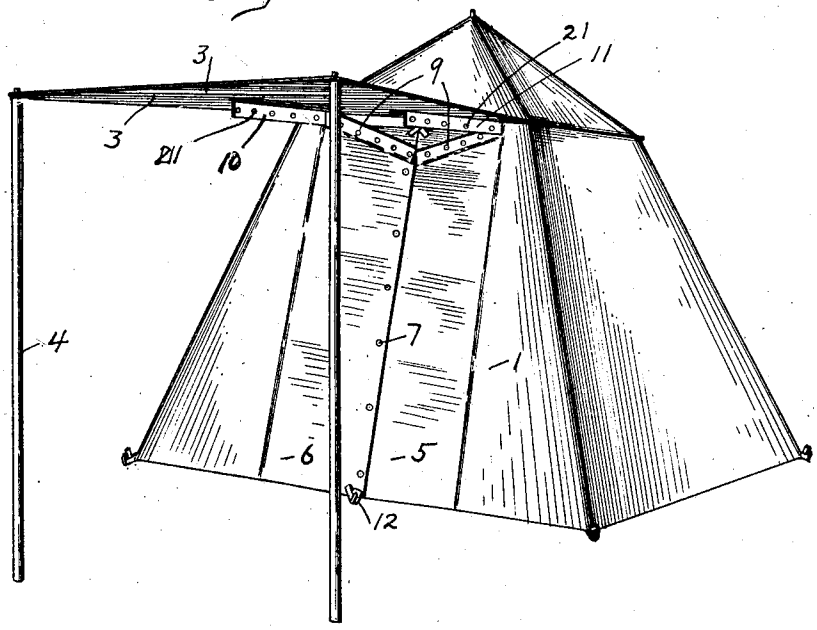
April 14, 1925. 1,533,820

R. R. WHITEHEAD

CAMPER'S TENT

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Fig. 1.



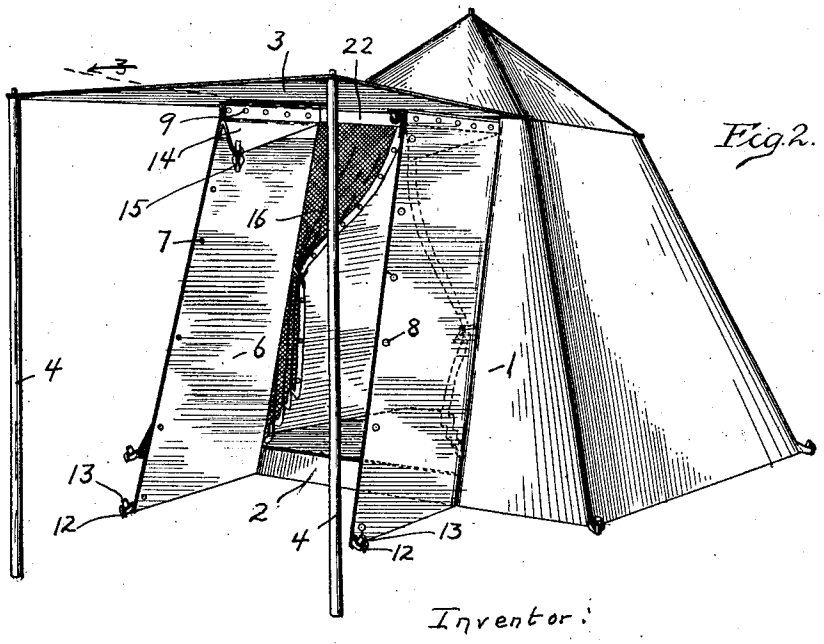


Fig. 2.

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Fig 4.

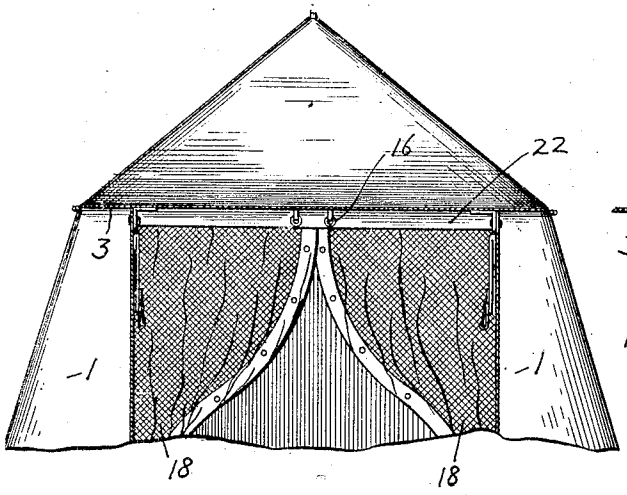


Fig. 3.

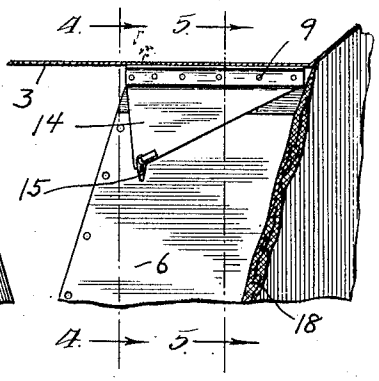
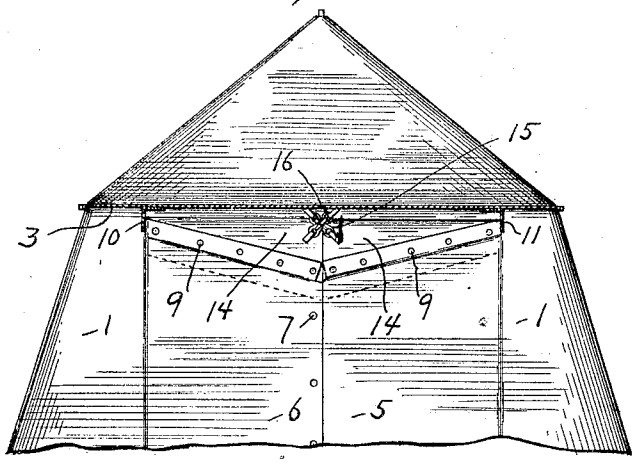


Fig 5.



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Patented Apr. 14, 1925. 1,533,820

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT R. WHITEHEAD, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO TENTOBED COMPANY, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF ILLINOIS.

CAMPER'S TENT.

Application filed October 2, 1924. Serial No. 741,141.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT R. WHITEHEAD, citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Camper's Tent; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to tents of the general class commonly employed by campers or tourists, and more particularly to tents employing a so-called "fly" as a roof in front of the entrance to the tent.

While such a fly in the commonly employed tent constructions affords protection against a vertically descending rain, experience has shown it to be highly inadequate for preventing the entry of either rain or dust into the tent through the usual frontal opening. Furthermore, the customary flat constructions of doors are not adequate for this purpose, as they cannot readily be secured in an opened position. Consequently, the users of such tents have commonly been obliged to keep the tents tightly closed whenever they encountered either rain or high winds, thus interfering seriously with the ventilation of the tents and the general comfort of the users.

While doors constructed after the manner of roller shades have also been employed with such tents, these likewise have the serious objections of curtailing the ventilation of the tents and the entry of light into the tents when the doors are rolled down, and the further objection that both rain and dust are apt to blow in between the edges of the unrolled doors and the tent fronts.

My present invention aims to overcome all of these objections in an exceedingly simple and highly practical construction. More particularly, my invention aims to provide a tent construction in which a pair of frontal doors are adapted interchangeably to afford a complete closure for the frontal opening of the tent, or to serve as wings extending forwardly at opposite sides of the frontal opening so as to shield this opening against the entry of rain or dust into the tent without materially interfering with either the lighting or the ventilation of the tent.

Furthermore, my invention aims to employ the usual frontal fly as part of the means for holding the doors in their said opened position, aims to provide means upon the fly for cooperating and producing this effect, and aims to provide simple and easily manipulated means for securely but detachably fastening the doors in either their opened or their closed positions.

Still further and also more detailed objects will appear from the following specification and from the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a camper's tent embodying my invention, showing this as it appears when the frontal doors are closed.

Fig. 2 is a similar view, showing the doors as they appear when fastened in their opened position so as to act as wings or shields at opposite sides of the frontal opening of the tent.

Fig. 3 is an enlarged and fragmentary vertical section taken from the correspondingly numbered line in Fig. 2.

Fig. 4 is a fragmentary vertical section taken through the fly and the opened doors from the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 5 is a similar vertical section, taken along the line 5—5 of Fig. 3 but with the doors fastened in their closed positions.

While my invention may be employed with equal facility in connection with tents of various shapes, it is particularly adapted for use with tents of an approximately pyramidal form. Hence I am illustrating and describing my invention by referring to such an embodiment, although I do not wish to be limited to the application of the various features of my invention in any particular type of tent. Furthermore, I do not wish to be limited to tents employing any particular constructions of their supports and hence am not illustrating these supports for the tent proper, since the latter form no part of my present invention.

In the illustrated embodiment, the tent has a sloping front 1 provided with the usual frontal door opening, which opening desirably has a bottom strip of tenting 2 extending across the same so as to maintain the desired tautness of the lower portions of the tent front at opposite sides of this opening, and also has a similar strip 22 extending over the top of the said door

opening. Extending forwardly from an elevated portion of the tent front is a fly 3, which is here shown as supported near its forward edges by poles 4. This fly is connected to the tent front along a line which may be somewhat above the top of the front door opening, and this fly may either extend horizontally or be somewhat inclined. As a closure for the said front opening, I provide a pair of doors 5 and 6, desirably made of the usual tent material and provided with cooperating fastener elements 7 and 8 whereby the overlapping portions of the doors may be secured to each other when the doors are closed.

Then I provide separate means upon the fly 3 for holding each of the doors in an opened position. In doing this with a tent having a sloping front, each door will have its rear edge correspondingly inclined when the door is open, thus tilting the upper edge of the door forwardly and interfering with any attempt to fasten the usual upper edge portion of the door securely to an approximately horizontal fly. To overcome this difficulty, I provide each door with a row of fastening elements 9 spaced from the top of the door and desirably disposed along a line sloping downwardly across the door towards the free edge of the latter. I also provide the fly 3 with a pair of depending webs 10 and 11 disposed substantially at right angles to the tent front and adjacent to the fixed edges of the doors. Each of these depending webs 10 carries a series of fastener elements 11 adapted to engage the fastener elements 9 on the adjacent door, the cooperating fastener elements 9 and 11 being desirably of the usual order of snap fasteners. In practice, each of the said webs 10 is desirably composed of a piece of heavy canvas extending downwardly from the fly and continued along the under side of the fly so as to present a top portion of ample width to permit several rows of stitching to connect it to the fly. Thus constructed, it will be obvious from the drawings that each of the fastener-carrying strips depending from the fly is of a substantially angle-shaped section and normally has one web depending vertically. By disposing these depending webs at right angles to the tent front and adjacent to the sides of the front door opening, I enable the fastening elements 9 on the doors to be snapped into the fastener elements on these webs after the manner shown in Fig. 2, thereby holding the doors in forwardly opened positions at their upper edges, while leaving the bottom of each door to be secured in its open position by other means. For this latter purpose, I desirably provide each door at its lower free corner with a loop 12 adapted to receive a stake 13.

If each door had its upper edge extending close to the said fastener elements 9, the inclination of the tent front would cause these upper edges to slope downwardly, so that they would not afford an adequate closure for the upper portion of the frontal door opening. To allow for this, I provide each door with an upper continuation portion 14, which is desirably in the form of a substantially triangular flap secured to the door. When each door is in its open or wing-forming position, these flaps 14 depend loosely after the manner shown in Figs. 2 and 3, being then inoperative.

When the doors are to be tightly closed, each of these extensions 14 is raised so as to overlap the tent front portion 22 above the door opening and is suitably secured at its upper free corner to the tent front. With this latter purpose in mind, I preferably provide each of the said extensions 14 with a snap hook 15 adapted to engage a ring 16 disposed on the tent front portion 22 above the frontal door opening, thereby permitting the said hooks to be snapped into the rings for holding the extensions 14 in their raised positions of Fig. 5, in which positions they afford an adequate closure for the upper part of the door opening.

With the tent thus constructed, it will be obvious from Figs. 1 and 5 of the drawings that the closed doors afford a highly effective closure for the frontal door opening, such as may be desired on cold and stormy nights. However, when the doors are swung open and secured through the said fastening elements to the depending webs on the fly each of these doors serves as a forwardly extending wing after the manner of Fig. 2. In doing this, the doors leave the frontal opening fully opened for the access of light and air into the tent, but effectively shield the entry of the tent against the entry of dust and rain. Furthermore, the door construction does not in any way interfere with the providing of inner screens, such as the screens 18 for keeping flies or mosquitoes out of the tent. So also, by making both the doors and the angle-sectioned web structures on the fly out of canvas or similar textile material, I can secure these results without interfering with the ready rolling, folding and packing of the tent into a compact bundle when it is to be taken from one place to another.

However, while I have illustrated and described my invention in an embodiment particularly suited to one type of tent and including certain desirable types of fastening members, I do not wish to be limited to these or other details of the construction and arrangement here disclosed, it being obvious that these might be varied in many ways without departing either from the spirit of my invention or from the appended claims.

Neither do I wish to be limited to the use of my invention in connection with a tent having a sloping front, it being obvious from the drawings that it can be effectively employed whenever the fasteners 9 on each door are disposed along a line corresponding to the angle between the tent front and the line of the fasteners on the adjacent web carried by the fly.

I claim as my invention:—

1. In a tent, a front having a door opening therein, a fly extending forwardly of the tent from a line above the top of the opening, a pair of doors adapted to jointly close the opening, means including fastening elements near the top of the doors for securing them in their said closure position, and means including fastening elements spaced downwardly from the tops of the doors for securing the doors to the fly in forwardly directed open positions.

2. A tent as per claim 1, in which each door has a flap carrying the last named fastening elements and disposed along a line making an angle with the fastening edge of the door corresponding to the angle between the front and the fly.

3. A tent as per claim 1, in which the tent front has a strip extending across the top of the door and in which each door also has a portion disposed above the fastening elements thereon and overlapping the said strip when the door is closed.

4. In a tent, a front having a door opening therein, a fly extending forwardly of the tent from above the opening, a pair of doors adapted to jointly close the opening, an elevated flap on the front of each door and transverse of the door, a pair of flaps depending from the fly and extending forwardly of the tent adjacent respectively to the sides of the said frontal opening, and cooperating fastening elements carried by each of the last named flaps and the flap on the adjacent door.

5. A tent as per claim 4, in which the fly extends laterally at each side beyond the flaps depending from the fly.

6. A tent as per claim 1, in which the tent front has a portion of considerable width above the said opening and has fastening elements on the said portion adjacent to the middle of the top thereof, and in which each door has at its upper free corner a fastening element adapted to engage one of the aforesaid fastening elements when the door is closed.

7. In a tent, a forwardly sloping front having a door opening therein and having a frontal strip disposed above the said opening, a fly extending forwardly from the top of the said strip and at an acute angle to the tent front, a pair of doors respectively connected to the tent front at opposite sides of the opening, the said doors being formed for jointly closing the said opening and overlapping the said strip when the doors are closed, two webs depending from the fly and extending forwardly from the tent respectively at opposite sides of the said opening, a row of fastening elements on each web, and a row of fastening elements on each door adapted to engage the fastening elements on the adjacent web, the row of fastening elements on each door being disposed at the same angle to the outer edge of the door as that between the tent front and the cooperating row of fastening elements on the adjacent web on the fly.

Signed at Chicago, Illinois, September 20, 1924.

ROBERT R. WHITEHEAD.