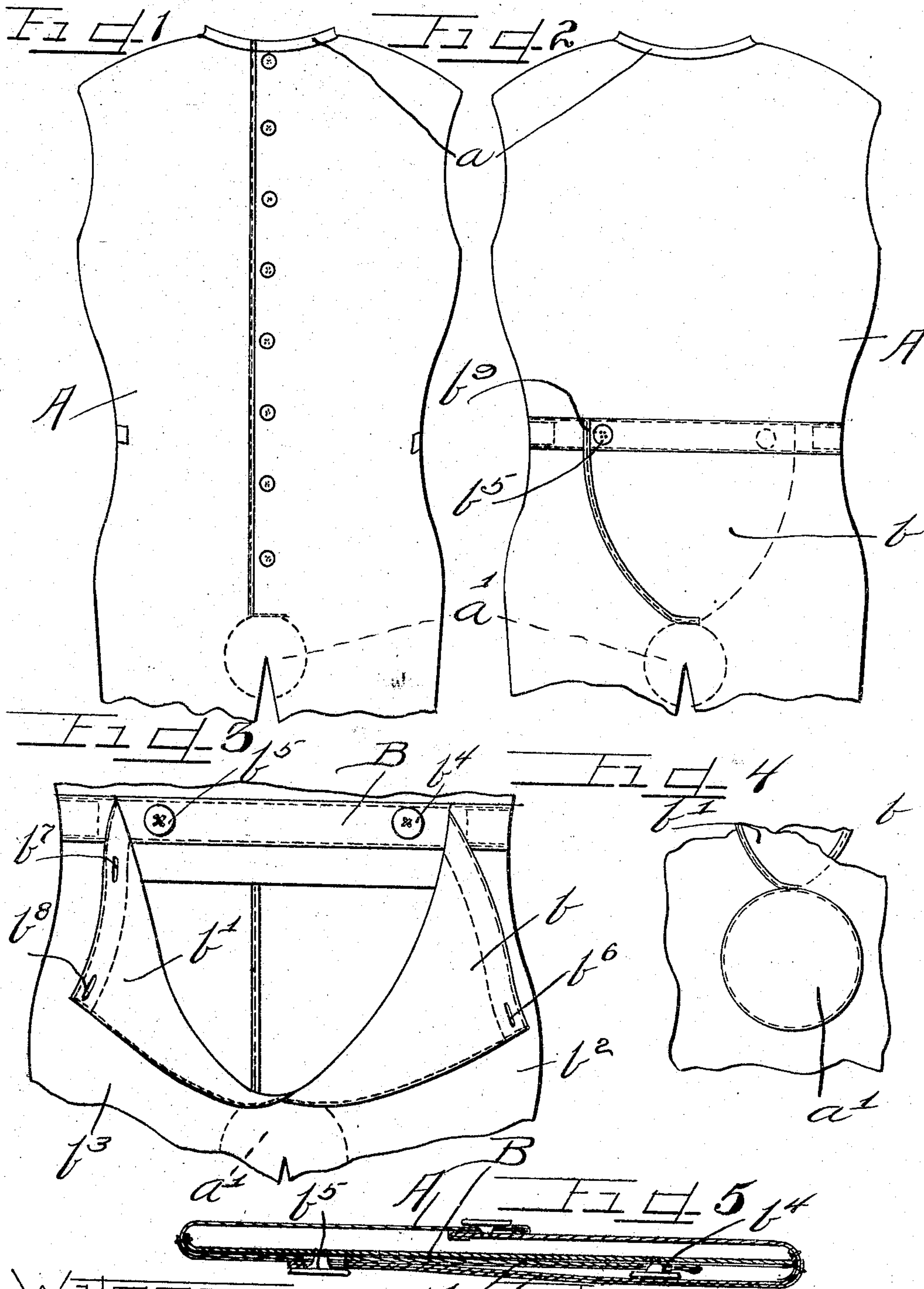


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**923,982.**

**Patented June 8, 1909.**



Witnesses *W. H. Angell* *William A. Meredith.*  
*McFarman* *Charles W. Niles.* Atty.



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM A. MEREDITH, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## UNION GARMENT.

No. 923,982.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM A. MEREDITH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Chicago, Cook county, Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Union Garments; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to improvements in that class of articles of apparel known as union garments.

Many different devices of this class of apparel have been heretofore devised which comprise the union in one garment of the under-shirt and under-drawers. Many of these have been so constructed that although readily opening or unbuttoning down the front, from the neckband to the breech, have yet been inconvenient to the wearer when using the stool. This particularly is the case in the garments intended for males and to obviate this tendency, some have been constructed quite open at the seat and around and up the back to near the belt line. These, however, are objectionable inasmuch as they frequently do not remain closed at all times and furthermore for the reason of the imperfect fit frequently resulting. In some instances, a square flap has been provided opening down each side and buttoned at the waist line and adapted to drop down when unbuttoned.

The object of this invention is to provide an article of apparel of the class described adapted normally to fit the form and although provided with a closed section at the crotch, yet permitting the rear portion to be opened when necessary.

It is also an object of the invention to provide an article of apparel of the class described adapted to button down the front from the neckband to the crotch and to a reinforced crotch piece and provided at the rear with overlapping, inwardly foldable flaps adapted to button at the waist line and to entirely close the back portion.

The invention consists in the matters hereinafter described and more fully pointed out and defined in the appended claims.

As shown in the drawings: Figure 1 is a fragmentary front elevation of an article of apparel embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is

a similar rear elevation thereof with the back flaps closed. Fig. 3 is an enlarged, fragmentary rear elevation showing the back portion fully opened. Fig. 4 is an enlarged fragmentary view in bottom plan showing the circular crotch piece and a part of the rear flaps. Fig. 5 is an enlarged transverse section taken at the belt line.

As shown in the drawings: A, indicates the shirt or vest portion of the garment which, as shown, is opened in front and buttons for the entire length from neckband *a*, to the circular crotch piece *a'*, shown in dotted lines in Figs. 1 and 2. The under-drawers are conveniently knit in one piece with the vest portion, or may be connected thereto by a belt stitched to connect both portions.

As shown, a reinforcing band B, is stitched at the belt line extending transversely the entire back of the garment at the point of union between the vest and the drawers and as shown, flaps *b—b'*, each integral with the respective legs *b<sup>2</sup>—b<sup>3</sup>* of the drawers at the back thereof and opening down to the circular crotch piece *a'*, are permanently stitched to the reinforcing band B, near each end of the same. Buttons *b<sup>4</sup>—b<sup>5</sup>*, are stitched on said reinforcing band, one on each side, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3, and the outer flap *b*, is provided at its outer free corner with a button hole *b<sup>6</sup>*, adapted to receive the button *b<sup>5</sup>* therethrough, and the inner flap *b'*, is provided with button holes *b<sup>7</sup>—b<sup>8</sup>*, to receive the buttons *b<sup>5</sup>—b<sup>4</sup>*, therethrough, as shown in Fig. 2. Said flaps are of sufficient width to overlap each other for approximately their entire extent and as shown, the outer flap *b*, is reinforced by a binding tape *b<sup>9</sup>*, which extends from the free upper corner thereof downwardly along the margin of the flap and at the crotch piece *a'*, extends transversely to reinforce the seam at the junction of the flaps.

The operation is as follows: The garment opening in the front permits the same to be readily put on or off, while the use of the crotch insures a close fit to the person. In using the stool, the flap *b*, is released from the button *b<sup>5</sup>*, and the flap *b'*, is released from the buttons *b<sup>4</sup>—b<sup>5</sup>*, permitting the seat to open, as shown in Fig. 3, sufficiently for the purpose. In closing the flaps, the somewhat triangular flap *b'*, is first buttoned on the buttons *b<sup>5</sup>—b<sup>4</sup>*, and the flap *b*, is buttoned at its outer corner on the button *b<sup>5</sup>*, thus afford-



ing a secure attachment for the flaps to hold the same in place, and necessitating the buttoning of but three button-holes.

The double layer of fabric is not objectionable. Instead in many instances it is desirable as tending to protect the highly vascular lumbar region and its ganglia from chilling, thus in many instances, preventing illness, and insuring hygienic qualities not to be found in other garments of the class.

Of course, I am aware that details of the construction may be varied. I however do not purpose limiting this application for patent otherwise than necessitated by the prior art.

I claim as my invention:

1. In a union garment adapted to button from neckband to crotch, a circular reinforcing crotch piece closing the crotch, said garment being open in the back between the crotch piece and waist line, a waist band, buttons thereon and inwardly folding, overlapping triangular flaps, permanently united together adjacent the crotch piece and permanently united at the sides of the garment to the waist band and having button holes to engage the buttons on said waist band, one of said flaps closing over the other for its entire distance and affording a double layer of fabric to cover the lumbar region of the wearer.

2. A union garment open from the neckband to the crotch and one side adapted to button over the other, a reinforced closed crotch, said garment open at the rear above the crotch to the waist band and overlapping flaps adapted one to button over the

other at the waist band and both to open outwardly.

3. A union garment buttoning from neckband to crotch, a reinforcing crotch piece closing the crotch, said garment being open in the back between the crotch piece and waist line, a reinforced waist band, buttons thereon and inwardly folding, overlapping flaps, permanently united together adjacent the crotch piece and permanently united at the sides of the garment to the waist band and having button holes to engage the buttons on said waist band, one of said flaps closing over the other affording a double layer of fabric to cover the lumbar region of the wearer and a reinforcing binding layer for the outer flap.

4. A garment of the class described having a closed crotch, a circular reinforcing piece stitched therein, a triangular opening between said crotch piece and the waist line of the garment and triangular flaps permanently united together at the crotch piece in overlapping relation and at the upper and outer edges permanently secured to the waist line, and adapted to overlap each other to cover the entire lumbar region of the wearer affording a double layer of fabric thereover.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM A. MEREDITH.

Witnesses:

C. W. HILLS,  
K. E. HANNAH.