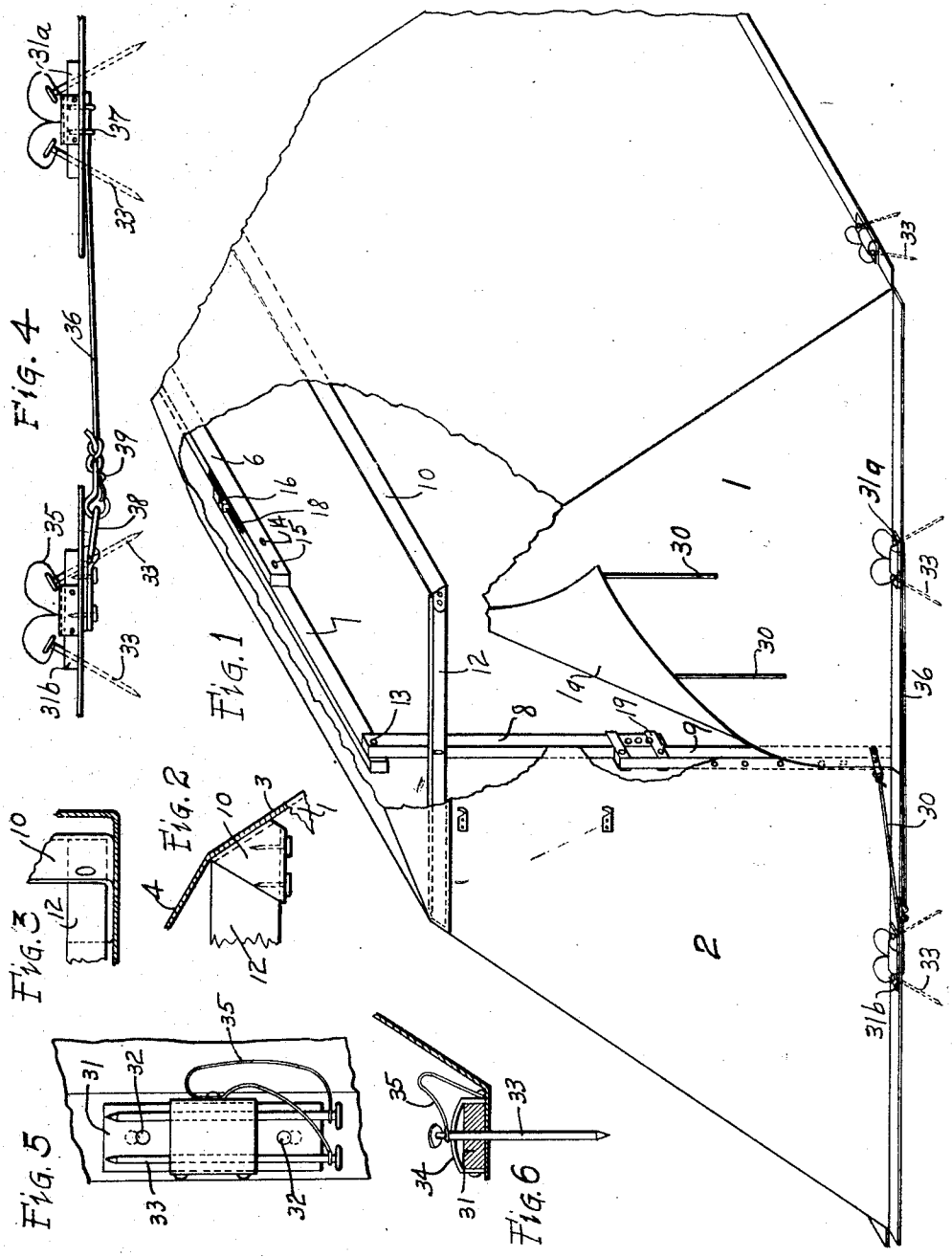
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TENT

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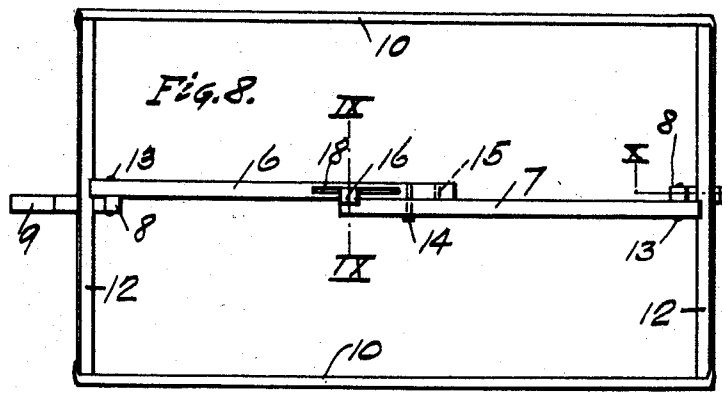

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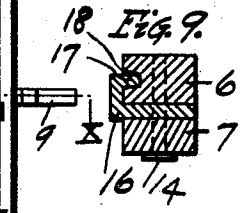
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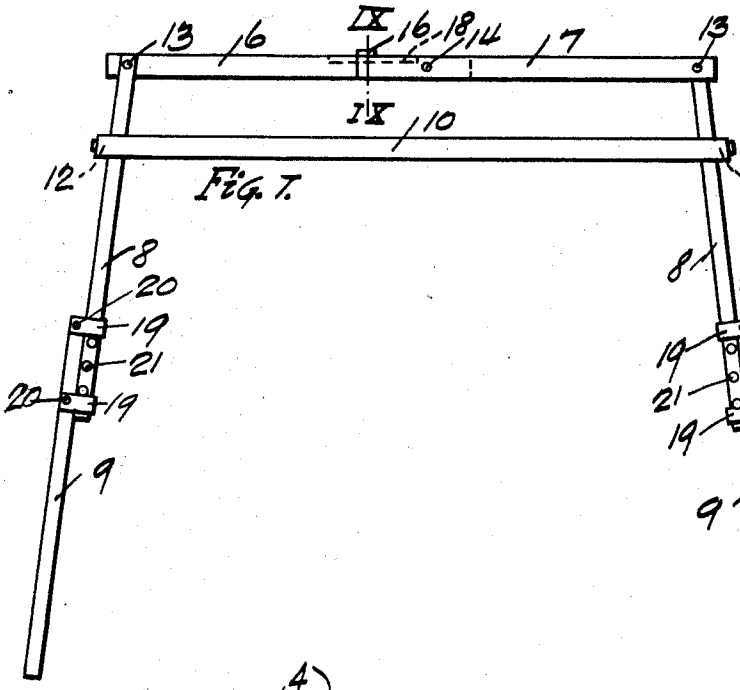
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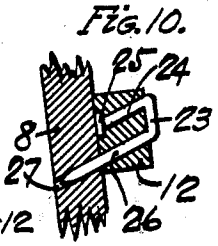
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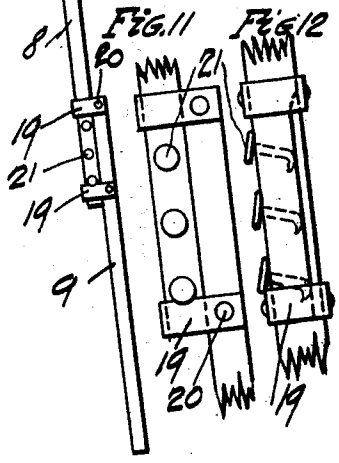
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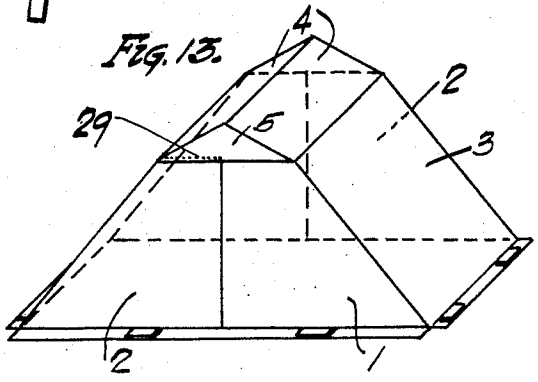



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Patented Sept. 1, 1925. 1,551,762

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLARD E. MARSH, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

## TENT.

Application filed August 4, 1923. Serial No. 655,602.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLARD E. MARSH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Memphis, county of Shelby, and the State of Tennessee, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tents, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, such as will enable anyone skilled in the art to make and use the same.

My invention relates especially to tents which may be compactly folded for purposes of transportation and which may be quickly and easily erected with a minimum of exertion and which when so erected will be secure.

The objects of my invention are,

First: To provide a tent covering which is adapted to be laid out on the ground and securely fastened thereto so that when the supporting frame is erected, the tent covering will brace and steady the frame against displacement and thereby form a secure and stable tent.

Second: To provide a frame for such a tent which is collapsible and which may be when in such collapsed condition, placed beneath the tent covering and be raised to support the tent covering as a tent and which may be adjusted to tighten and stretch the said tent covering and,

Third: To provide means for securing the tent covering in place which means will be simple and contain in themselves all the elements necessary therefor.

I accomplish these objects as will be more fully hereinafter set out in the drawings, specifications and claims.

In the drawings:

Fig. 1, is an end elevation of the tent erected as it appears with one flap partially open.

Fig. 2, is an enlarged detail of one end of one of the frame members in elevation, with the tent covering broken away to show construction of the same.

Fig. 3, is a plan view on the same enlarged scale of the same detail.

Fig. 4, is an enlarged detail, in elevation, of means at the bottom of the tent used in laying out the tent covering prior to erection thereof.

Fig. 5, is a plan view of one of the securing blocks on the same enlarged scale showing the block in position on the tent canvas, but with the securing pins in carrying position.

Fig. 6, is a section on the same scale through one of these blocks showing a securing pin driven.

Fig. 7, is a side elevation of the frame in erected position, with the tent covering removed.

Fig. 8, is a plan view of the frame under the same conditions.

Fig. 9, is an enlarged section taken on the line IX—IX of Fig. 7.

Fig. 10, is an enlarged fragmentary section taken on the line X—X of Fig. 8, (being the center line of the leg of the frame) to show a connection detail.

Figs. 11 and 12 are respectively enlarged front and side elevations on an enlarged scale of the joint in the frame leg to show means for securing same when extended and for adjusting the length of the same.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view on a reduced scale of the tent erected.

Referring now to the drawings in which the various parts are shown by the same numerals in all the views; the tent comprises a covering of canvas or other similar material, having front sections 1 and 2, sides 3, a roof section 4—4 and gable ends 5. This covering is supported by a frame comprising a central ridge pole, and two parallel side supports preferably of canvas. The ridge pole is made up of two pieces 6, 7 which are adapted to be supported at opposite sides by legs each made up of two members 8, 9, adapted to be slidably collapsed or extended as the case may be. Parallel canvas or rope side supports 10 are secured to the ends of and are stretched between oppositely disposed cross arms 12 which in turn are each adapted to be attached to (and detached from) and supported by one of the upper members 8 of the legs. One piece 6 of the ridge pole is attached to the upper end of one of the leg members 8 by means of a bolt or rivet 13 and is adapted to pivot around this bolt so that it may be brought when folded along side the member 8 of the leg to which it is attached. The other piece 7 of the ridge pole, is similarly fastened to the upper

member 8 of the other leg, and similarly folds along the same. The two ridge pole pieces 6 and 7 are adapted to be connected together at their free ends to form a continuous ridge pole by means of a pin 14 which projects from the side of the piece 7 near the free end thereof which may be slipped into one of several holes 15 near the free end of the other piece 6. 16 is an L-shaped clip securely attached at the same free end of the piece 7 which clip has a lug 17 adapted to engage a groove 18 in the top of the corresponding end of the piece 6, so that when the ridge pole pieces 6 and 7 are connected by means of the pin 14, and the clip 16, they form a ridge pole which resists the downward pull of the tent covering.

19 are U-shaped clips which are fastened in pairs to the upper end of the lower member 9 of each of the legs by means of bolts or rivets 20. These pairs of clips are adapted to surround the corresponding upper leg member 8 and permit the same to slide freely longitudinally therethrough. The lower end of these upper leg members is reduced in width and provided with pins 21 which are driven or screwed into the side of the member 9 opposite the reduced section with the heads projecting, the reduction in width being just sufficient to allow the heads of the pins to slip through the said clips 19, and provide for collapsing the leg. When extended the heads of any one of these pins 21 may be hooked over the top of the lower one of these clips 19 to hold the leg extended. It will also be noted by reference to Fig. 12 that the length of the reduced section of the leg member is such that when the lower one of the pins 21 is in engagement with the lower clip 19, the full section of the leg is within the upper clip 19, thus providing lateral stiffness. When a pin 21 is disengaged from the clips 19, the leg members may be displaced laterally and the leg may be collapsed completely at which time the length of the leg will be substantially equal to the length of one of the component members of the leg.

The cross arms 12 are each attachable to one of the upper leg members 8 by means of a pin 26 which is preferably part of a U shaped bolt 23 having one short leg 24 which is preferably provided with a rivet head 25 which secures it in the said arm 12. The other leg of the U forms the pin 26 which projects beyond the inner face of the arm 12 and is adapted to be inserted in a hole 27 in the leg member 8. The canvas or tape side supports 10 are securely fastened to and are stretched between the outer ends of these arms 12 to complete the support for the roof of the tent.

The canvas tent covering is securely sewed to the side supports 10 along the line where the sides 3 merge into the roof 4 and the lower portion of the front 2 is fastened to the lower member 9 of the leg by means of tacks or nails 28, the back of the tent being similarly secured to the opposite leg, it being noted from the reduced perspective drawing Fig. 13, that the section 2 of the back is diametrically opposite the section 2 of the front. The top of the front 2 is securely sewed to the gable end 5 as indicated by the stitching 29 in Fig. 13, and the same is true of the back of the tent. On the other hand, the front section 1, is not attached to the gable end 5, nor is the similar back section so attached nor are either of these sections attached to any portion of the tent leg. The part $1^a$ of the front section 1 may therefore be turned back along the dashed line *b* for use as a door and the back of the tent is preferably so made. This door or flap $1^a$ may be secured by means of hooks or buttons or by means of tie ropes 30.

When erected the bottom edge of the tent all the way around, is turned out as shown in Fig. 6 and is securely fastened to the ground by means of a number of securing pieces or blocks 31, each of which blocks is securely nailed to the edge of the tent in its predetermined location. Each of these blocks is provided with two oppositely inclined holes 32 and is adapted to be secured to the ground by means of two steel spikes 33 which spikes being driven through the inclined holes necessarily are driven at substantial angles to each other as disclosed in both Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. In order that these steel spikes may be always in place ready for use, I provide each block with a strip of canvas 34 nailed over the top thereof to form a loop or pocket through which the spikes may be slipped for carrying when not in use, as shown in Fig. 5. If desired, these spikes may additionally be secured by means of strings or flexible wires 35 which are tied around the nails just below the heads thereof, which strings are also securely attached to the block 31. The blocks $31^a$ and $31^b$ both front and back of the tent are fastened to the tent canvas vertically below the intersection of the roof and the sides 3 so that the line *b* around which the loose flap $1^a$ bends, will be substantially a vertical line.

In Figs. 1 and 4, I show a cord or rope 36 extending from the block $31^a$ to the block $31^b$. This rope may be a continuous rope securely attached to each of these blocks by some such means as the staples 37 (Fig. 4) or one section may be provided with a ring 38 into which a snap 39 may be hooked, the ring 38 being secured in any desired manner to one of the blocks as $31^b$ and the rope with the snap 39 on it being secured to the other of the blocks $31^a$. The purpose of this rope which as a matter of fact, may be a strap or a wire or any other

flexible member, is to give the proper distance apart of the sides of the tent during erection.

To erect the tent, it is laid out on the ground and the blocks 31 attached to either of the sides are securely nailed down to the ground by means of the spikes 33. The bottom of the opposite side is then pulled as far away as the limit rope 36 will allow and is similarly secured. One of the legs with one-half of the ridge pole attached is then raised in a substantially vertical position, the pin 26 on the corresponding arm 12 is slipped into the hole 27 provided therefor in the leg and the leg is then extended until the head of one of the pins 21 can be brought into engagement with the top of the lower clip 19. The opposite leg is then extended, with the opposite arm 12 in place and the pin 14 in the piece 7 of the ridge pole is slipped into one of the holes 15 in the piece 6 of the ridge pole. The center, of the ridge pole thus formed, is pushed upward allowing the clip 16 to slide past the piece 6 until it gets slightly above it when it is pushed over laterally and engaged in the groove 18, thus completing the first step in the erecting of the tent. If the tent as thus erected is not sufficiently taut, the ridge pole may be extended by disengaging the clip 16 from the groove 18 and moving the pin 14 to a hole 15 nearer the end of the piece 6 and then replacing the clip 16 in the groove 18. Also the legs may be raised by bringing additional pins 21 which are nearer the ends of the upper leg members 8, into engagement with the clip 19 thus lengthening the legs. The bottom end of the legs should then be forced outward to substantially the position shown in Fig. 7. That is, with the bottom ends of the legs slightly further apart than the top ends, and at the same time, the leg should be shifted into a vertical plane in the opposite direction.

At this stage of erection, it will be found that the top of the tent is still distorted and that the arms 12 will not have assumed ordinarily a horizontal position. These arms will then be brought to a horizontal position and it will be found that the tent will be in a truly symmetrical shape. The four clips $31^a$, $31^b$, two of which are in the front and two at the back of the tent are then tightly spiked down completing the erection thereof and giving a secure and rigid structure.

The tent is now ready for occupancy and if the flaps $1^a$ have been diametrically placed, the tent will be seen to have a door at the front and the back end, and susceptible of being divided by a curtain from the front leg to the back leg into two equal portions each provided with an independent door. To close the tent the flaps $1^a$ may either or both be secured for their entire height, or if desired, one or more of the fastening ties 30 beginning at the top may be left loose and a triangular flap be allowed to be turned back. Should it be so desired, all these fastenings may be left loose and the entire door flap be turned back. In either of these cases, it would of course be preferable to provide some form of screen closure for the opening.

It will be noted that various minor changes not detailed may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention, and that except as specifically hereinafter limited in the claims, it is not my intention to confine myself to the exact detail of contruction herein set out.

Having now fully described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:—

1. In a tent, the combination with the covering therefor, of fastening means comprising blocks secured to the lower edges of the covering each having a plurality of holes therethrough at diverging angles and pins adapted to be driven through said holes and guided thereby.

2. In a tent, the combination with the covering therefor, of fastening means comprising blocks secured to the lower edges of the covering, each having two holes therethrough at diverging angles and pins adapted to be driven through said holes and guided thereby.

3. In a tent, the combination with the covering therefor, of fastening means comprising rectangular blocks secured to the lower edges of the covering with their greatest length parallel thereto, each having holes therethrough near each end thereof, and at diverging angles, and pins adapted to be driven through said holes and guided thereby.

4. A tent comprising a covering, a frame therefor, and means for securing the covering to the ground; the said frame comprising two legs; two unitary cross arms attached at their ends to the said tent covering, one attachable to and detachable from each leg, near but below the top thereof; and a ridge pole in two sections, each section being hinged at one end to the top of a leg and having slidably adjustable means securing the opposite ends thereof against axial movement and downward flexure.

5. A tent comprising a covering, a frame therefor, and means for securing the covering to the ground; the said frame comprising two legs; two unitary cross arms attached at their ends to the said tent covering, one attachable to and detachable from each leg, near but below the top thereof; and a ridge pole in two sections, each section being secured at one end to the top of a leg and having slidably adjustable means for securing together the opposite ends thereof.

6. A tent, comprising a covering, a frame therefor, and means for securing the tent covering to the ground; the said frame comprising two slidably collapsible legs, means for locking the legs in an extended position; two unitary cross arms attached at their ends to the said tent covering, one attachable to and detachable from each leg, near but below the top thereof; and a ridge pole in two sections, each section being hinged at one end to the top of a leg and having slidably adjustable means for securing together the opposite ends thereof.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name.

WILLARD E. MARSH.