

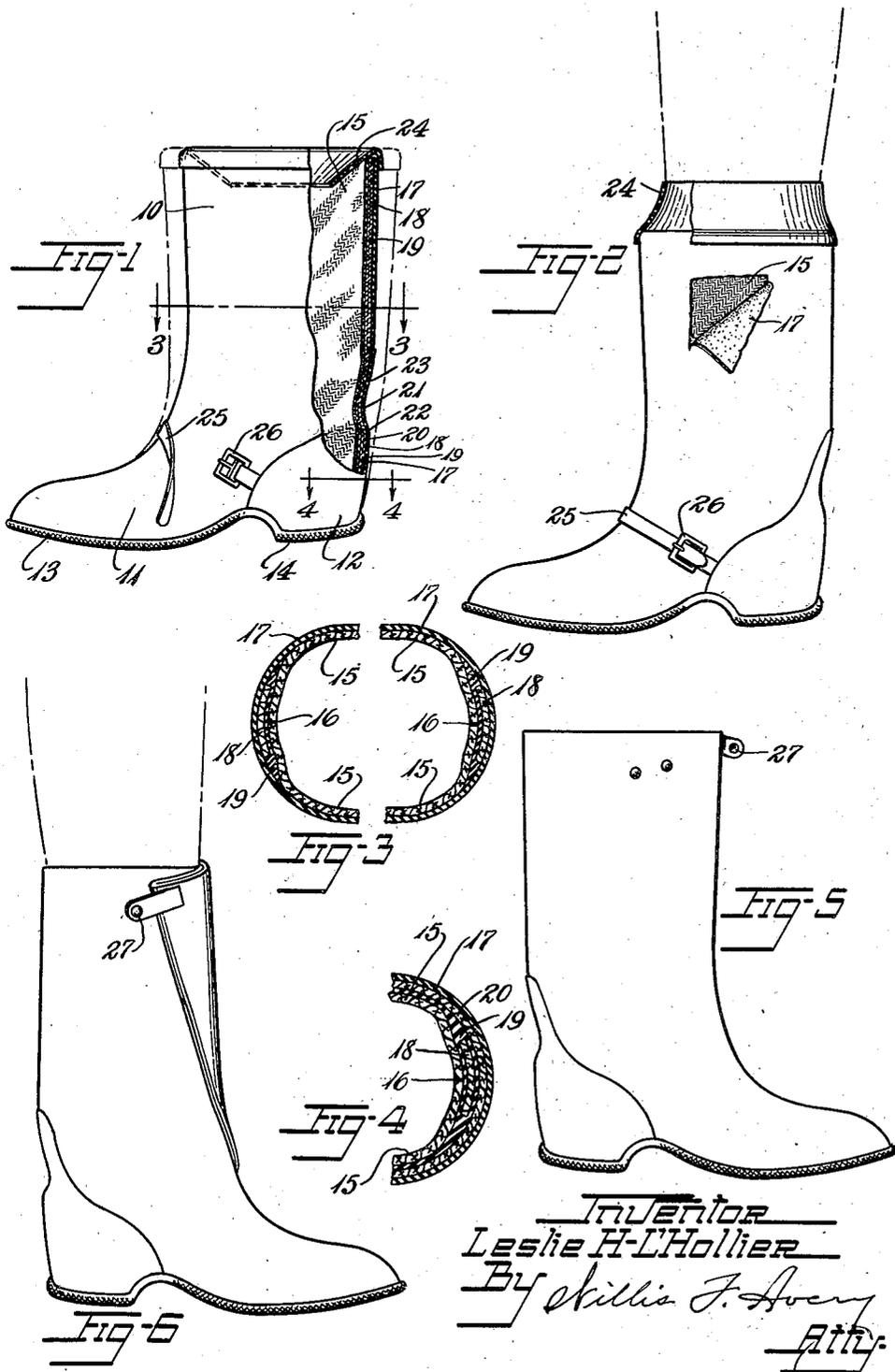
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L. H. L'HOLLIER

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HIGH OVERSHOE

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Inventor
Leslie H. L'Hollier
By *William F. Avery*
Att.

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HIGH OVERSHOE

Leslie H. L'Hollier, Waltham, Mass., assignor to
The B. F. Goodrich Company, New York, N. Y.,
a corporation of New York

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This invention relates to articles of footwear and especially to footwear of the high overshoe type adapted to be worn in inclement weather.

Heretofore, articles of footwear of the overshoe type extending over the ankle and encircling the leg of a wearer, have not effectively combined the desirable elements of ease and rapidity of donning and doffing with adequate waterproof properties and a neat appearance.

In some prior constructions, the ankle portions of the overshoe have been adapted to fit closely about the ankle of the wearer. This type of prior construction has presented difficulties in the matter of introducing a shod foot through the relatively small ankle portion of the overshoe and in subsequently removing the shod foot from the foot portion through the same restricted area.

Attempts have been made to facilitate the donning and doffing of overshoes, by the expedient of openings in the front or side of the leg portions of the overshoes, in a manner to permit opening up of the leg portion and thereby facilitate passage of the shod foot therethrough. This expedient has often added objectionably to the time required and the difficulties involved in donning and doffing overshoes as a result of the fasteners which are desirable to hold the openings closed while the article of footwear is being worn. The buckles, slide fasteners, laces or other types of holding devices must be manually fastened and unfastened each time the wearer dons or doffs the overshoe. The procedure of manually fastening and unfastening the holding devices has been tedious and inconvenient particularly inasmuch as the wearer must bend over in order to manipulate the fasteners. A consequence of the inconvenience of fasteners has been for some wearers to allow the fasteners to remain open while the overshoes have been in use in a manner such that the released portions may flap loosely.

Overshoe fasteners have been frequently found to corrode and break, to become caked with ice and snow and often to show the first evidence of wear in the overshoe.

Also, overshoes provided with openings or slits in the leg portions have been found to sacrifice a large part, if not all, of their waterproofing properties as a result of the inability of holding devices to adequately seal the openings in the overshoe against the entrance of water and snow thereinto. Cumbersome bellows constructions have in some cases been resorted to in an effort to overcome this defect.

It has been further found, in overshoes of prior types, that an objectionable amount of slippage or up and down movement of the shod foot in the overshoe has been permitted. Also, prior constructions have often tended to be heavy

and cumbersome and unattractive in appearance.

Articles of footwear with portions extending upward to encircle the legs of the wearer are desirable for use in inclement weather, and it is advantageous if such provision can be made while permitting donning and doffing with a minimum expenditure of time and effort. It is further desirable to provide a construction such that fasteners and holding devices are unnecessary and to incorporate good waterproof properties in a light-weight attractive construction.

The chief objects of the invention are to provide an article of footwear, incorporating ankle portions and leg portions, constructed in a manner such that a shod foot may be quickly and conveniently placed in and withdrawn from said foot wear; to provide a substantially waterproof article of footwear for use in inclement weather; to provide an article of footwear of the high overshoe type constructed in a manner so as to eliminate the necessity of manually manipulated fastening devices; and to provide means, incorporated in the foot portion of an overshoe, for holding a shod foot against movement, especially up and down movement, relative to said foot portion while being held therein.

Other objects are to provide a light-weight article of footwear of neat appearance for use in inclement weather, and to provide for economy of materials and convenience of manufacture.

These and further objects will be apparent from the following description, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, in which:

Fig. 1 is a side elevation of an overshoe constructed in accordance with and embodying the invention, a part being broken away and sectioned.

Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the overshoe of Fig. 1 as it appears in use, parts being broken away.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross-section on an enlarged scale taken along the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary cross-section on an enlarged scale taken along the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a side elevation of a modified construction.

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the overshoe of Fig. 5 as it appears in use.

In accordance with the invention, an article of footwear, comprising a leg portion 10 adapted to extend over the ankle and lower leg of a wearer, and a foot portion, indicated generally at 11, is shown in Fig. 1 of the drawing. The foot portion 11 is constructed to enclose an ordinary shoe and incorporates a reinforced counter 12, an outsole 13, and a heel 14. The foot portion 11 and the leg portion 10 are preferably constructed of two pieces of lining material 15, 15 which are

joined at seams 16, 16 as shown in Fig. 3, the seams extending vertically from the top of the leg portion down the front of the leg portion and over the center of the vamp and the toe of the foot portion to the tread, and down the back of the leg portion and center of the counter to the heel.

A two-piece lining, seamed as hereinabove described, is desirable to provide a balanced construction, and further provides for economy of materials and convenience of manufacture. The lining is preferably of fabric material, extensible in at least one direction, as for example, stockinet material. In order to best combine the embodiment of a two-piece lining with lining material possessing maximum extensibility transversely of its wales, the lining material is disposed with the wales of the material extending diagonally about the leg portion 10 and in a direction generally lengthwise of the foot portion 11. Preferably, the stockinet material is so disposed that the wales in each of the two pieces extend diagonally from points on the rear seam to lower points on the front seam.

The stockinet lining material so disposed provides desirable transverse stretchability in the leg portion and some longitudinal stretchability, and maximum stretchability at the ankle portion where great extensibility is desirable so that the ankle portion may be of sufficiently limited circumference to hold the shod foot firmly in the shoe portion and yet may be extended when desired to permit passage of the shod foot there-through. The great stretchability in the ankle portion is provided by the highly extensible material and the diagonal disposition of the wales about the ankle portion of the overshoe.

A smoothly continuous covering layer 17, 17 of highly extensible rubber or rubber-like material is applied to the fabric lining 15, 15. The rubber and fabric construction provides the footwear with extensibility while also providing adequate strength of construction and good waterproofing. The extensibility of the leg and ankle portions is indicated by the broken lines in Fig. 1.

The leg portion of the overshoe type article of footwear is constructed substantially fuller than the leg to be inserted therein to provide exceptionally easy passage of a shod foot therethrough.

The top margins of the leg portion of the overshoe preferably extend substantially at right angles to said leg portion thereby providing maximum weatherproofing and facilitating the adapting of a guard to the top margins if such an expedient is desired as hereinafter described.

The addition of reinforcing strips 18, 18 along the seams 16, 16 in the fabric 15, 15 and between the fabric lining 15, 15 and the rubber covering 17, 17, as shown in Figs. 1 and 3, provide the loose-fitting, light-weight leg portion with sufficient rigidity to make it self-sustaining, without detracting materially from the light-weight, loose-fitting properties which are desirable in the overshoe and the rubber preferably is of such a thickness as to contribute to the self-sustaining properties without detracting objectionably from the easy stretchability of the material and the lightweight character of the article. The reinforcing strips may be of any suitable material, but are preferably strips of fabric such as binding tape. The construction may be further reinforced by the provision of layers of rubber 19, 19 between the reinforcing strips 18, 18 and the fabric 15, 15, with the reinforcing strips 18, 18 adjacent to the outer rubber covering 17, 17.

Alternatively, the reinforcing strips may be ad-

5 jacent to the fabric and the layers of rubber disposed between the reinforcing strips and the outer rubber covering or the rubber covering may be thickened at the sections where it covers the reinforcing strip. Also, a layer of rubber may be disposed on each side of the reinforcing strips if desired.

The counter 12 of the foot portion of the overshoe is further reinforced as shown in Figs. 1 and 4. An added piece of fabric 20 or other reinforcing material extends around the counter 12 and is preferably placed inside and adjacent the rubber covering, the reinforcing strip 18 being disposed between the added reinforcing piece 20 and the fabric 15, 15, and the layer of rubber 19 being placed on one or both sides of the reinforcing strip 18. The added reinforcement gives the counter semi-rigidity and aids in holding a shod foot firmly therein.

A drawn-in portion 21 of the overshoe is formed immediately above the bunch 22 in the counter, and tapering upward at 23 to the full leg portion of the overshoe. The tapered portion 23 is highly extensible by reason of the position of the wales of the stretchable lining which extend diagonally about the ankle portion. The tapered portion 23 and the drawn-in portion 21, being immediately above the counter and in the highly stretchable ankle portion, act as a shoe horn in admitting the shod foot to the foot portion of the overshoe. The drawn-in portion holds the shod foot in the foot portion and restricts up and down movement of the shoe in the foot portion when in use, while providing sufficient stretchability to permit easy donning and doffing of the overshoe.

To prevent entrance of water and snow over the top of the overshoe, a guard 24 of extensible fabric material or other suitable extensible material may be cemented, stitched or otherwise fastened to the top of the overshoe and adapted to encircle the leg of the wearer, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, thereby enhancing the waterproofing properties of the overshoe and holding the trouser leg firmly within the overshoe.

A strap 25 and buckle 26 may be placed to extend across the instep of the overshoe for decorative purposes, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to further enhance the attractive appearance of the overshoe. The strap may be desirable for holding the instep of the overshoe firmly against the instep of the shoe therein, thereby preventing up and down movement of the shoe in the overshoe in cases where overshoes are fitted overly large, as for example, in overshoes for growing children.

The unbroken rubber-covering construction lends itself well to an attractive appearance and to decorative variations.

While desirable in some cases, the guard 24 or strap 25 or both may be eliminated if desired.

In the modified construction of Figs. 5 and 6, means are provided whereby the material of the full leg portion may be quickly and easily folded against itself when in use and held by a suitable fastener 27, preferably of the convenient snap fastener type as shown. The modified embodiment is adapted to be folded in such a manner that when folded the leg portion closely encircles the leg of the wearer, thereby firmly holding the trousers legs and preventing the entry of water and snow into the overshoe.

A high overshoe constructed in accordance with the invention combines exceptional ease of don-

ning and doffing, with good waterproof properties the full height of the overshoe, and is so adapted that the shod foot is held firmly in the foot portion of the overshoe. The ease of donning and doffing is made possible by the fullness of the leg portion, the transverse and also vertical extensibility which may be incorporated in the material of the leg portion, the shoe-horn effect of the drawn-in portion directly above the counter, and the absence of complicated fasteners. The good waterproofing properties are provided by the rubber covering and the unbroken construction extending to the top of the leg portion. The semi-rigid counter construction and the drawn-in portion directly above the counter hold the shod foot firmly and resist or avoid any tendency for the shod foot to move up and down in the overshoe. The overshoe is of remarkably light-weight, presents a neat appearance and provides for economy of materials and convenience of manufacture.

Variations may be made without departing from the scope of the invention as it is defined by the following claims:

I claim:

1. A high, light-weight overshoe adapted to be easily mounted over a shoe and to extend upwardly along the leg of the wearer in a loose but totally-encircling, weatherproof manner while being held by said shoe against slippage therein, said overshoe comprising a foot portion and a leg portion of thin, highly extensible rubber extending smoothly and unbrokenly thereover, and an extensible stockinet lining, the wales of said stockinet lining extending diagonally from points at the rear of the article to lower points at the front thereof about the leg portion and the ankle portion providing up and down stretchability as well as circumferential stretchability in such portions and extending generally lengthwise in the foot portion.

2. A high, light-weight overshoe adapted to be easily mounted over a shoe and to extend upwardly along the leg of the wearer in a loose but totally-encircling, weatherproof manner while being held by said shoe against slippage, said overshoe comprising a rubber covered and fabric lined foot portion and leg portion, a stiffening counter being incorporated in the back of said overshoe, the overshoe having an indented portion at the upper margin of the counter and a highly elastic portion tapering upward and outward into the full leg portion of the overshoe in a manner to facilitate entrance of a shod foot into the foot portion of said overshoe by virtue of the stretchability of said elastic portion and to hold said shod foot therein against slippage, said elastic portion of the lining being of stockinet the wales of which extend diagonally from points at the rear of the article to points of respectively different level at the front thereof about the leg portion to provide up and down stretchability of the leg portion for facilitating passage of said indented portion over the shoe of the wearer.

3. A high, light-weight overshoe adapted to be easily mounted over a shoe and to extend upwardly along the leg of the wearer in a loose but totally-encircling, weatherproof manner while being held by said shoe against slippage thereon, said overshoe comprising a foot portion and a leg portion of thin, highly extensible rubber extending smoothly and unbrokenly thereover, a two-piece, extensible stockinet lining, having reinforced seams medially in the front

and back of said overshoe, the wales of said stockinet lining extending diagonally from points on the rear seam to lower points on the front seam about the leg portion and the ankle portion providing up and down stretchability as well as circumferential stretchability in such portions and extending generally lengthwise in the foot portion, and a stiffening counter in the back of said overshoe, the overshoe comprising an indented portion immediately above the counter and a highly elastic portion tapering upward and outward into the full leg portion of the overshoe in a manner to facilitate entrance of a shod foot into the foot portion of said overshoe by virtue of the up and down and circumferentially stretchability of said elastic portion and to hold said shod foot therein against slippage.

4. A high, light-weight overshoe adapted to be easily mounted over a shoe and to extend upwardly along the leg of the wearer in a loose but totally-encircling, weatherproof manner while being held by said shoe against slippage thereon, said overshoe comprising a foot portion and a leg portion, said foot portion and leg portion comprising a covering of extensible material extending smoothly and unbrokenly thereover, a two piece, extensible stockinet lining, having seams medially in the front and back of said overshoe, the wales of said stockinet lining extending diagonally from points on the rear seam to lower points on the front seam about the leg portion and the ankle portion providing up and down stretchability as well as circumferential stretchability in such portions and extending generally lengthwise in the foot portion of said overshoe.

5. A high, light-weight overshoe adapted to be easily mounted over a shoe and to extend upwardly along the leg of the wearer in a loose but totally-encircling, weatherproof manner while being held by said shoe against slippage thereon, said overshoe comprising a foot portion and a leg portion, the leg portion terminating at the top extremity thereof in a margin extending substantially at right angles to the leg portion, said foot portion and leg portion comprising a thin covering of highly extensible rubber extending smoothly and unbrokenly thereover, a two-piece, extensible stockinet lining, having seams medially in the front and back of said overshoe, the wales of said stockinet lining extending diagonally about the leg portion and ankle portion providing up and down stretchability as well as circumferential stretchability in such portions and extending generally lengthwise in the foot portion, reinforcing strips and reinforcing layers of rubber disposed along the length of said seams and between the rubber covering and the stockinet lining of said overshoe, a stiffening counter in the back of said overshoe, the overshoe comprising an indented portion immediately above the counter and a highly elastic portion tapering upward and outward into the full leg portion of the overshoe in a manner to facilitate entrance of a shod foot into the foot portion of said overshoe by virtue of the up and down and circumferential stretchability of said elastic portion and to hold said shod foot therein against slippage, and a conical top of flexible material secured at the top margin of the upper and having a central opening interrupting the conical surface to receive the leg of the wearer.

LESLIE H. L'HOLLIER.