(No Model.)

J. F. FERGUSON.

TOBOGGAN.

No. 350,123. Patented Oct. 5, 1886.

Fig. 1.

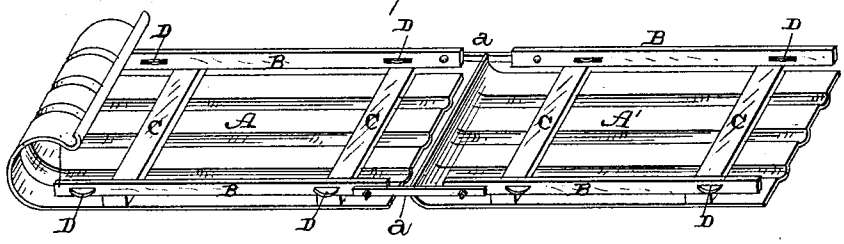
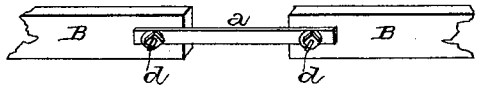


Fig. 2.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES F. FERGUSON, OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT.

TOBOGGAN.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 350,123, dated October 5, 1886.

Application filed March 6, 1886. Serial No. 194,242. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES F. FERGUSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Burlington, in the county of Chittenden and State of Vermont, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Toboggans or Coasters, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to improvements in toboggans or coasters; and the objects of my improvements are, first, to enable them to more readily conform to sudden changes in the angle of the inclined plane—down which gravity impels them—by constructing them in sections, which are connected together by suitable hinges so made as to allow the several sections to move freely vertically independent of each other, and, second, to prevent their ends from coming into violent contact with the sides of the chute by means of revolving fenders, which project from the sides of the vehicle and accomplish their object without any modification of the speed or causing any shock to the operator. I accomplish these objects by the construction shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my toboggan, and Fig. 2 an enlarged view of one of the iron straps connecting the sections of the toboggan.

A is the forward section of my toboggan or coaster, preferably constructed of metal, with longitudinal corrugations in its under surface and provided with the usual side bars or rails, B B, and transverse cleats C C. As the angle of the descent of the chute or first part of the incline is frequently much greater than that of the more level or remaining portion of the slide in order that the toboggan or coaster may be given the impetus required to carry it the entire length of the slide, the forward end of the toboggan or coaster is forced to strike the surface of the more level portion of the slide at the point of intersection of the two planes, often with a force sufficient to break or otherwise damage that portion of the vehicle, and thus greatly endanger the persons of the occupants. This is particularly liable to occur to the longer toboggans or coasters, especially if they are heavily loaded. To overcome this difficulty I construct my toboggan or coaster in sections, A A′, each of which should not exceed three or four feet in length. The front end of the forward section, A, is curved upwardly in the usual manner, while the front end of the section following is only turned upward sufficiently far to avoid frictional contact with the surface of the slide. The two sections are then connected together as closely as is possible by suitable hinges, which shall allow each section to move vertically in either direction independent of each other.

In Fig. 2 I have illustrated the hinge in the form of iron straps *a a* on the side of the bars or rails B B, which are secured to their respective bars by means of bolts *b b*, which pass through the ends of the straps *a a* and the bars B B, and are held in place by nuts and washers *d d*, thus pivoting each section to the ends of its respective straps. I do not, however, confine myself to this particular form of hinge, as other devices which admit of a free vertical movement of each section may be adopted without affecting the spirit of my invention. By this arrangement the number of sections may be increased, and thus accommodate as many persons as is desired or convenient. If, as is often customary, the section is cushioned, the space intervening between each section is so slight as not to be noticed.

To guard the ends of the toboggan or coaster from striking the sides of the chute, and thus prevent injury to any projecting portion of the person, as well as the violent turning of the vehicle and possible overturning of its load, I attach to the outside of its extremities suitable wheels or rollers, D D, so placed that they may be readily revolved by coming into contact with the sides of the chute, by means of which the vehicle can be easily directed and retained in its proper course and the steerer the more easily enabled to closely follow any curve in the direction of the slide.

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A toboggan or coaster constructed in sections so hinged together that each section has an independent vertical movement, substantially as described.

2. A toboggan or coaster consisting of two or more hinged sections, A A′, the front end

of each being curved upward sufficiently to avoid frictional contact with the surface of the slide, substantially as specified.

3. In combination with a toboggan or coaster, the revolving fenders D D, attached to the exterior surface of its sides, substantially as described, and for the purpose set forth.

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

JAMES F. FERGUSON.

Witnesses:
CHARLES E. ALLEN,
L. F. WILBUR.