

Feb. 6, 1951

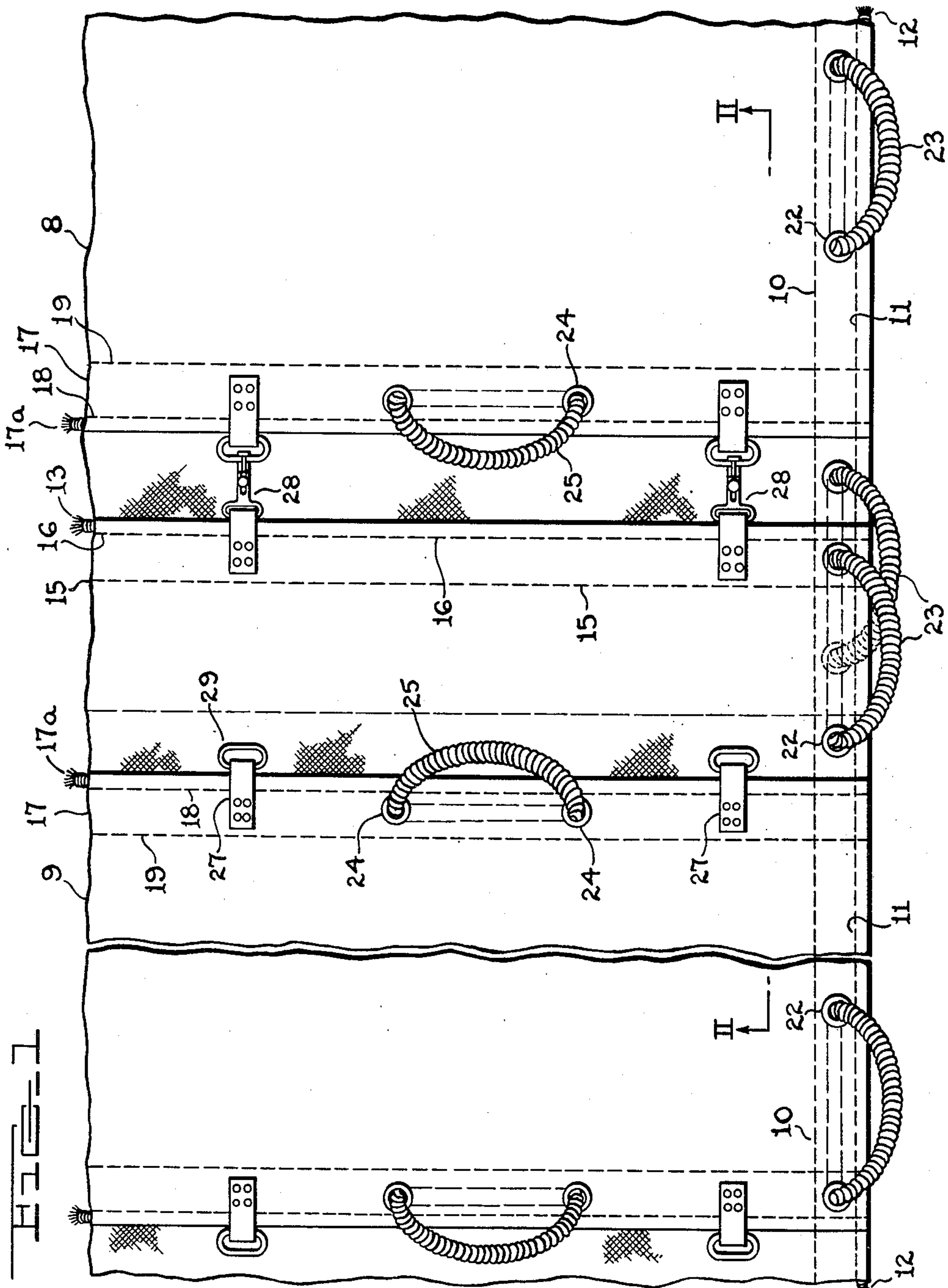
L. J. SCHULTHEIS

2,540,380

FIELD COVER

Filed July 31, 1948

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



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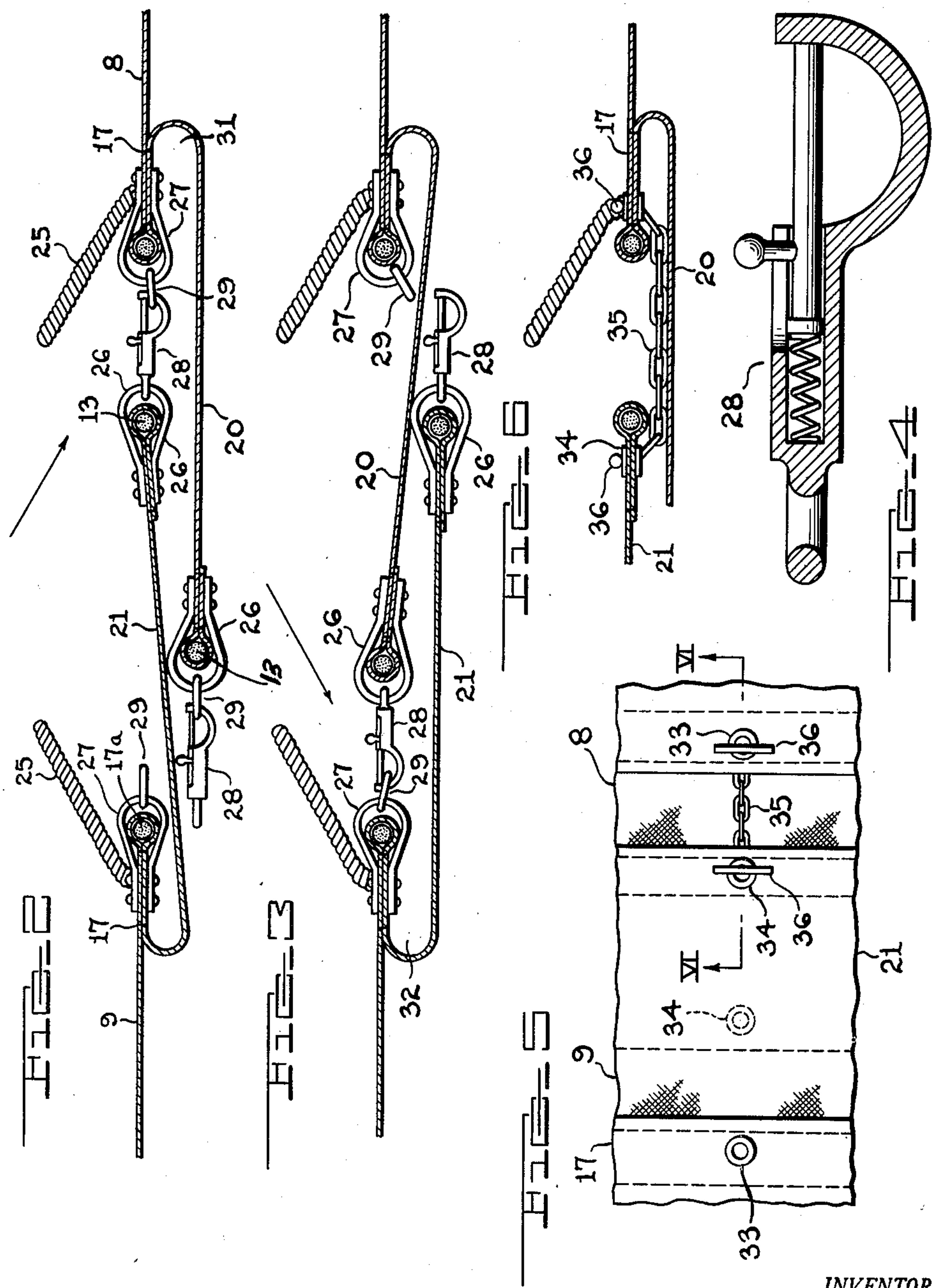
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FIELD COVER

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Application July 31, 1948, Serial No. 41,770

4 Claims. (Cl. 273-27)

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My invention relates to field covers particularly suitable for use on athletic fields such as baseball diamonds and football fields. This application is a continuation, in part, of my application Serial No. 793,969, filed December 26, 1947, now abandoned.

Owing to the extended areas that must be protected against rain, the field covers have to be made in sections, because of their weight and to facilitate handling thereof. One of the principal objections to field covers as heretofore used is that where the edges of adjacent sections meet one another, rain water will flow from the surface of the canvas downwardly past the connected or overlapping edges and form pools beneath the covering, which may be even more objectionable than if no field cover at all were used and the rain allowed to fall more or less evenly over the entire field. This objectionable condition frequently is present even where the sections overlap one another for a considerable distance at zones adjacent to their meeting edges, for the reason that wind may raise the edge of the overlying section and blow rain water beneath said edge, to the ground.

My invention has for one of its objects the provision of a field cover made in sections of such form that rain which blows beneath the edge of a section that partly overlies an adjoining section will be caught in a trough-like fold and be thereby conducted in a lateral direction, to the edge of the field.

Another object of my invention is to provide field cover sections of such form that their edges can readily be connected in either of two relative positions, depending upon the prevailing direction of the wind and the rain at the time when the cover is being used, whereby the major portion of the water will be caught and deflected as above stated.

A further object of my invention is to provide an improved form of handle connection for field covers, whereby they may be pulled and rolled with minimum danger of tearing the fabric of which the covers are made.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a fragmentary plan view of field cover sections as placed on a field; Fig. 2 is an enlarged view taken on the line II-II of Fig. 1; Fig. 3 is a view similar to that of Fig. 2 but showing the overlapping edges of the cover sections in reverse relation as compared to Fig. 2, arranged to catch the rain when it is blowing in a direction opposite to the wind direction for which the sections of Fig. 2 are placed; Fig. 4 is an enlarged sectional

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view of one of the snap hooks; Fig. 5 shows a modification of the snap hook connection of the other figures, and Fig. 6 is a view taken on the line VI-VI of Fig. 5.

Portions or sections of a field cover are indicated by the numerals 8 and 9. These may be made of canvas duck or other material suitable for turning water. The longitudinal edges of the canvas strips 8 and 9 are hemmed as at 10 and 11, and reinforcing ropes 12 are placed in the hems of each section and held in place in their respective sections by the stitching at 11. Similarly, the ends of the sections are hemmed around reinforcing ropes 13, and stitched at 15 and 16. These reinforcements 12 and 13 are provided also at those edges and ends of the sections 8 and 9 which are not shown on the drawings.

Each of the sections, adjacent to the end thereof which is intended to have overlapping or superposed relation to an end portion of an adjacent section has a pleat 17 that contains a bead rope 17a and stitched at 18 and 19, leaving flap-like extended portions 20 and 21 on the sections 8 and 9 respectively. Grommets 22 are provided along the hemmed longitudinal edges of the sections, inwardly of the reinforcing bead 12, for the attachment of rope handles 23. Similarly, grommets 24 and handles 25 are provided behind the reinforcing ropes 17a. Looped straps 26 are riveted to the sections 8 and 9, behind the reinforcing beads 13, and straps 27 are provided at the pleats 17.

When the wind and rain are blowing in the direction indicated by the arrow in Fig. 2, the flap 21 of section 9 will be placed upon the flap 20 as shown in Fig. 2 and the sections will be connected at suitable intervals by snap fasteners 28 that are carried by the loops 26 and have detachable connection with rings 29 in the loops 27.

It will be seen that the snap fasteners 28 are connected to the extended flaps 20 and 21 respectively and that the links 29 are connected to the plate 17, through the medium of the strap loops 27. Therefore, no matter which way a section is turned, it will have its links 29 and its snaps 28 in proper position for connection to the links and snap fasteners of the adjacent sections.

Rain which is blown or flows in the direction indicated by the arrow of Fig. 2 will be caught in the pleat fold or gutter-like fold space at 31 and will drain laterally off the canvas. When the wind is in a direction to blow the rain in the direction indicated by the arrow of Fig. 3, the flap 20 will be placed upon the flap 21 so that the

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water will be caught in the fold 32 and be drained laterally.

In Figs. 5 and 6, I show a somewhat different arrangement of detachable connection for the sections 8 and 9. In this arrangement, the pleats 17 have grommets or eyelets 33 therein and the flap-like extensions 20 and 21 have eyelets 34, instead of the loops 26 and 27 of Fig. 2 for connection with detachable fastening units. In this case, the fastening means comprise short lengths of chain 35 having pins or rods 36 on their end links, that will be inserted through the eyelets to make detachable connections as is common with fasteners of this type.

I claim as my invention:

1. A field cover sheet having a flap-like portion on one end thereof, means for detachably connecting the endmost edge of the flap to another flap, along a line spaced backwardly from the foremost edge of the other flap, when the first-named flap is in overlying relation to the other flap, means for detachably connecting the sheet to the foremost edge of the other flap, along a line spaced backwardly of the foremost edge of the first-named flap, when the other flap is in overlying relation to the first-named flap, and gutter-forming means at the second-named line.

2. A field cover sheet having a beaded pleat formed therein adjacent to one end thereof and having a flap portion that extends beyond the pleat and has a bead formed in its extremity, the pleat and bead being foldable to form a gutter, and elements secured to the sheet at points immediately behind said beads, for detachable connection with similarly-formed elements of other sheets.

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3. A field cover sheet having a beaded pleat formed therein adjacent to one end thereof, of sufficient depth to serve as a gutter and having a flap portion that extends beyond the pleat and has a bead formed in its extremity, and elements secured to the sheet at points immediately behind said beads, for detachable connection with similarly-formed elements of other sheets, the said means being in the form of grommets.

4. A field cover device comprising a sheet of waterproof material that has a pleated fold formed therein adjacent to one end portion of the sheet, the said end portion extending beyond the pleat, to serve as a flap, a connecting member on the pleat, means for detachably joining said member to a flap-like adjacent end portion of another similarly formed sheet when the second-named end portion is in overlying relation to the first-named flap, a connecting member on the outer end of the first-named flap, and means for detachably joining the last-named connecting member to a pleat on a complementary sheet when the first-named flap is in overlying relation to the second flap.

LOUIS J. SCHULTHEIS.

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