D. E. FITZGERALD.

CLOTHES PROTECTOR.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 25, 1915.

1,208,121.

Patented Dec. 12, 1916.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

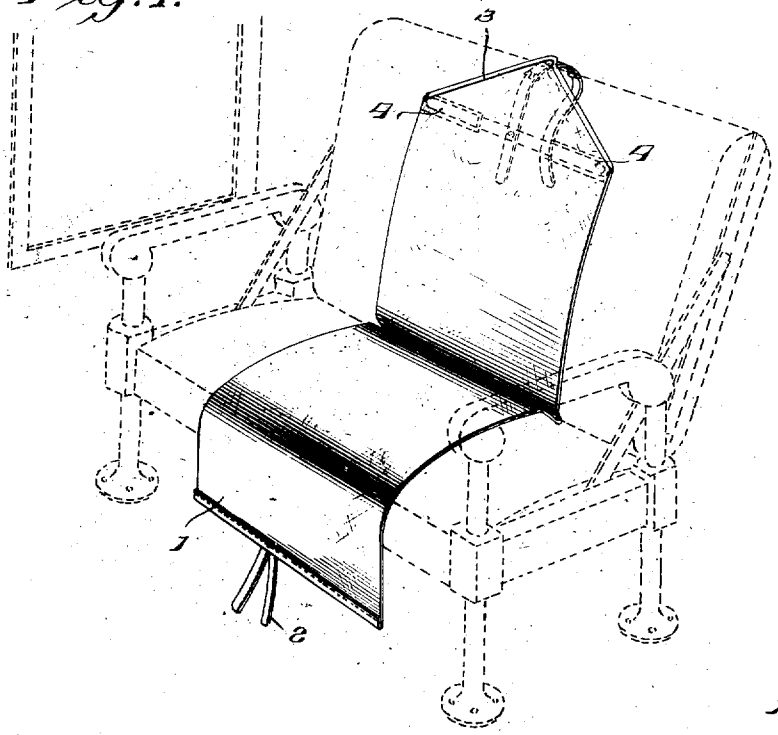


Fig. 2.

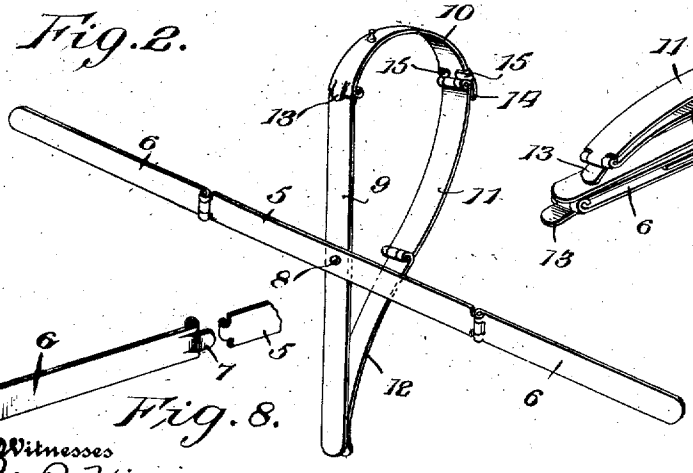


Fig. 8.

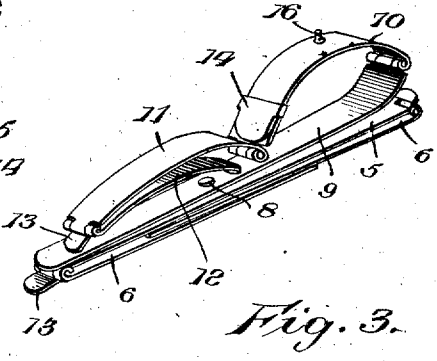


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 4.

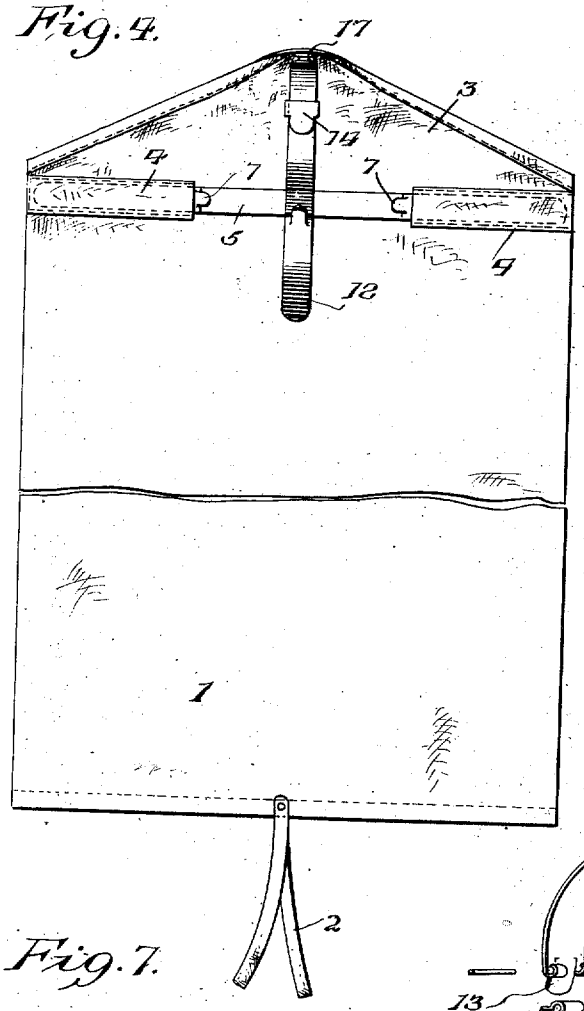


Fig. 5.

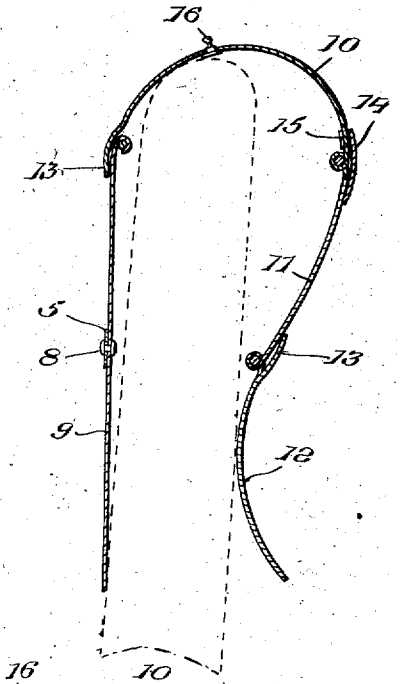


Fig. 7.

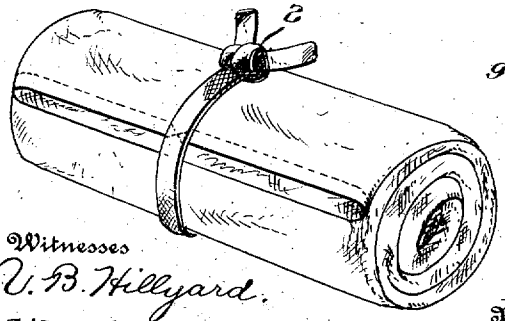
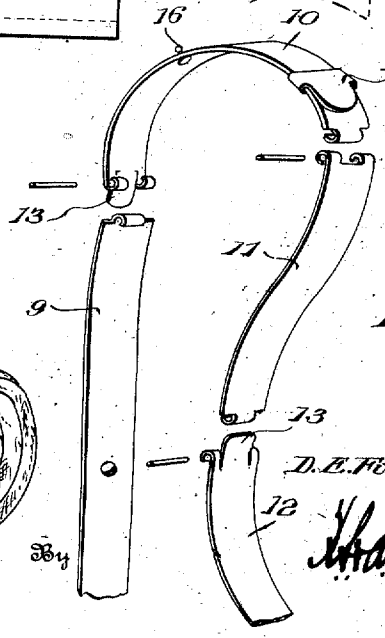


Fig. 6.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DANIEL E. FITZGERALD, OF ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA.

CLOTHES-PROTECTOR.

1,208,121. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 12, 1916.

Application filed February 25, 1915. Serial No. 10,557.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL E. FITZGERALD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ardmore, in the county of Carter and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Protectors, of which the following is a specification.

The seats of public carriers, such as railway cars operated by locomotives using bituminous coal are usually covered with soot, cinders, dust and the like which tend to soil the clothing of passengers occupying the same. Particularly is this the case when such seats are upholstered with plush and like material having a nap which tends to retain soot, cinders and the like settling thereon.

The present invention provides simple and effective means for covering the seat and thereby preventing the clothing of the passenger from becoming soiled by contact therewith.

The primary purpose of the invention is the provision of an article which may be conveniently carried and which when placed in position will not injure the seat or the part to which the protector is fitted, thereby preventing any objection being urged as to the use of the device.

The invention provides an article embodying an apron, a frame for holding the apron extended and a clip for attaching the protector to the seat, the apron being detachable from the frame to admit of its laundrying when required and the frame and clip being foldable so that the device as a whole may be reduced to a small package for convenience of carrying.

A further purpose of the invention is the provision of novel connecting means between the apron and frame whereby these parts may be easily and quickly placed together or separated, the apron being adapted to be formed into a roll for inclosing the frame and clip when the article is reduced to a compact form.

The invention has also for its object a frame and clip of sectional formation including joints which have a limited movement in one direction, as when the frame and clip are extended, and which are movable in the opposite direction to admit of the parts folding into a small space.

With these and other objects in view, which will readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the improved construction and novel arrangement and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter fully described and particularly claimed.

In the accompanying drawings has been illustrated a simple and preferred form of the invention, it being, however, understood that no limitation is necessarily made to the precise structural details therein exhibited, but that changes, alterations and modifications within the scope of the invention as claimed may be resorted to when desired.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the application of the invention to a seat such as generally provided in railway cars. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the frame and clip, the apron being detached and showing the relation of such parts when extended. Fig. 3 is a view of the parts shown in Fig. 2 illustrating their relation when folded. Fig. 4 is a rear view of the protector, an intermediate portion of the apron being broken away. Fig. 5 is a detail view indicating the position of the back of the seat when the device is in position. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the clip, the sections being separated. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the protector as it appears when formed into a small package for carrying. Fig. 8 is a detail view showing more clearly the joint formed between the sections of the frame, the parts comprising the joint being separated.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

The protector comprises an apron 1 which is preferably of textile and may be of any length and width. The bottom edge of the apron is hemmed or otherwise reinforced and provided with tapes or strings 2 which may be wrapped about the package and formed into a knot for securing the same, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 7. The upper end of the apron is made tapering, as indicated at 3, such tapered portion constituting a flap which is adapted to be attached at its free end to the clip, thereby fixing the position of the clip and holding the flap extended. Transversely alining pockets 4 are

formed at opposite edges of the apron at the base of the flap 3 and these pockets are preferably disposed upon the rear side of the apron and are spaced apart a distance to admit of the frame being easily placed in position or removed. The open ends of the pockets 4 face inward and their outer ends are closed, thereby preventing movement of the frame when the same is in place. By disposing the pockets upon the rear side of the apron the latter is adapted to extend over and conceal the frame and also prevent direct contact of the frame with the head of the user. The apron is of a width to insure ample protection and is of a length to extend along the back, bottom and front of the seat, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 1. A portion of the apron is tucked into the space formed in the back and bottom of the seat, as shown most clearly in Fig. 1, thereby assisting materially in holding the apron in proper position.

The frame is of sectional formation and comprises a middle member 5 and end members 6, the several members being hingedly connected to admit of reducing the size of the frame to a convenient form for carrying. The members 5 and 6 are hingedly connected and are limited in their movements in one direction so as to hold the members in alinement. The end members 6 are adapted to fold upon the inner member 5 and when extended are limited in their outward movement by means of stops 7 which overlap the hinged joints. As shown most clearly in Fig. 8 the members 5 and 6 are formed with matching eyes which are adapted to receive a pintle, one of the members, as 6, having a portion extended beyond its extremity to overlap the hinged joint and engage with the member 5 and limit the unfolding of the member 6. The stop 7 consists of a tongue which forms a part of the member 6. When the end members 6 are extended the tongues or stops 7 engage the rear side of the middle member 5 and limit the unfolding of the members 6 and hold the several members in line. The end members 6 are fitted in the pockets 4 and are adapted to be introduced into or removed from such pockets by flexing the frame so as to bring the end members 6 at an angle to the middle member 5. When placing the frame in position or removing the same from the apron, edge portions of the latter are deflected to conform to the angle of the members 6, whereby the latter may be slipped into or removed from the pockets.

The clip has the form of a hook and is pivotally connected to the frame at 8 to admit of the clip being turned so as to aline with the frame when the parts are folded, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 3. The clip comprises a shank 9, a bight 10, and a bill embodying sections 11 and 12. The several parts are hingedly connected to admit of the clip folding into compact form, as indicated in Fig. 3. The abutting ends of the several parts are formed with matching eyes in which are fitted pintles. The parts 9 and 10 and 11 and 12 are connected in substantially the same manner as the members of the frame, that is, the joints are formed with stops or tongues 13 which correspond in construction, function and operation with the stops 7 of the frame members 6. The bill portion of the clip is constructed so as to flex in both directions which is necessary to admit of the compact folding of the clip, hence it is necessary to stiffen the joint and limit the swinging movement of the bill portion in an outward direction. This is accomplished by means of a lock 14 which is slidable upon one of the parts, as the element 10. An end portion of the lock 14 projects so as to overlap the joint formed between the elements 10 and 11 and limit the outward movement of the part 11. The lock 14 is slidable upon the part 10 and is preferably retained in place thereon by means of tongues 15 which are bent about opposite edge portions of the part 10 in such a manner as to prevent binding but yet admit of a sliding movement of the lock upon the part 10. The shank portion 9 of the clip is pivoted to the middle member 5 of the frame, thereby admitting of the clip being turned into the plane of such frame. The outer section 12 folds upon the section 11 and when the lock 14 is slid back upon the part 10 the elements 10 and 11 are adapted to fold upon the shank, as indicated in Fig. 3, after which opposite edge portions of the apron may be folded inward and the apron formed into a roll and made secure by means of the tapes or strings 2, as indicated in Fig. 7. The part 10 is provided with a stud 16 which is adapted to cooperate with a socket 17 provided upon the end of the flap 3. The parts 16 and 17 constitute elements of a separable or snap fastening. When the parts are in operative position, as indicated in Fig. 1, the clip is held from turning about the pivot fastening 8 by means of the flap 3 when the fastening member 17 thereof is engaged with the complemental member 16, such flap serving as a brace to hold the clip in the required position.

When the protector is unfolded it is retained in place by engaging the clip over the upper end of the back of the seat, as indicated in Figs. 1 and 5, the apron being extended so as to cover the part of the back, bottom and front of the seat intended to be occupied by the person, thereby preventing the clothing from becoming soiled by contact with the upholstering which is usually laden with soot, cinders, dust and the like. When not in use the protector may be

quickly folded into a compact form for convenience of carrying in the pocket, satchel or the like, as indicated in Fig. 7.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new is:—

A protector of the character set forth comprising an apron having alined transverse pockets on one face at its opposite edges and near one end, the face of the apron between the pockets being clear, a foldable frame having its ends inserted in the pockets, a clip comprising a shank pivoted to said frame at the center thereof and adapted to extend toward the adjacent end of the apron, a bight member hinged to the shank to fold to the same or extend therefrom over the back of a seat, a bill member hinged to the bight member, a terminal bill member hinged to the first-mentioned bill member to fold between the same and the shank or to extend therefrom and bear against the back of a seat, and interengaging means on the apron and bight member to detachably connect the apron to the clip whereby both the apron and the clip will be held extended.

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

DANIEL E. FITZGERALD. [L. S.]

Witnesses:
J. C. BARR,
C. C. LYNCH.