

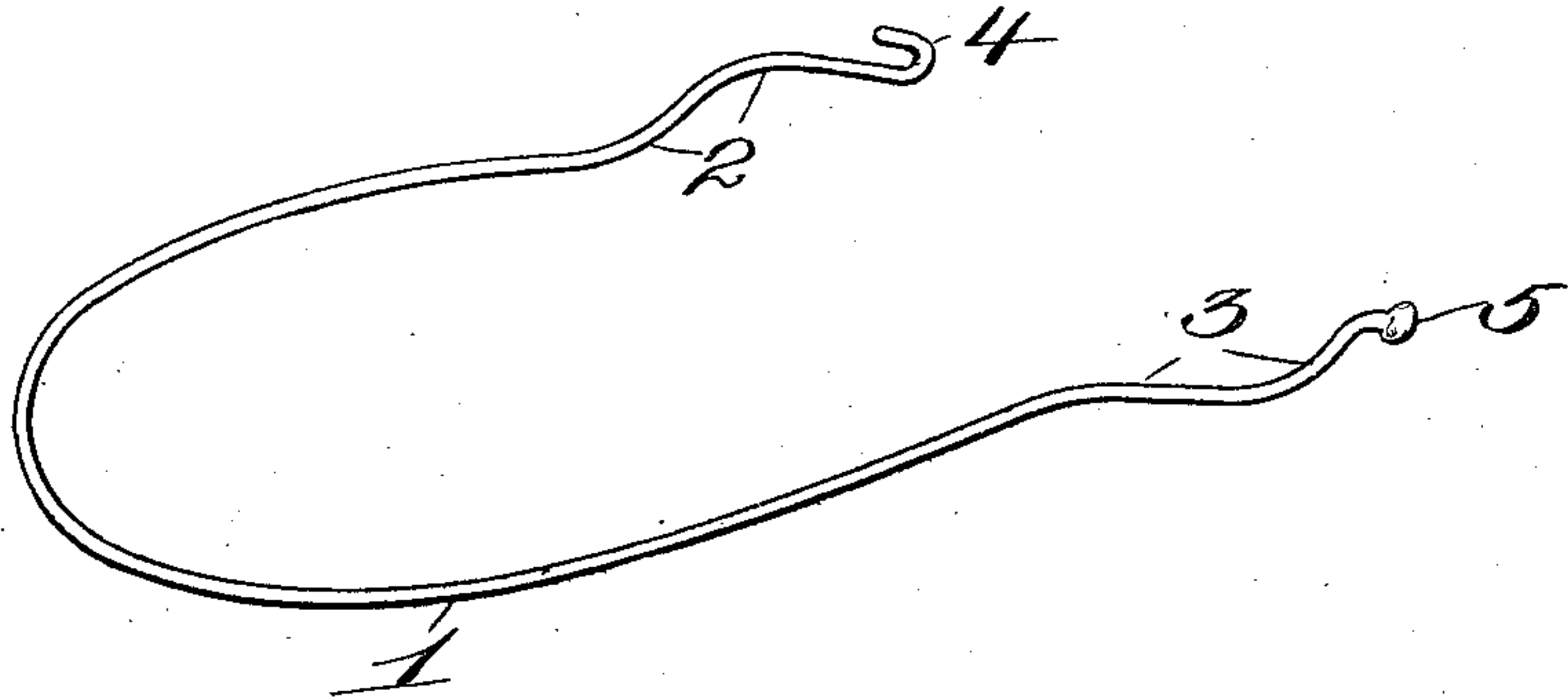
No. 870,392.

PATENTED NOV. 5, 1907.

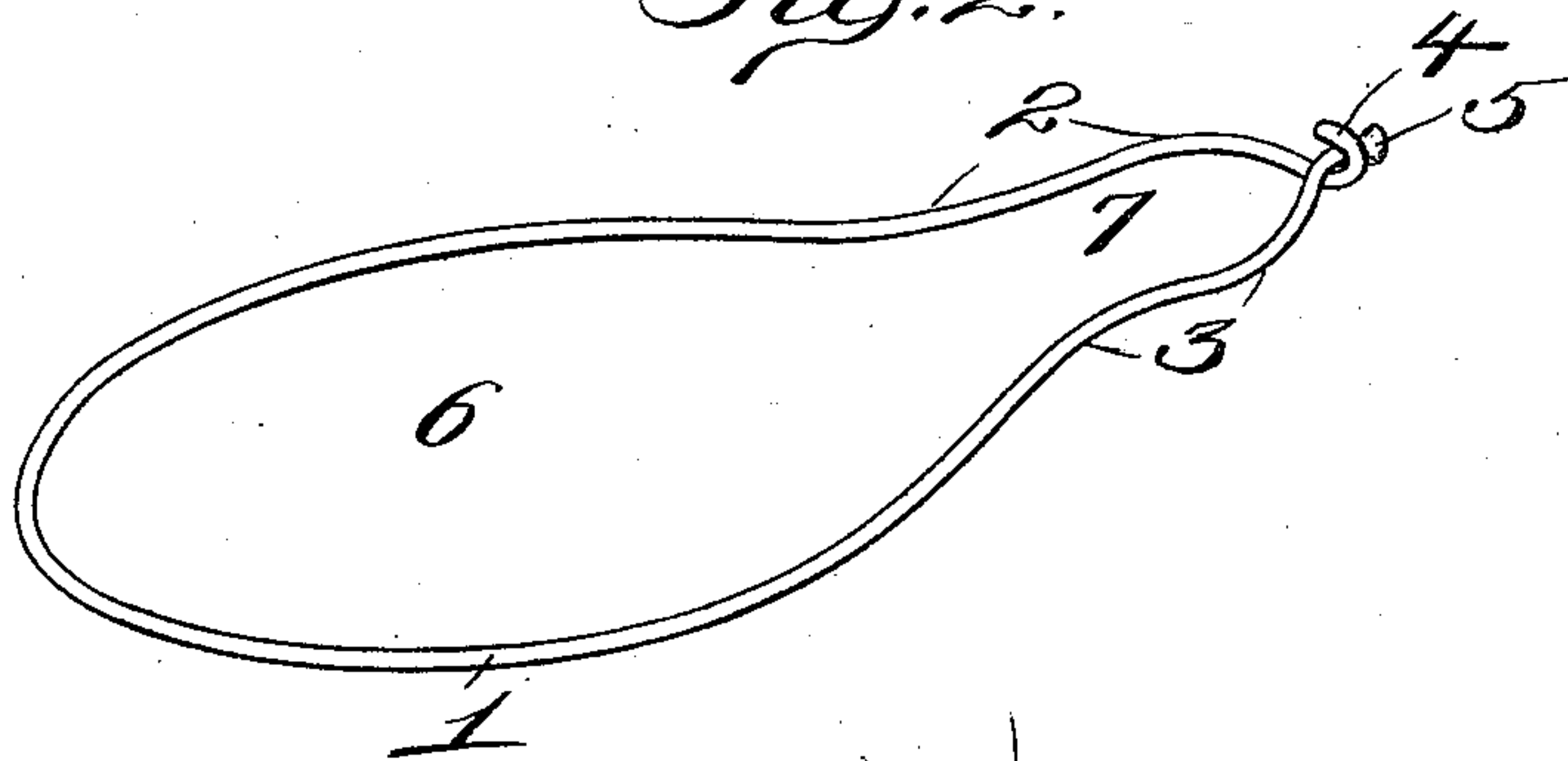
M. M. STEARLING.  
TROUSERS GUARD.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 10, 1907.

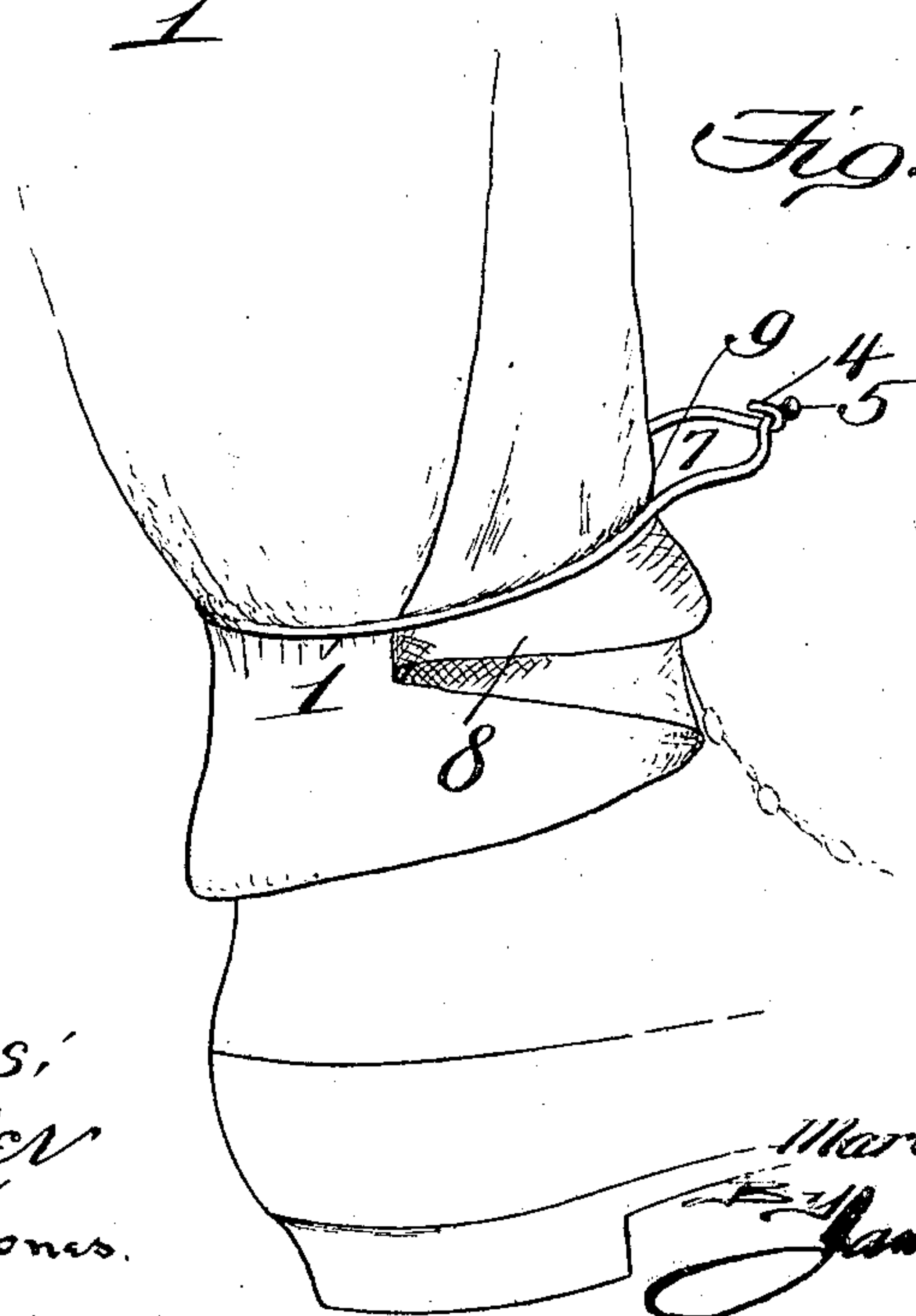
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Fig. 3.*



Witnesses:  
*C. D. Hesler*  
*William B. Jones.*

Inventor  
*Martin M. Stearling*  
*James B. Norris*  
*Attys*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MARTIN M. STEARLING, OF MISSOULA, MONTANA.

## TROUSERS-GUARD.

No. 870,392.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 5, 1907.

Application filed May 10, 1907. Serial No. 372,881.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MARTIN M. STEARLING, a citizen of the United States, residing at Missoula, in the county of Missoula and State of Montana, have invented  
5 new and useful Improvements in Trousers-Guards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to trousers guards or fasteners designed particularly for use by bicyclists, horseback riders, and others, and the object thereof is to provide  
10 a device of the class set forth which, when used, will confine the trousers bottoms closely to the ankles and at the same time prevent the trousers from becoming creased, pressed, or wrinkled at that point.

To the accomplishment of the recited objects and  
15 others subordinate thereto, the preferred embodiment of my invention resides in the construction and arrangement hereinafter described, disclosed in the accompanying drawings, and embraced within the scope of the appended claims.

In the said drawings: Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the guard with its ends disconnected. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the ends locked together. Fig. 3 is a perspective view illustrating the manner of applying the improved device to a trousers  
25 bottom.

Like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the views.

I prefer to construct my guard of a single piece of spring steel wire, although it is obvious that any  
30 other suitable material may be used to attain the objects sought if found desirable. This piece of steel spring wire 1 is bent so as to assume a yoke form with portions 2, 3 thereof of compound curvature, the latter being disposed diametrically opposite each other  
35 adjacent each end of the said wire and terminating respectively in a hook 4 and an integrally formed flanged head 5, the said hook and flange being bent angularly to the body of the wire 1 and adapted to interlock, as clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings,  
40 in which position the wires take a substantially elliptical form and comprises a large portion 6 and a smaller or contracted portion 7.

Now, when it is desired to utilize a guard constructed in accordance with this invention it is opened

and encircled about the previously folded trousers 45 bottom 8 in proximity to the ankle, at the same time overlapping the ends, then releasing the contractile force of the spring and finally locking the terminals 4 and 5 together, thus leaving considerable space intervening between the said small or contracted portion 50 which projects for some little distance beyond the folded trousers. In this manner sufficient force is exerted about the trousers to hold them securely in their adjusted position, and owing to the fact that the wire does not engage the trousers at point 9 where the 55 double fold is made, the said trousers retain their original folded or creased condition and thus overcome a very objectionable feature incident to other devices. Furthermore, the guard is prevented from becoming accidentally loosened or lost from the ankle of the 60 wearer; it may be applied with facility, and is comparatively inexpensive to manufacture.

It will be apparent that the device hereinbefore described is susceptible of various changes in the form, proportions and minor details of construction, 65 which may accordingly be resorted to within the scope of the appended claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of my invention.

Having thus fully described the invention, what 70 is claimed as new is:

1. An article of manufacture, comprising a single piece of spring material bent on itself to form a loop, a compound curvature formed near each end of the said piece and arranged diametrically opposite each other, a hook at 75 one terminal of the said piece, and a flanged head at the opposite terminal thereof for engagement with the hook, said hook and flanged head bent angularly with respect to the body of the single piece of material.

2. A trousers guard comprising a piece of spring material having near opposite ends a compound curvature and being bent intermediate the curvatures to form a loop portion for encircling a limb, and a hook and head member 80 carried by the respective ends of the single piece of material for locking engagement with each other. 85

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

MARTIN M. STEARLING.

Witnesses:

CHAS. E. AVERY,  
ESTELLE DE LEON.