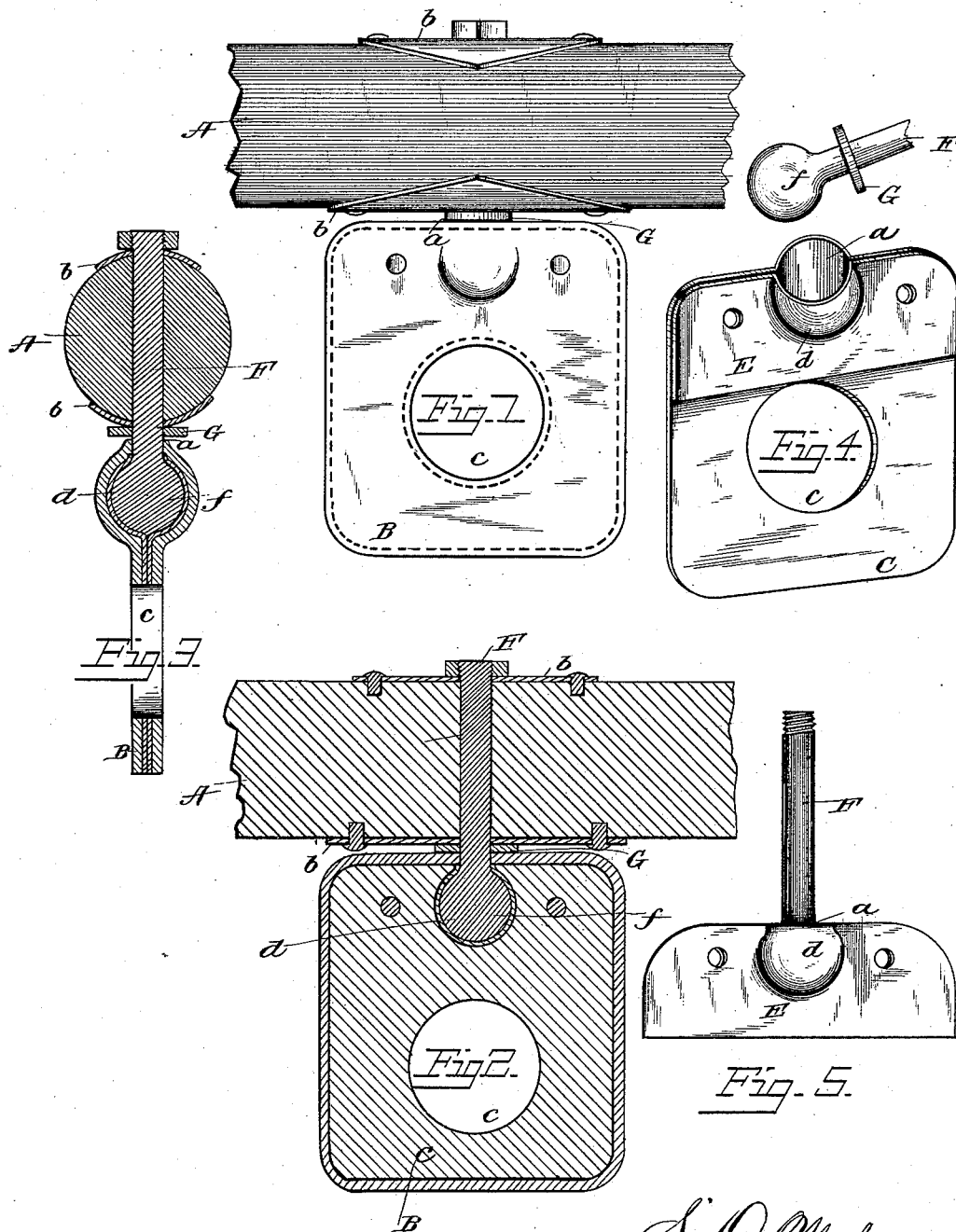


(No Model.)

S. D. MEHEW.
NECK YOKE.

No. 303,655.

Patented Aug. 19, 1884.



WITNESSES

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NECK-YOKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 303,655, dated August 19, 1884.

Application filed May 6, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, STEPHEN D. MEHEW, a citizen of the United States, residing at Peabody, in the county of Marion and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Neck-Yoke Eye or Leather, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to neck-yokes; and it has for its object to provide a device of this character, whereby all strain to the eye of the yoke will be avoided, danger of breaking the same prevented, and the eye of the yoke allowed to yield to or give to the movement of the same.

A further object of the invention is to provide a device of this character which shall be cheap and simple in its construction and effective in its operation.

With these ends in view the invention consists in the combination, with a neck-yoke, of a pivoted eye for the support of the end of a vehicle-pole.

The invention further consists in the improved construction and combinations of parts, hereinafter fully described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of a neck-yoke constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 3 is a cross-section taken through the pivotal bolt. Fig. 4 is a plan view of the attaching-plates detached, and Fig. 5 is a plan view of a modified form of attaching-plate.

In the accompanying drawings, in which like letters refer to corresponding parts in the several figures, A represents the neck-yoke, which is of any ordinary or well-known construction. This neck-yoke A is provided at about its center with an opening, around which are fitted metal plates *b*, though the same may be dispensed with, if thought advisable.

B represents the neck-yoke eye, which is constructed in the following manner:

C represents a metal plate, which may be circular or angular in its outline, but which is formed with a central opening, *c*, for the passage of the vehicle-tongue. This plate C is provided near its upper edge, in the process

of casting, with a semicircular recess or opening, D, thus forming a raised portion to correspond to this opening or depression on the outer side of the plate. Adapted to fit over this opening is a plate, E, which is provided with a similar opening or recess, *a*, said plate being secured to the plate C by rivets or equivalent fastening. If desired, however, the plate E may be of the same size as the plate C; but the form shown has been found to work to equal advantage. If desired, these plates C and E may be of the construction of plate E—*i. e.*, consisting of a single flat strip. It is desirable, however, to have at least one large strip, inasmuch as it greatly strengthens the eye when the same is covered with leather, as will be further mentioned.

F represents a bolt, which is screw-threaded at its upper end, while its lower end is provided with a rounded head, *f*, adapted to fit between the metal plates C and E and project upwardly therefrom, the head of said bolt being securely held between said plates by reason of the opening at the upper end being smaller than the said head. The screw-threaded end of the bolt passes through the opening of the neck-yoke, and is secured by means of a nut. A disk, G, is formed on said bolt at about its center to prevent its upward movement, said disk bearing on the under side of the neck-yoke, and all strain in tightening the bolt falls on said disk. Moreover, it prevents contact of the edges of the leather with the under side of the yoke. The metal plates, after being secured together, and before they are attached to the yoke, are covered, preferably, with leather, leaving sufficient space for the passage of the bolt and the free and easy turning of the same.

The operation and advantages of my improvement are numerous, some of which may be briefly noted, as follows: In drawing a vehicle it sometimes happens that one horse leads the other or travels faster, thus subjecting the eye to strain when constructed in the ordinary manner, causing the leather to twist off. All of this is obviated, however, by the use of my improvement, as the eye, being pivotally connected, allows one horse to lead the other and carry the yoke forward. Again, by the

use of the metal plates, should the leather wear out, the metal plates will hold, and thus prevent any liability of the pole dropping and causing serious damage; and, further, when the leather becomes worn the plates may be recovered at a slight cost. It will also be seen that a neck-yoke eye constructed as described is simple, durable, and may be manufactured and supplied at a slight cost, and possesses superior advantages over the eyes as ordinarily constructed.

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

1. The combination, with a metallic plate provided with a depression semicircular in form at its upper side, a plate or strip of metal to cover the same, and provided with a similar depression or opening, and means for securing the same together, said plates being provided with a covering, of a bolt having at its lower end a head to engage said socket, and means for its attachment to the neck-yoke, substantially as set forth.

2. A neck-yoke consisting of two plates provided with an opening for the passage of a vehicle-tongue, and so cast as to form a socket near their upper side, said plates being covered with leather or other suitable material,

of a bolt having a rounded head and a disk at about its center to bear against the under side of the neck-yoke, and means for the attachment of said bolt to the neck-yoke, substantially as set forth.

3. As a new article of manufacture, a neck-yoke eye consisting of two metal plates of any desired form having an opening for the passage of a vehicle-tongue, and so cast as to form, when joined together, a socket, and a bolt having rounded end to engage said socket, said eye being covered with leather or other suitable material, substantially as set forth.

4. The combination, with a neck-yoke having an opening around which are fitted metal plates, of an eye consisting of two metal plates so cast as to form a socket when joined, and covered with leather, and a bolt having a rounded end or head to engage said socket, and provided with a screw-threaded end adapted to receive a nut for its secural to the neck-yoke, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

STEPHEN D. MEHEW.

Witnesses:

G. W. CAMP,
D. SEVERY.