W. C. ROWLAND.

EXTENSIBLE HEM.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1910.

982,878. **Patented Jan. 31, 1911.**

Fig. 1.

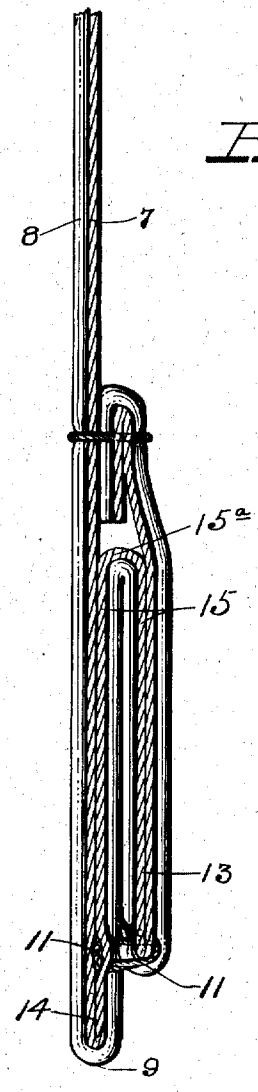


Fig. 2.

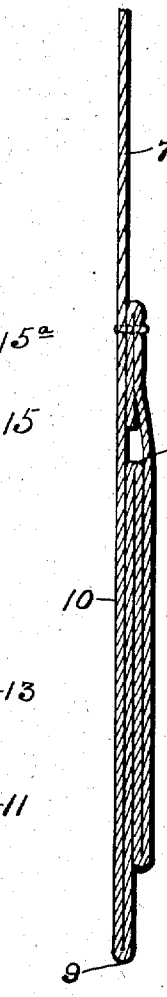


Fig. 3.

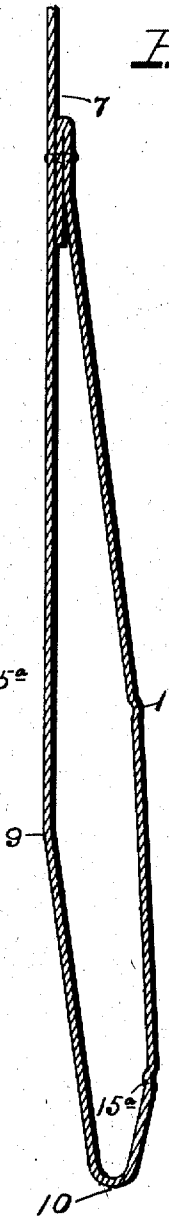


Fig. 4.

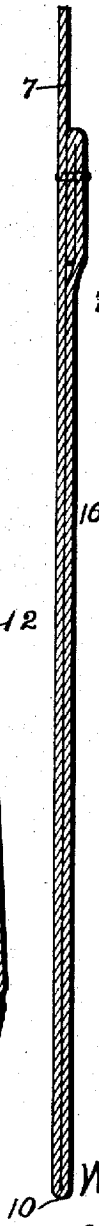
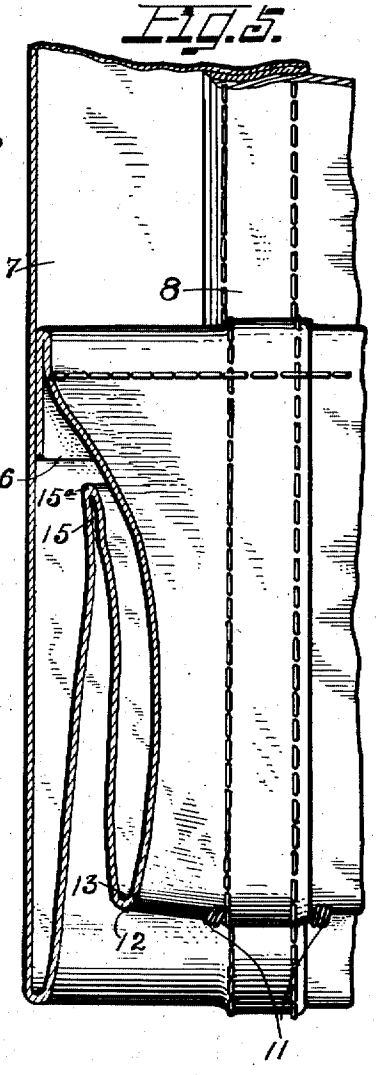


Fig. 5.



Witnesses,
George H. Buck,
E. B. Hemingway.

Inventor,
William C. Rowland.
By Sterling P. Buck, Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. ROWLAND, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

EXTENSIBLE HEM.

982,878. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Jan. 31, 1911.

Application filed April 12, 1910. Serial No. 555,017.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. ROWLAND, a citizen of the United States, residing at Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Extensible Hems, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to "apparel", and especially to the subclass, "nether-garments", and has for its object to provide a means for lengthening the sleeves and legs of garments without the necessity of ripping and resewing the hem thereof.

The invention is primarily intended for application to washable garments, such as duck trousers; but is applicable to other trousers and to sleeves; and therefore, its application is not limited to any specific class of sleeves or legs of garments.

In the following, a full and clear description of the invention is given; reference being had to the drawings, which form part of this application, and in which similar numerals designate similar parts throughout the several views, and in which,—

Figure 1 is a fragmental vertical section of a trouser leg adjacent to a side seam of said trouser leg, at the bottom hem, the trousers being ready to wear before being washed and extended. Fig. 2 is a similar section taken intermediate of the side seams, the trousers being compactly pressed. Fig. 3 is a section on the same line as Fig. 2, the trousers being in a stage of the lengthening process. Fig. 4 is a section on the same line as that of Figs. 2 and 3, the trousers having been lengthened and pressed; and,—Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a fragmental section, the folds of cloth being separated at the sectioned edges thereof. All the views are on a greatly enlarged scale.

In these drawings, the numeral 7, designates the portion of a trouser leg, external to and extending above the hem. This said portion will hereinafter be designated as the "body portion." The side seam of said trousers is designated 8, and the portion which primarily forms the lower extremity of the hem, 9. After lengthening, by letting out the hem, the lower portion is 10.

In the manufacture of garments embodying this invention, the lower hem thereof is made substantially as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of the drawings, and of a length sufficient to allow for usual shrinkage, the hem being of sufficient width to be folded within itself, thereby decreasing the length of the garment to its proper measurement. This inwardly folded portion will hereinafter be known as the "intermediate fold" 15, and this fold merges into an outer fold 14, and into an inner fold 13; the latter said fold extending upward and being secured by proper means to the interior of the said "body portion"; the outer fold being an extension of said body portion.

The manner in which each fold merges into each succeeding one is clearly obvious and needs no further description, save to specify that the entire construction is of a single piece.

Any proper means may be employed for retaining these folds in proper relation; but the means here shown and described, is that of several stitches on each side of the side seam of the garment, as at 11.

The lower extremity 12, of the inner fold 13, is preferably higher than that of the outer fold 14, and it is preferable that the intermediate fold 15, shall not overlap the downturned edge 16. The relation between this down-turned portion and its adjuncts is such that the former serves to graduate the thickness of the upper portion of the hem, to prevent an unsightly ridge from appearing exteriorly of the garment, opposite to the top of the inner fold, at 15^a, and to obviate an internal abrupt ridge opposite to said 15^a which would increase the wear at that point.

By the construction shown, the intermediate fold is held in place by the inner and outer folds and by the stitches 11.

The object stated for this invention is most satisfactorily attained by the following course of procedure:—viz.,—Before washing the trousers, or garment, comprising this invention, the stitches 11, should first be severed and the intermediate fold extended as in Fig. 3; thereby allowing free access of the washing materials to all the parts. After washing, the hem should be pressed out into a single hem as in Fig. 4, whereby it would appear that the garment would be lengthened to approximately equal the distance between points 9 and 10; but owing to shrinkage of the cloth, the length before washing and after, will be

equal, provided the amount of shrinkage of the cloth has been properly reckoned and dealt with.

Be it understood that while this invention is especially applicable to washable trousers, its scope is only limited by its applicability.

I do not claim broadly an inner, an outer and an intermediate fold in this connection.

I claim,—

In a garment, a hem comprising a single piece of material, said hem being folded within itself, the folded-in portion being secured between the inner and outer portions of said hem by groups of stitches spaced apart at proper intervals, an edge of said material being turned down and secured between the inner and outer portions of said hem, said edge terminating above and adjacent to the said folded in portion.

WILLIAM C. ROWLAND.

Witnesses:

HERMAN WEBER,

HARRY R. ROWLAND.