the line 6—6 of Fig. 5. Fig. 7 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the in-

terengagement between the front of the barrel case member and the breech of the barrel. Fig. 8 is a fragmentary sectional view illustrating the interengagement between the front end of the stock case member and the stock. Fig. 9 is a fragmentary sectional view showing the connection between the rear end of the stock case member and the stock.

Like characters of reference designate corresponding parts in each and every figure of the drawing.

Taking up at first the barrel case member, reference is directed to Fig. 4 of the drawing wherein this case member has been designated in general by the reference character A and includes corresponding substantially parallel side plates or members 1 and 2 which are connected at their rear ends by a rear end wall 3, the upper portion 4 of which is inclined forwardly, there being a bottom plate 5 connecting the lower edges of the side plates 1 and 2 throughout their entire lengths. The forward edges of the side plates 1 and 2 incline downwardly and rearwardly, and at the front edge of the bottom 5 there is a forwardly directed lip or hooked projection 6 which rises slightly above the bottom of the case and projects in front of the front edge of the bottom. A spring latch 7 is secured to the upper portion 4 of the back 3 and extends forwardly so as to overhang the open top of the case member, the free end of the latch being provided with a catch head 8, the shoulder of which extends downwardly with the forward extremity of the head bowed upwardly to form a finger-piece for convenience in elevating the latch to disengage the same as will hereinafter appear.

The barrel case member is shown assembled with the breech end of the barrel in Fig. 1 of the drawing wherein 9 designates a portion of the barrel and 10 the breech end thereof which is received between the sides 1 and 2 of the case member A with the rear end 3 of the case closing the breech end of the barrel and the bottom plate 5 closing the lower side thereof, the projection 6 being received in the usual seat or recess 11 in the bottom portion of the breech end of the barrel so as to prevent dropping of the forward end of the case from the barrel. The spring latch 7 overhangs the top of the breech end of the barrel and the latter is provided with a socket or recess 12 for the reception of the latch head 8 to hold the rear end of the case upon the breech end of the barrel. When the case is thus applied, the open portions of the breech end of the barrel are entirely closed so as to protect the interior thereof against the effects of the atmosphere and the lodgment of dust, sand, and the like therein.

It will here be explained that no change or alteration is necessary in the breech end of the barrel beyond the formation of a seat in the outer side of the top thereof for the reception of the spring latch. The case member may be readily removed by lifting the spring latch

out of the seat or recess 12 and then drawing the case rearwardly from the barrel without necessitating the detachment of any other fastening devices.

For incasing the firing mechanism in the forward end of the stock of the fire-arm, there is a case member designated B which includes substantially parallel side plates 13 and 14 which are connected throughout their top edges by an arched top 15, the front ends of the plates 13 and 14 being connected by a front wall 16 while the rear ends and bottom edges of the plates are unconnected so that the case member is open throughout its bottom and rear end. In the inner face of the front wall 16 and adjacent the lower end thereof there is a seat or recess 17, the material of the wall being displaced forwardly to produce the seat or socket. In the rear end portion of the top 15 there is a seat or recess 18. Within the case member and depending from the rear portion of the top thereof is a lug 19 having a threaded opening 20 to constitute a nut. The upper portions of the rear edges of the side plates 13 and 14 and the rear end of the top 15 are inclined forwardly as at 21, and the remaining portions of the rear edges of said plates are inclined downwardly and forwardly as at 22.

Upon reference to Fig. 2 of the drawing, wherein has been shown the stock 23 of the fire-arm, it will be seen that the case member B is adapted to be slid upon the forward end of the stock with its side plates 13 and 14 and forward end 16 snugly embracing and housing the otherwise exposed firing mechanism in the stock, the inclined rear edge portions 21 and 22 of the case member accommodating themselves to correspondingly inclined shouldered portions upon the stock. When thus assembled upon the stock, the nut 19 receives the screw 24, as shown in Fig. 9, commonly carried by the stock for engagement with a nut upon the breech end of the barrel to hold the barrel and stock assembled, and therefore this same screw serves to retain the case member B upon the stock. To prevent looseness of the forward end of the case member B, the socket 17 thereof receives the projection 25 carried by the forward end of the stock and designed to engage the recess 11, shown in Fig. 7 when the stock and barrel are assembled.

It will here be explained that the socket 11 in the breech end of the barrel and the projection 25 upon the forward end of the stock are made use of in holding the respective case members to the barrel and stock, and with the exception of the notch or recess 12 in the top of the breech end of the barrel, no alteration is required in either portion of the fire-arm to permit of the reception and retention of the case members thereon.

When the case members are not in use, the stock member B is slid or telescoped within the barrel member A as shown in Figs. 5 and 6, the projection 6 of the member A being received within the socket 17 of the member B and the spring catch 7 snapping into the notch or keeper 18 in the top of the case member B, whereby the two members are effectually held in telescoped relation so as to close the open sides of one another and thereby effectually exclude dust, sand, moisture and the like so as to protect the interior of the case members when not in use. This is a very important advantage of the present invention for the reason that if the case sections should remain separate when not in use they would, of course, collect moisture,

sand, etc., which would work injury to the fire-arm when the case sections were applied thereto and, in fact, might in some instances prevent the application of the case members until the accumulations of foreign matter could be removed.

Having fully described the invention, what is claimed is:—

1. A breech protector for fire-arms comprising a barrel case member formed to embrace and close the breech end of the barrel, and a stock case section formed to embrace and house the firing mechanism carried by the forward end of the stock.

2. A breech protector for fire-arms consisting of a longitudinally bifurcated barrel case which is closed throughout its bottom and outer end and open throughout its top and forward end and capable of being telescoped upon the breech end of the barrel to close the open parts thereof, and a longitudinally bifurcated stock case member which is closed throughout its top and forward end and open throughout its bottom and rear end and capable of being telescoped upon the forward end of the stock to house the firing mechanism thereof.

3. A breech protector for fire-arms including a barrel case member formed to embrace and inclose the open portion of the breech end of the barrel, and a stock case member formed to house the firing mechanism of the stock, said case members capable of being mutually engaged when not applied to a fire-arm to close their open sides and protect the interiors thereof.

4. A breech protector for fire-arms including a longitudinally bifurcated barrel case member which is closed throughout its bottom and rear end and open throughout its top and forward end and capable of being telescoped upon the breech end of the barrel to close the open portions thereof, and a longitudinally bifurcated stock case member closed throughout its top and forward end and open throughout its bottom and rear end and capable of being telescoped upon the forward end of the stock to house the firing mechanism thereof, said case members capable of being mutually telescoped to close their open sides and protect the interiors thereof.

5. A breech protector for fire-arms including a barrel case member capable of being telescoped upon the breech end of a barrel and provided at the forward end of its bottom with a forwardly directed projection to engage a socket in the breech end of the barrel and also provided at the top of its rear end with a forwardly extending spring catch to engage the top of the breech end of the barrel, and a stock case member capable of being telescoped upon the firing mechanism of the stock and provided at the bottom of its forward end with an internal recess to receive a projection upon the front of the stock and also provided within the top of its rear portion with a nut to receive the screw upon the stock which fastens the barrel thereto, said case members capable of being mutually telescoped when not in use to close their open sides, the projection of the barrel case member being disposed to engage the recess of the stock case member and said stock case member being provided upon its top with a keeper for engagement by the spring latch of the barrel case member.

6. A breech protector for fire-arms including a barrel member capable of being telescoped upon the breech end of the barrel to close the open portions thereof and provided with a projection to engage a recess upon the breech end of the barrel for supporting the case member in place, and a stock case member capable of being telescoped upon and to house the firing mechanism of the stock and provided with an internal recess to receive a projection upon the stock to hold the case member in place, said case members capable of being mutually telescoped when not in use to close their open sides with the projection of one case member received within the recess of the other case member to prevent separation of the members.

7. A breech protector for fire-arms including barrel and stock case members to inclose the breech end of the barrel and firing mechanism of the stock, respectively, and capable of being mutually telescoped when not in use to close their open sides, one of the case members being provided

with a spring catch to hold the member in place when fitted to a fire-arm, the other case member being provided with a keeper for engagement by the latch when the case members are mutually assembled.

- 5 8. A breech protector for fire-arms including barrel and stock case members to inclose the breech end of the barrel and firing mechanism of the stock, respectively, the barrel member having a projection to enter a socket in the breech end of the barrel and also provided with a spring latch to
10 engage said breech end of the barrel and retain the member in place, the other member being provided with an internal recess to receive a projection upon the forward end

of the stock, said case members capable of being mutually telescoped when not in use with the projection of the barrel member received within the recess of the stock member, 15 and the stock member being provided with a keeper for engagement by the spring latch of the barrel member.

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

OLIVER C. EDWARDS.

Witnesses:

SUSIE E. HINES,
ARTHUR LOVE.