

G. L. ROUSE.

SHOE.

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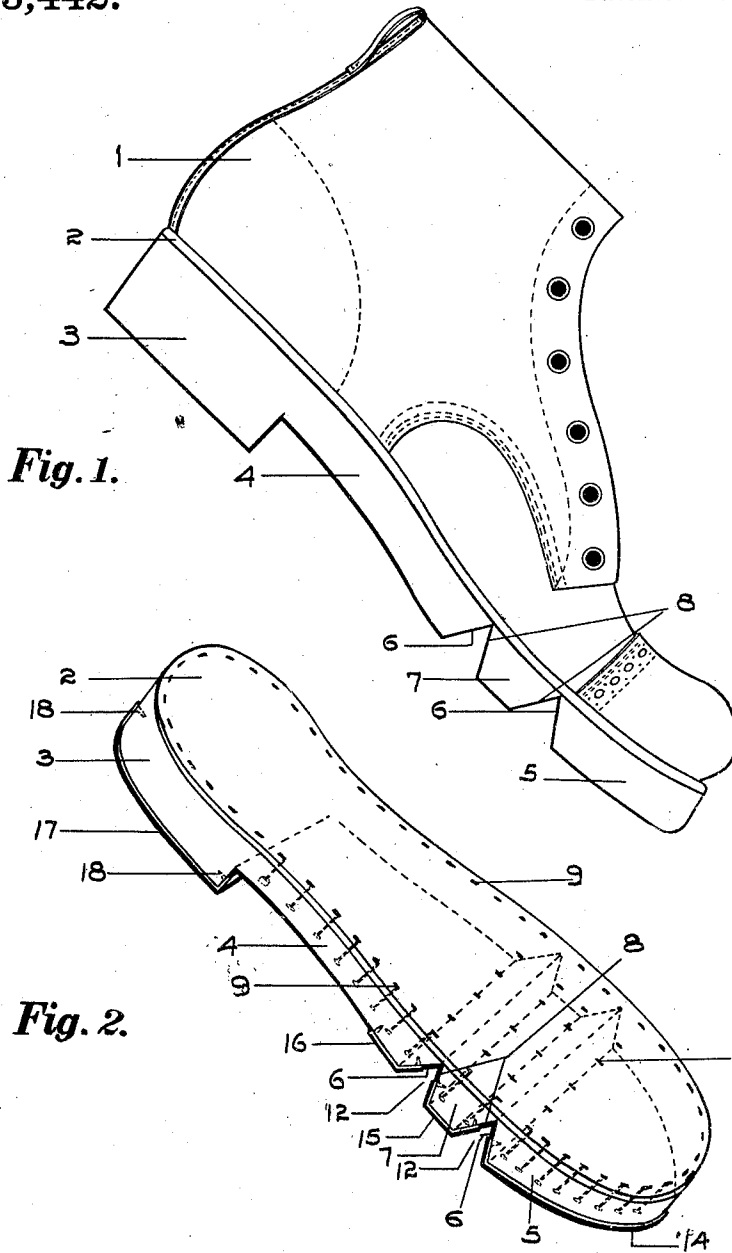


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Witnesses.
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GEORGE L. ROUSE, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

SHOE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. ROUSE, a citizen of the United States, residing at the city of Cincinnati, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shoes, of which the following is a specification.

My invention belongs to that class of shoes provided with a wooden sole rendered flexible or yielding so that it will bend at a given point or points, thus enabling the wearer to walk, run or stoop the same as if the ordinary leather shoe were used by him. The joint I employ to render the sole flexible is extremely simple and unique, will not get out of order and will retain a maximum efficiency in the wear and tear to which shoes of this class are subjected. It is waterproofed, thus rendering it doubly serviceable in repelling water and dampness, insuring warmth and comfort to the wearer. Shoes of this character are to be worn by persons exposed to cold and dampness. My shoe keeps the feet dry and warm. Many attempts have been made to produce a shoe of this character but all such attempts have proven futile.

In the accompanying drawing forming part of this specification: Figure 1— is a view in elevation of my new shoe; Fig. 2— is a view of the shoe with the upper removed, also showing metal caps attached to the sections.

The upper is marked (1), and it may be made of leather, canvas, cloth or any suitable material. On this upper (1) I sew or otherwise connect a thin sole (2) made of leather or other suitable material. I preferably waterproof this sole (2). The wood sole in the present instance is made of three parts or sections, but it may be made of two sections or of any number desired. The heel and arch part or section is formed of the heel (3) and arch (4), preferably made integral. The forward or toe section is marked (5). At their inner ends the arch part (4) and section (5) are inclined or beveled as shown at 6, 6, and the section (5) is rounded at its forward end. Between the arch part (4) and toe section (5), that is, in the space between them, I provide a section (7) having inclined or beveled ends (8). These various parts and sections 3, 4, 5 and 7 are placed in the position shown and then pegged or otherwise connected to the sole (2). The pegs are marked (9). I

may also if desired place pegs (10) across the sole where the parts of the sole meet, as shown.

It will be noticed that at the top where the sections join the sole (2), they meet at their edges, but from that point to the bottom of the sole, they diverge, so that an inverted V shaped space (12) is left at each end of the section (7), that is, between said section and the forward and rear parts or sections 4 and 5. These sections may be of any size, shape or contour and of any length or thickness; and they may be placed and connected together so that the joints forming the spaces (12) will come at any point in the length of the sole; the section (7) however preferably being present near the ball of the foot.

It will be understood that if I use only two sections or more than three sections, I will form a less or greater number of spaces (12) between the sections and these spaces 12 may be of any size, length, width or contour, their shape depending on the contour of the sections.

In order to secure better wear and protect the wood sole sections, I face the bottom and sides of said sections at certain points with caps or bands made of metal or suitable material. On the toe section (5) I place the cap (14), on the section (7), I place the cap (15) and on the arch part (4) I place the cap (16), and on the heel I place the cap (17). These caps are connected to the wood sections in any suitable manner, in the present instance, by tangs 18.

The wood sole sections are preferably waterproofed and may be made of fiber, leatheroid, pulp or any material suitable for the purpose. It will be apparent that this shoe, that is, the joint, which renders it flexible, is self cleaning. When the wearer is putting his foot down squarely, the spaces 12 may fill with mud, dirt, refuse or the like, (depending upon where he is walking) and when he bends his foot, and consequently the joint, the spaces 12 will be spread and enlarged in extent, and the mud, dirt, or the like, will consequently drop out; or if it should be sticky or clay or material of that sort and remain in the shoe, it will not interfere with the proper working of the joint and if it should dry in the spaces 12, will (as soon as dry) fall out of its own accord.

While I have described one specific method of forming this new shoe, it is, of

course, capable of considerable modification, and I wish to be understood as not limiting myself to one specific construction, but may vary the same and still remain within the scope of my invention.

What I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is--

1. In a shoe of the character described, an upper, a flexible outer sole attached thereto, a sole made of comparatively non-yielding material attached to said flexible sole, said sole formed of sections capable of supporting the heel and arch and the ball and the toes of the foot, the contiguous ends of the sections having inclined faces forming with respect to the bottom of the sectional sole, inverted V-shaped spaces, the sections meeting at the top where they join the flexible sole and said spaces passing entirely through said sectional sole.

2. In a shoe of the character described, an upper, a flexible outer sole attached thereto, a sole made of comparatively non-yielding material attached to said flexible sole, said sole formed of three sections, one section consisting of a heel and arch for supporting the heel and arch of the foot, another section for supporting the toes, and a section between them for supporting the ball of the foot, the contiguous ends of the several sections having inclined faces, forming with respect to the bottom of the sectional sole, inverted V-shaped spaces, the sections meeting at the top where they join the flexible sole and said spaces passing entirely through the comparatively non-yielding sole.

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Witnesses:

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