

No. 748,164.

PATENTED DEC. 29, 1903.

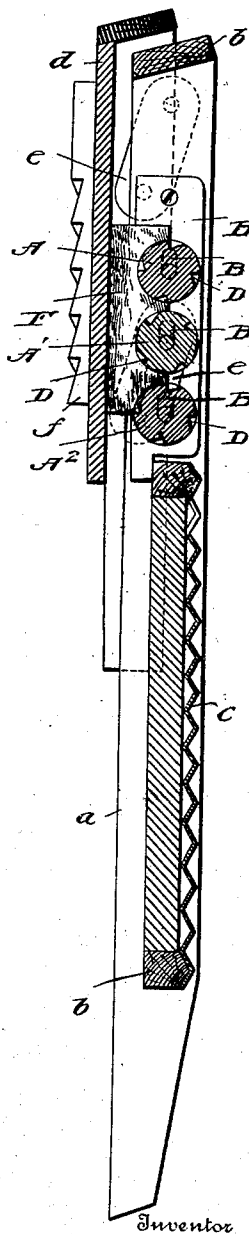
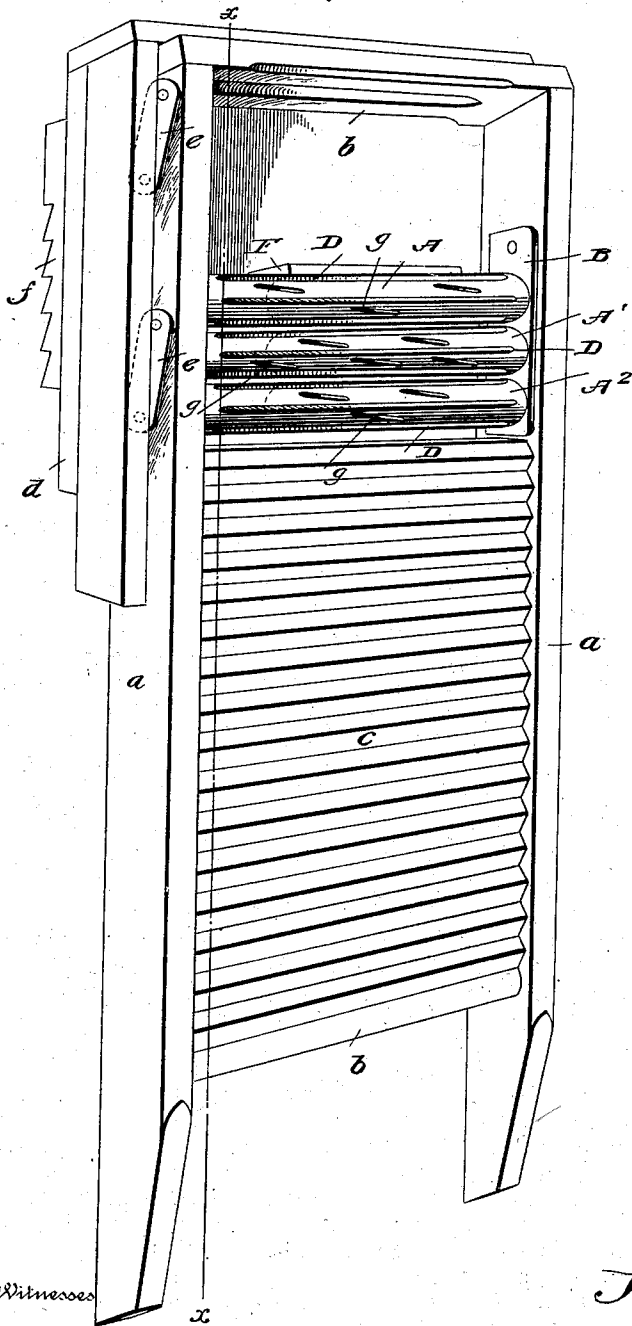
J. L. CONNER.
WASHBOARD.

APPLICATION FILED NOV. 29, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2



Inventor

John L. Conner

J. Walter Fowler
his Attorney

Witnesses

Chapman N. Fowler

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. CONNER, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHBOARD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 748,164, dated December 29, 1903.

Application filed November 29, 1902, Serial No. 133,177. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. CONNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Washboards, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in washboards; and a particular object of the invention is to provide the board with an improved means whereby particles of soap are automatically fed to the clothes during the rubbing operation.

The invention consists of the parts and the construction and combination of parts which I will hereinafter describe and claim.

In the accompanying drawings, forming part of the specification, and in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a washboard embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line *x x* of Fig. 1.

In carrying out my invention I may employ any of the usual and well-known types of washboards used for laundry purposes, as my invention is essentially in the form of an attachment capable of application to the several types of boards and adapted to be fitted in the space above the rubbing-surface and between the sides of the board, where the bar or piece of soap used in washing is usually placed.

The washboard herein shown for purposes of illustration consists of the frame composed of side members *a*, top and bottom cross-bars *b*, a rubbing-surface *c*, and a back attachment or board *d*, connected to the outer surfaces of the sides *a* by pivoted links *e*, said board *d* having ratchet-shaped bars *f* to engage the top of the tub and said links allowing the back attachment to adjust the board in the manner common to this class of devices. The board thus shown and described being old and well-known prior to my invention, I do not claim the same independent of the attachment and means I will hereinafter describe. Neither do I limit my real invention to this board or to any particular frame of board or rubbing-surface.

The improvement I have made to the wash-

board includes a plurality of rollers *A A' A²*, extending, preferably, full across the space above the rubbing-surface *c* between the sides *a* and having their ends suitably journaled. Where the device is to be used as an attachment for the boards now in use, I will employ as a part of said attachment the side plates *B*, having elongated slots *B'*, in which the ends of the roller-pintles are loosely mounted, said plates *B* being screwed or otherwise fastened to the inner surfaces of the sides *a* of the washboard.

The rollers have such diameter relative to the width of the side bars *a* that the circumference of the rollers is substantially in the plane of the rubbing-surface of the board, said rollers forming substantially a continuation of the upper end of said rubbing-surface, the clothes being alternately dragged and pushed over the rollers to cause rotation of the latter as the rubbing process is proceeded with. The rollers are also longitudinally grooved, as at *D*, and a preferred though not essential form of the groove is ratchet-shaped to provide a cutting edge which sweeps past the bar or cake of soap and by a cutting action removes a shaving or film of soap from the cake or block and transfers it to the clothes.

The bar or cake of soap is shown at *F*, and it occupies the space between the rear of the rollers and the front wall of the back attachment of the board. Being thus confined between the stationary and movable members of the board, the soap is substantially clamped in place, and as pressure is brought upon the board during the rubbing process the rollers are held in such contact with the cake or bar of soap that when said rollers are rotated by the action of drawing or pushing the clothes over them the walls of the grooves of the rollers cut into the surface of the cake or bar and shave off small but sufficient amounts of soap to insure the proper amount of soapy water or suds for the cleansing of the clothes. As the surface of the soap bar or cake is removed and the thickness of the bar or cake reduced the rubbing pressure causes the front and back portions of the board to come closer together, swinging upon the links *e*, thus insuring the clamping of the cake or bar under all conditions and until it is actually

cut through by the rollers. In other words, the swinging back member continually feeds the soap bar or cake to the rollers and the latter remove and feed the portions of soap to the clothes. In addition to being longitudinally grooved the peripheries of the rollers may be roughed by oblique or other grooves interspersed between the lines of longitudinal grooving.

10 Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a washboard, the combination of side bars, a rubbing-surface, and a swinging back,

of a plurality of parallel, grooved rollers in front of the said back and arranged in the space between said side bars above the rubbing-surface said rollers forming an upper continuation of the rubbing-surface and said movable back being adapted to hold a bar or piece of soap in contact with the rollers. 15 20

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN L. CONNER.

Witnesses:

T. WALTER FOWLER,
CHAPMAN W. FOWLER.