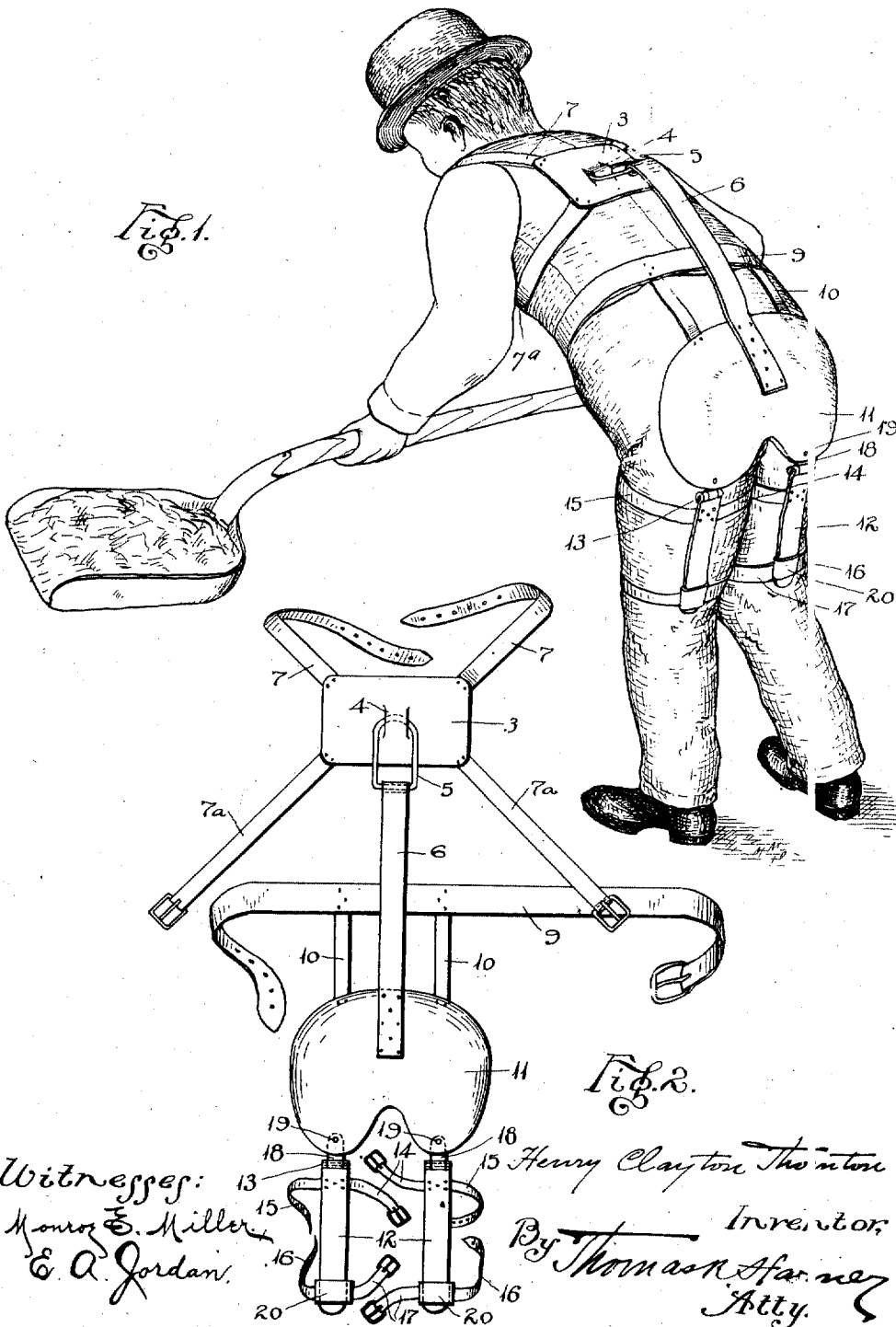


1,008,500.

Patented Nov. 14, 1911.



Witnesses:

Monroe E. Miller
 E. A. Jordan.

Henry Clayton Thornton
 Inventor,
 By Thomas A. Farney
 Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY CLAYTON THORNTON, OF STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS.

BACK-BRACE.

1,008,500.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Nov. 14, 1911.

Application filed December 24, 1910. Serial No. 599,096.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY CLAYTON THORNTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Stephenville, in the county of Erath and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Back-Braces, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to back braces, which are adapted for the use of cotton-pickers, truckmen, gardeners, and other laborers, who during the performance of their respective duties are required to stoop considerably.

The object of the invention is to provide an improved brace of this character, which shall be efficient in its use, to perfectly and conveniently relieve the greater part of the strain on the muscles of the back when assuming a stooping posture.

The invention is embodied in a novel arrangement and construction of parts, as will be hereinafter described and as is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of the back brace as applied to a workman, and Fig. 2 is a plan view of the brace.

Reference being had to the drawings, in which similar reference characters indicate similar parts, 11 indicates a seat-pad, which is made of wood, or other material, having suitable padding, and which is of such a contour to perfectly fit over the hips of the wearer without discomfort. This pad or seat 11 is suspended from a belt 9 by two straps 10, which straps 10 are securely fastened to both the belt 9 and seat 11.

To the lower end of the seat are pivoted right and left hand hinge members 18 by brads or pins 19, which allow the hinges to swing in the plane of the seat, and to the said hinges are pivoted, by pins 13, the leg-strips 12, which are arranged to swing forward and backward on the pins 13. Thus a universal joint is established between the leg strips 12 and seat 11. The said leg strips 12 are of wood, or other material, suitably padded, and have at their upper ends straps 14 and 15, and at their lower extremities sockets 20 to which are fastened straps 17 and 16. The straps 14 and 15 are arranged to buckle together around the upper end of the thigh of the wearer, and the straps 16 and 17 are arranged to engage the lower end of the thigh, above the knee, to securely hold the leg strips 12 in place on the rear of the

thighs of the wearer. Then with the aid of the belt 9 and straps 10 to hold up the seat, the seat is conveniently held in position on the wearer, and the universal joints between the seat 11 and leg strips 12 allow for the unrestricted use of the legs and feet of the wearer.

To the seat 11 is fastened a flat spring 6, which extends up the back of the wearer, and which has a loop 5 mounted on its upper end. The extremity of the back-spring 6 is bent around the loop 5, to allow the loop to swing longitudinally thereof.

A back-piece 3, of stiff leather or other material, is mounted on the back of the wearer by means of shoulder-straps 7 extending from the upper corners thereof, adapted to pass over the shoulders of the wearer to buckle with straps 7^a passing around the arm-pits and which are secured to the lower corners of the back-piece 3. This back-piece 3 has an upstanding looped portion 4, with which the loop 5 engages to connect the back-piece 3 and the back-spring 6. The portion of the loop 5 passing beneath the loop 4 is curved, thus allowing for suitable movement of the back-piece 3, to allow for the free movement of the body.

In use, the spring 6, having a backward tension, relieves the greater part of the stress on the muscles of the wearer's back when assuming a stooping posture, and by means of the loop 5, the spring does not touch the wearer when stooping, to inconvenience him, but the pull is directed solely to the back-piece. The strain is therefore concentrated upon the seat 11, to the relief and convenience of the wearer. The seat 11 being of such a contour to perfectly fit the hips of the wearer, also provides for greater ease to the wearer, and makes the device more efficient in its use. The means shown for holding the seat in position also provides for greater ease and efficiency of the device.

It is also understood that various alterations and additions can be made to the device within the scope of the appended claims, and it is not desired to limit the device to the specific construction described and shown.

Having described my invention, what I claim as new is:

1. The combination with a seat pad having a waist belt attached thereto and means for securing the pad to the lower limbs, of

a back piece and pairs of strap sections extending from diagonally opposite corners thereof, a flat spring member attached to the seat pad, and a loop loosely connecting the
5 free end of the spring and the back piece.

2. The combination with a seat pad having a waist belt attached thereto, flexible leg strips loosely connected to the lower end of the pad and provided with attaching straps,
10 of a back piece and pairs of strap sections extending from diagonally opposite cor-

ners thereof, a flat spring member attached to the seat pad, and a loop loosely connecting the free end of the spring and the back piece.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
15 in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY CLAYTON THORNTON.

Witnesses:

C. H. HALE,
ROY CHAPMAN.