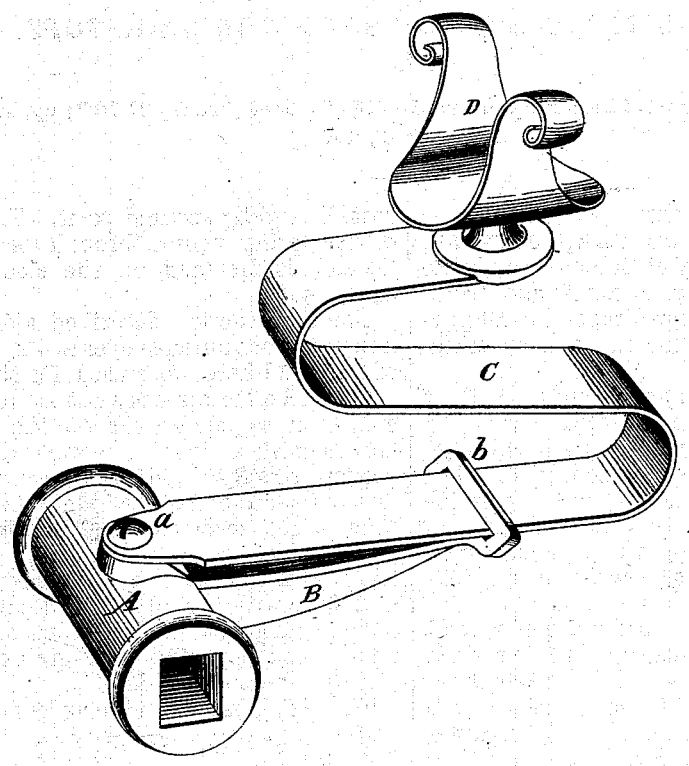
A. GOODYEAR.

SUPPORTS FOR CARRIAGE TOPS.

No. 186,555. Patented Jan. 23, 1877.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANDREW GOODYEAR, OF ALBION, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVEMENT IN SUPPORTS FOR CARRIAGE-TOPS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,555**, dated January 23, 1877; application filed December 18, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANDREW GOODYEAR, of Albion, in the county of Calhoun and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Spring-Props for Buggy-Tops, of which the following is a specification:

Formerly the tops of buggies rested, in their folded condition, upon rigid arms projecting laterally from the body. Of late spring-buffers have been attached to these arms to afford a yielding support to the top; and in practice it is found desirable to so construct and connect these buffers that their pads, upon which the top is to rest, will be some distance in rear of the arms.

My invention consists in the use of a leaf-spring formed with a return curve, in such a manner that the free end shall be the required distance, say about four inches, in rear of the arm, and providing the sleeve, which ordinarily encircles the arm, and to which the spring is secured, with a lateral brace for giving support to the spring directly under its free end.

In the annexed drawing, Figure I is a perspective view of my improvement. Fig. II is a vertical longitudinal section thereof.

The same letters of reference are used in both figures in the designation of identical parts.

The sleeve A, which is to encircle the arm of the buggy-body, is constructed with a laterally-projecting brace, B, terminating in a loop, *b*. The buffer consists of a leaf-spring, C, having a return curve of the form clearly shown in the drawing, and carrying at its free end a rest, D, rigidly secured to it. The fixed end of the spring passes through loop *b* of brace B, and is fastened on the sleeve A by a screw, *a*.

The construction described affords several important advantages over any spring-buffers of this kind heretofore used for this purpose.

It will be understood that the top would be subjected to much wear on the pad D if it moved with a rubbing action thereon. To prevent this it was found necessary in the old form of these buffers to hinge the pads, that they might accommodate themselves to the top. The action of my spring is, on the contrary, such that the pad will move so nearly in unison with the top that it can be rigidly secured. Again, the curved form of the spring affords the opportunity of giving a support directly under the pad.

The rest D may be more or less curved; but I prefer to make it substantially as shown, so as to confine the top laterally and prevent any horizontal movement.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The spring C, having the return curve shown, and the rest D, in combination with the sleeve A, provided with the looped brace B *b*, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ANDREW GOODYEAR.

Witnesses:

R. MASON,

THOMAS C. CONNOLLY.