

W. D. BAKER.
FIRE-PROOF CURTAINS.

No. 186,657.

Fig. 1. Patented Jan. 30, 1877.

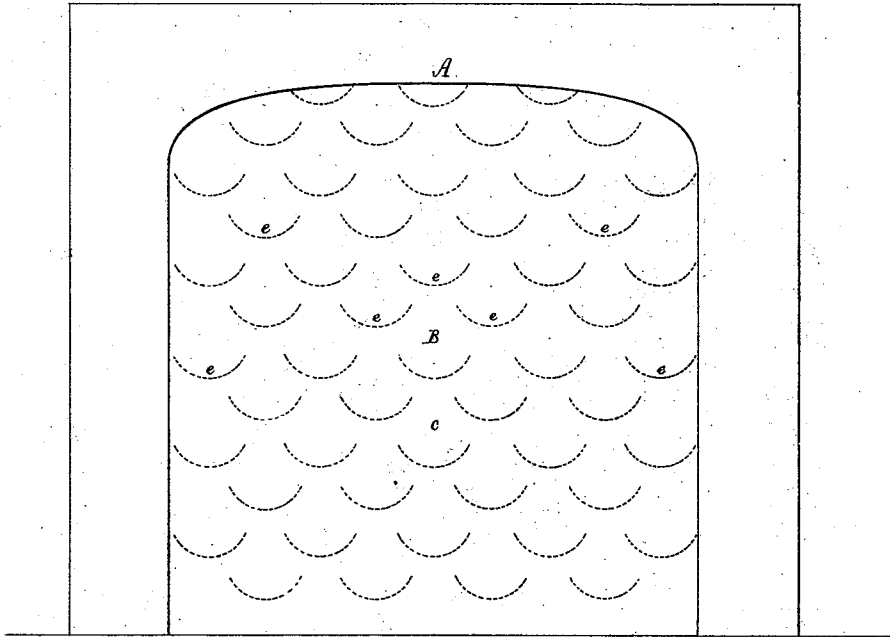


Fig. 2.

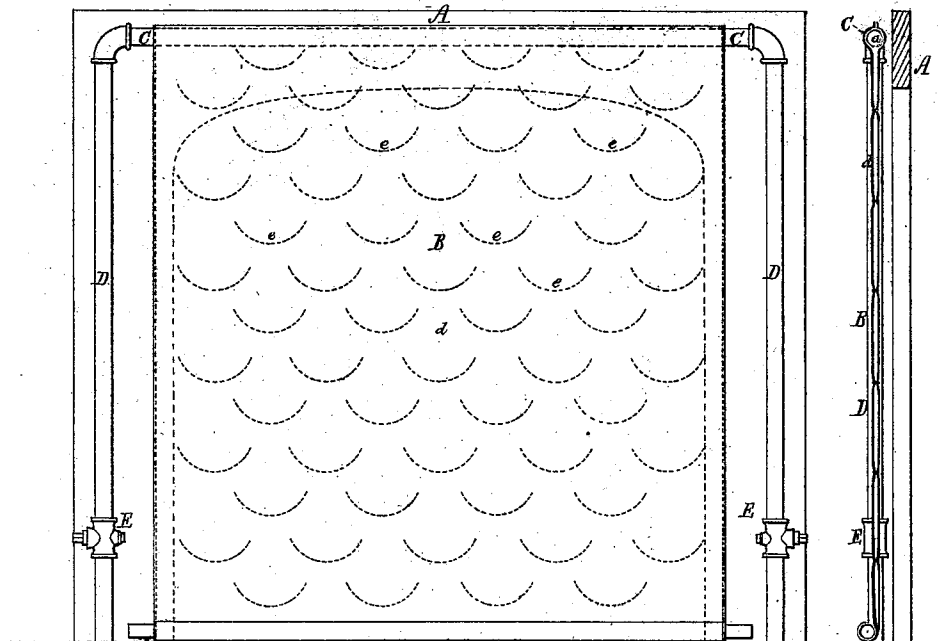
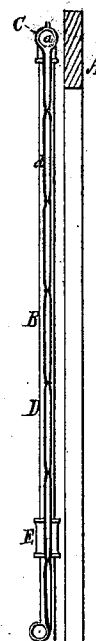


Fig. 3.



Witnesses
S. M. Piper
S. M. Miller

William D. Baker
by his attorney.
R. H. Eddy

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM D. BAKER, OF ROCKLAND, MASSACHUSETTS.

IMPROVEMENT IN FIRE-PROOF CURTAINS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,657**, dated January 30, 1877; application filed December 28, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM D. BAKER, of Rockland, of the county of Plymouth, of the State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Proof Curtains for Theaters; and do hereby declare the same to be described in the following specification and represented in the accompanying drawings, of which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation, Fig. 2 a rear elevation, and Fig. 3 a vertical and transverse section, of a theater-stage front and my new or improved drop-curtain applied thereto.

The object of my invention is to render the curtain fire-proof for the protection of persons, or whatever may be in front of the curtain, from fire, or the smoke or flame thereof when in rear of it.

In the drawings, A denotes the stage-front of a theater, provided with a drop-curtain, B, to its opening. This curtain, at its upper part, is suspended from and extended around a horizontal pipe, C, which, as shown, is supported by two vertical pipes or standards, D, D, which are continuations of the said pipe C, and are provided with stop-cocks E E. The pipe C is to be slotted or furnished with numerous holes *a*, for discharge of water from it into the curtain, and either or both of the pipes D is to be a conduit for supplying water under pressure to the pipe C. The said curtain I make of two strata or layers, *c d*, the front one, *c*, being a water-proof cloth, or cloth covered with india-rubber. The rear layer *d* I make of felt, or some suitable liquid-absorbent cloth, and I connect the two by curved ranges or stitches *e e e*, arranged as shown, whereby I

form pockets between the two for intercepting the water and aiding in retaining it in the felt layer.

The curtain, like such as are used in theaters, may have applied to it the usual drop-roller and suitable appliances for raising and depressing it.

In case of a fire or conflagration accidentally occurring on the stage or among the scenery thereof, the curtain should be dropped, and water at once should be discharged into or upon it by means of the pipe C and its induct or inducts. This water will be absorbed by the felt backing, and thereby render the curtain fire-proof and preventive of the passage of flame or smoke into the proscenium, thereby in most if not all cases affording an audience ample protection and time for escape from the building ere the fire may reach into the auditory.

My invention is applicable to drop-scenes as well as to curtains used over a theatrical stage.

I claim as my invention as follows:

1. The combination of an absorbent drop-curtain with a perforated pipe arranged with it for discharge of water into or upon its upper parts, as and for the purpose described.
2. The drop-curtain composed of the water-proof layer *c* and the absorbent layer *d*, connected at intervals, so as to form pockets between such layers, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

WILLIAM D. BAKER.

Witnesses:

R. H. EDDY,
J. R. SNOW.

500 words.