(No Model.)

A. H. LARKIN.

SADDLE PAD.

No. 548,372. Patented Oct. 22, 1895.

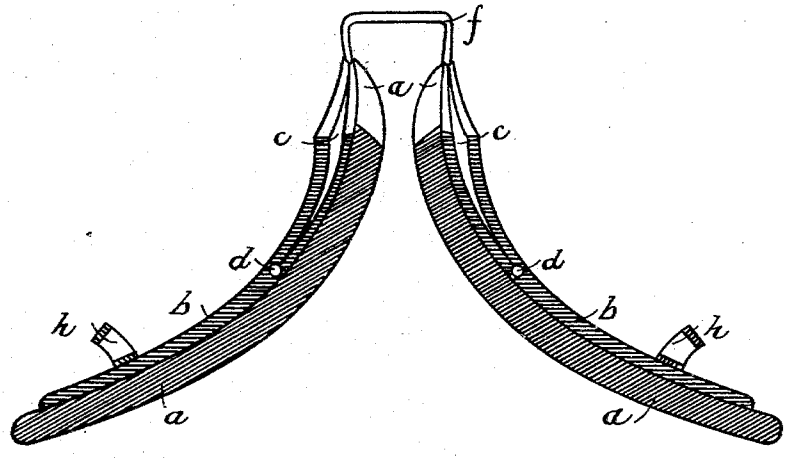

Fig. 1.

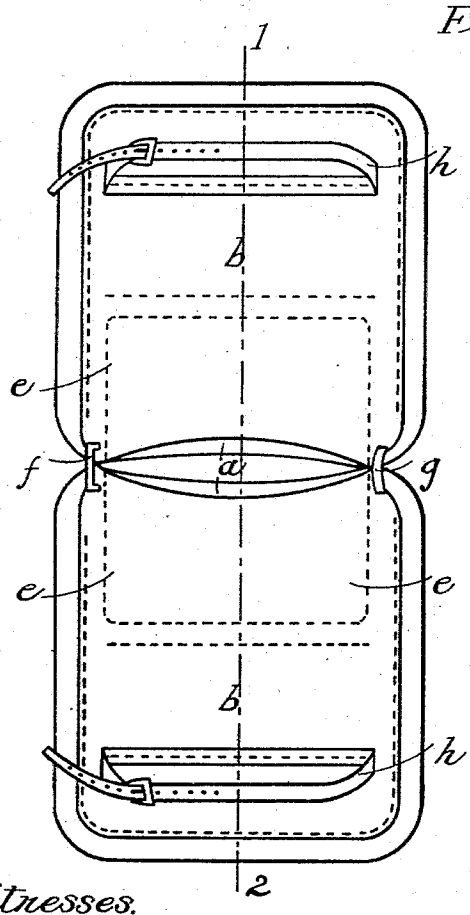

Fig. 2.

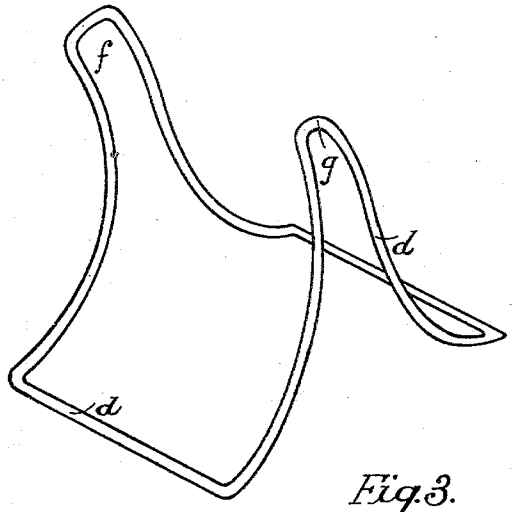

Fig. 3.

Witnesses.
M. B. Bullard.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW H. LARKIN, OF PORTLAND, MAINE.

SADDLE-PAD.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 548,372, dated October 22, 1895.

Application filed November 18, 1893. Serial No. 491,326. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW H. LARKIN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Portland, in the county of Cumberland and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Saddle-Pads; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to pads which are placed under harness-saddles; and it consists in certain improvements providing for ventilation and adjustability.

My improved pad is shown in the drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a transverse longitudinal section through the line 1 2 of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a plan of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the frame or wire.

a a are two pads, separate but similar, which may be of thick felt or like substance. This is stitched upon the sides and outer end, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, to the leather backs *b b*. This back consists of a single thickness of leather, except at the upper halves, where it may be double, as shown in Fig. 1, the two thicknesses being stitched together at the sides and at the lower edge of the shorter piece, thus forming a pocket or pouch *c*. (See Fig. 1.) The back may be formed also of a double thickness of leather throughout, stitched as shown in Fig. 2, the pocket being formed as before. Of course rivets may be substituted for stitching. The two pads *a a* are united and held together by means of the wire frame *d*, which is inserted into the pockets *c c*, and there secured by the stitching *e e*, the outer rows of the stitching being that which secure the edges of the back to the pads. The frame *d* conforms in general shape to the back of the horse, and though made of stiff wire is sufficiently elastic to yield to the movements of the horse. The rear loop *f* between the parts of the frame may be rectangular, while the other or front loop *g* is preferably curved. (See Figs. 2 and 3.) The lower part of the back *b* is provided with a strap and buckle *h*, which, like the frame *d*, should be substantially of the width of the saddle. The upper or inner parts of the pad and back are preferably cut out upon a curved line, as shown in Fig. 1. The pad instead of being cut from a thick piece of felt may be made by stitching an inner surface of leather to the back and filling the pockets thus made with particles of felt, cotton, &c.

Connecting the pad to the saddle for use the front loop *g* is passed around the waterhook of the saddle, the pad is then swung back under the saddle and the back-strap is carried through the rear loop *f*, while the straps *h h* are buckled around the flap of the saddle. The distance between the loops *f* and *g* being slightly less than the width of the saddle, the loops hug the edges of the saddle closely, the front one over the waterhook and the rear over the back-strap loop, thus affording other means for keeping the pad in place, while the distension of the loops by the saddle has a tendency to raise the outer ends of the frame *d*. The space between the upper edges of the pads *a a* and the saddle permits the air free access to the back of the horse underneath the saddle-tree. The pad can be adjusted to inequalities on either side of the backbone by placing felt or cotton or similar substance in the pocket or pockets *c c* to equalize the sides. Thus constructed and applied the pad keeps the saddle from contact or pressure upon the backbone, permits ventilation beneath the saddle, and is fitted to the inequalities of the back.

What I claim is—

1. A pad for harness saddles consisting of a wire frame conforming in general outline to the shape of the back of the animal, the central portion of said frame consisting of two upwardly projecting loops, pads of felt or similar substance, connected with said frame upon either side and an open space between said pads, substantially as described.

2. In a pad for harness saddles, a frame of wire conforming in general outline to the shape of the back of the animal, pads of felt or similar substance, having leather backs stitched thereto and thereby secured to said frame, an air space between the upper part of said pads, the central portion of said frame projecting upwardly above said pads and forming loops, substantially as described.

3. In a pad for harness saddles, a frame of wire conforming in general outline to the back of the animal, pads of felt or similar

substance, having leather backs stitched thereto, said backs being secured to said frame, an air space between the upper edges of said pads and open pockets in said pads whereby said pads are rendered adjustable, substantially as described.

4. A pad for harness saddles having in combination, substantially as described, an elastic frame of wire provided with central loops through which the water hook and back strap of the saddle may pass, blocks of felt, or similar substance attached to either side of said frame, an air space between said blocks, straps attached to the outside of said pads and open pockets upon the outside of said pads, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my invention I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of November, A. D. 1893.

ANDREW H. LARKIN.

In presence of—
GEO. E. BIRD,
A. C. BERRY.