Oct. 16, 1928. 1,688,241

R. S. LAFOON

WEATHER SHIELD

Filed Oct. 24, 1927

Fig. 1.

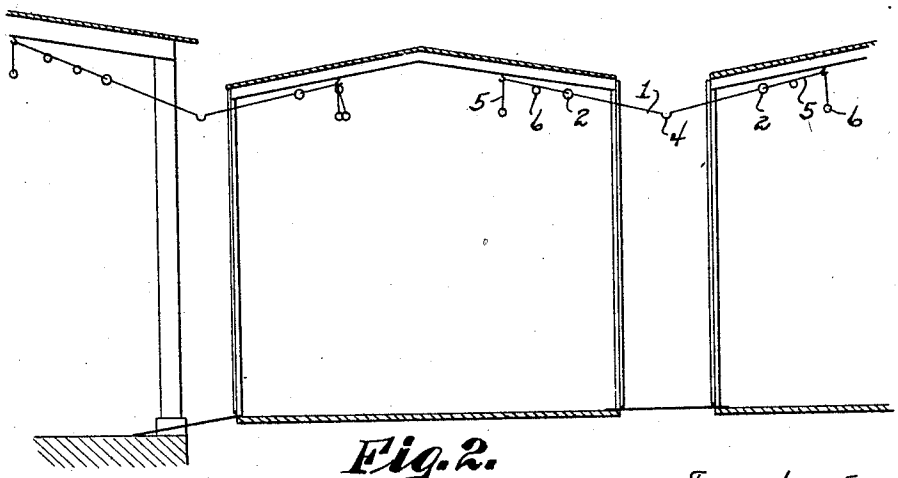


Fig. 2.

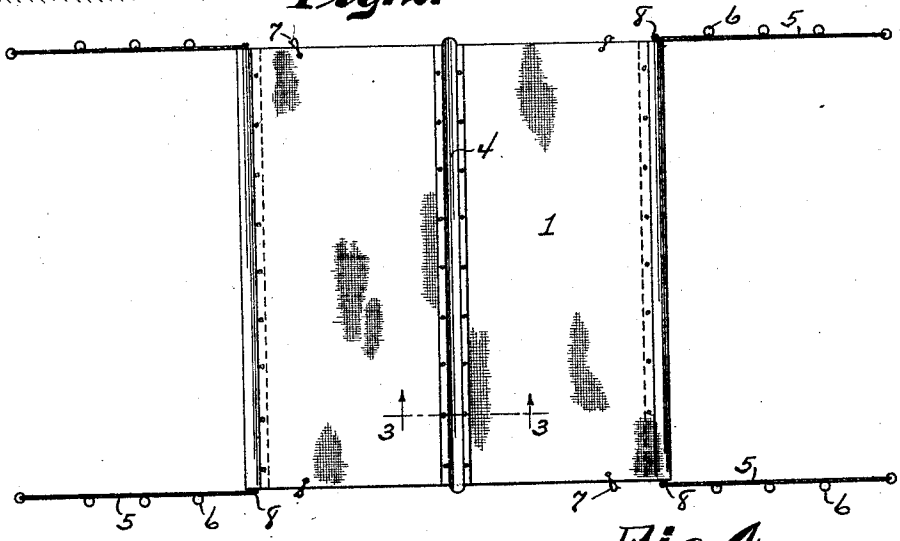


Fig. 3.

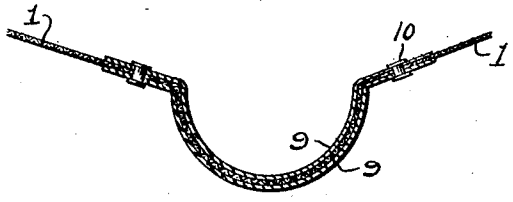
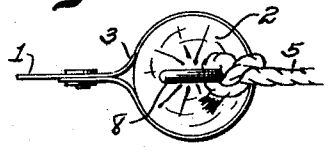


Fig. 4.



Richard S. Lafoon
INVENTOR

BY Victor J. Evans
ATTORNEY

WITNESS: John Donovan

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD S. LAFOON, OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.

WEATHER SHIELD.

Application filed October 24, 1927. Serial No 228,428.

This invention relates to a weather shield for freight cars, the general object of the invention being to provide a roofing for the space between the doors of two box cars placed side by side or between a car and a station or warehouse so as to prevent rain or snow from falling upon the gang boards, from where it would find its way into the cars, and the roofing also protects persons passing between the cars.

Another object of the invention is to so form the shield that it can be adjusted to properly bridge the space between cars of various types, with means whereby the shield can be easily and quickly put in place and taken down.

A still further object is to provide the device with a centrally arranged gutter for directing the water falling upon the device to the sides thereof.

This invention also consists in certain other features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, to be hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings and specifically pointed out in the appended claims.

In describing my invention in detail, reference will be had to the accompanying drawings wherein like characters denote like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic view showing the invention in use between two cars and between a car and a station.

Figure 2 is a plan view of the device.

Figure 3 is a section on line 3—3 of Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a detail view showing the eye bolt at the end of one of the rods, to which the cord or cable is attached.

As shown in these views, the device is formed of a sheet 1 of canvas or the like having a rod 2 placed in a hem 3 at each side edge of the device and a gutter 4 at the center of the device for directing water falling on the sheet off the ends thereof. The device also includes a cord or cable 5 fastened to each end of each rod 2 and having rings 6 attached thereto for engaging hooks or other fastening means in the car or freight house. As shown in Figure 1, the cords are so fastened that the sheet passes through the door openings and slopes downwardly from each edge to the center so that rain or snow will fall on the sheet and the resultant water will flow down the sloping portions into the gutter which will direct it off the ends of the sheet. Thus rain or snow will be prevented from falling upon the gang boards between the cars from where the rain or snow water would find its way into the cars and the device will also protect persons passing between the cars and between a car and the station or freight house.

By providing a plurality of rings 6 on each cable, the parts can be so adjusted when fastened in the cars that the device will be properly positioned even when placed between two cars of different types or styles.

In order to provide means for further adjustment, I place a hook 7 adjacent each corner of the sheet, so that by rolling a portion of the sheet on each rod and then fastening the hooks in the eyelets 8 on the ends of the rods, the sheet will be held with parts rolled upon the rods and thus the width of the sheet will be shortened so that it can be used between cars, the sides of which come close together. I attach the cords 5 to these eyelets 8.

I prefer to form the gutter 4 of two strips 9 of metal or the like which are of gutter shape and which are placed one above and the other below the central portion of the sheet 1 and then the parts are riveted together, as shown at 10.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I have provided simple means for covering the space between freight cars and the like, above the doorways, so as to prevent rain or snow entering the space at the doorways which not only protects persons passing between the cars, but also prevents rain or snow falling upon the gang boards. The device can easily be put in place and removed and it can be adjusted to suit cars of different types and styles.

It is thought from the foregoing description that the advantages and novel features of my invention will be readily apparent.

It is to be understood that I may make changes in the construction and in the combination and arrangement of the several parts, provided that such changes fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What I claim is:—

1. A weather shield for bridging the space between two structures, comprising a flexible sheet sloping from its edges to its center, a gutter of rigid material at the center of the sheet, rods connected with the edges of the sheet and flexible members connected with

the ends of the rods and adapted to be attached to parts of the structures.

2. A weather shield for bridging the space between two structures, comprising a flexible sheet sloping from its edges to its center, a gutter of rigid material at the center of the sheet, rods connected with the edges of the sheet, a cable connected with each end of each rod, spaced rings on each cable, a hook adjacent each corner of the sheet at the end thereof and means on the ends of the rods for engaging the hooks when portions of the sheet have been rolled upon the rods to decrease the width of the sheet.

3. In combination with a pair of structures spaced apart, a member extending over the upper part of the space, means for connecting the edges of the member to interior parts of the structures and a gutter carried by the member and arranged between the structures with the parts of the member at the sides of the gutter sloping downwardly to the gutter.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

RICHARD S. LAFOON.