B. L. BITTING.

STAY FOR HOOPS.

No. 192,970. Patented July 10, 1877.

Fig. 1

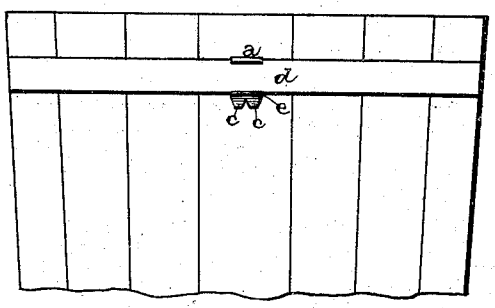


Fig. 2.

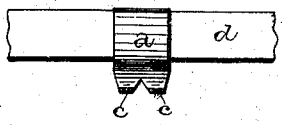


Fig. 3.

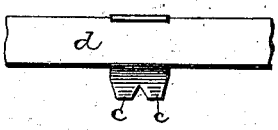


Fig. 4.

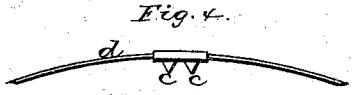


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

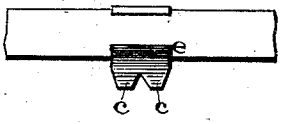


Fig. 7.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN L. BITTING, OF RURAL HALL, NORTH CAROLINA.

IMPROVEMENT IN STAYS FOR HOOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **192,970**, dated July 10, 1877; application filed June 14, 1877.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN L. BITTING, of Rural Hall, in the county of Forsyth and State of North Carolina, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stay or Prop for Hoops; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification.

My invention relates to an improved stay or prop for hoops; and it consists in a strip of sheet metal having its lower end made sharp or pointed, so that it can be driven into the side of the cask, while the upper part is bent so as to form a prop or support for the hoop, so as to prevent it from falling off the cask or vessel in case of shrinkage, as will be more fully described hereinafter.

The accompanying drawings represent my invention.

a represents a strip of sheet metal, the lower end of which is formed into one or more sharp points, *c*, while the upper portion is bent as shown, so as to form a support or prop for the hoop *d*. The upper end of this strip *a* is turned over so as to grasp the upper edge of the hoop, while the lower edge of the hoop is supported upon the shoulder *e*. Before the hoops are tightened upon the bucket, barrel, or other vessel, these props are inserted between the barrel and the hoop, and then the hoop is forced into position. The points of the strip are then forced or pressed into the side of the vessel, so as to prevent the strip from slipping down again, and as long as this strip is held in position it is impossible for the hoop to move either backward or forward. In case the vessel should shrink and the hoops become loose, the hoops, instead of dropping off, as they usually do, will be held in position. In case it should be desired to tighten the hoops, the points will be loosened from the cask or vessel, and then the hoop and the prop forced upward to a suitable distance, and then the points again driven into the sides, as before.

By means of this device hoops can never come off of vessels of any kind, however much a vessel may shrink, or how loose the hoops may become, and the vessel will therefore always be kept from falling to pieces.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

A metallic strip, *a*, having one or more points on its lower end, a shoulder to support the hoop, and a turned-over edge at the top, the strip being adjustable upon the side of the pail, all substantially as shown and described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 6th day of June, 1877.

BENJAMIN LEWIS BITTING.

Witnesses:

T. H. BAIN,

E. D. KIGER.