

No. 647,857.

Patented Apr. 17, 1900.

W. H. MERTZ.

BLANKET.

(Application filed Jan. 2, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

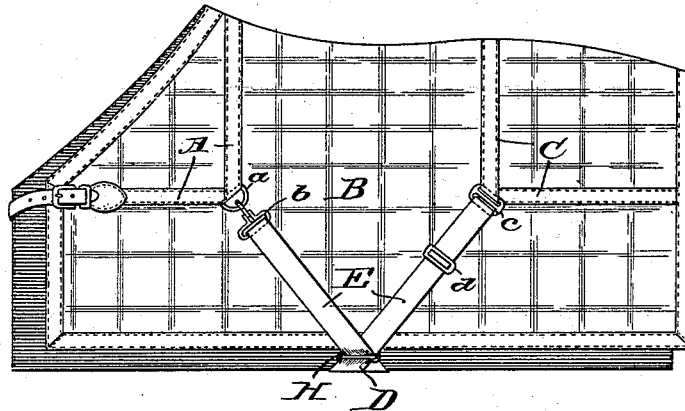


Fig. 2.

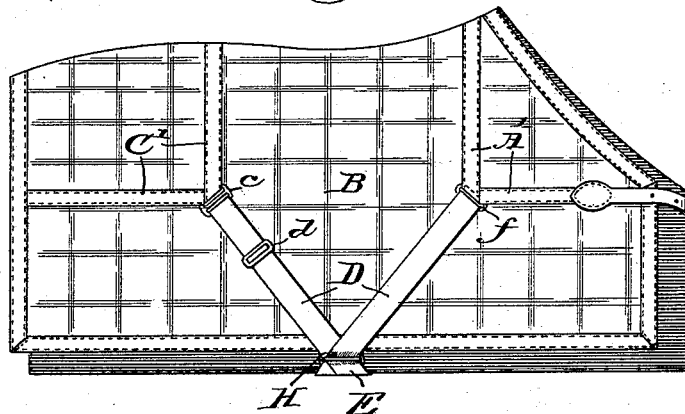
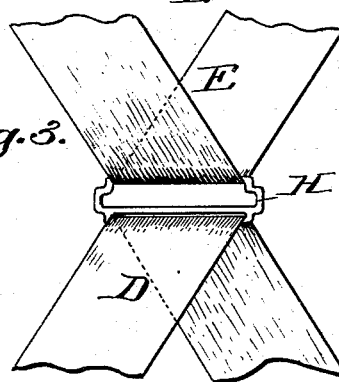


Fig. 3.



Witnesses.
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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BLANKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 647,857, dated April 17, 1900.

Application filed January 2, 1900. Serial No. 6. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM H. MERTZ, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Hyde Park, county of Norfolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented an Improvement in Horse-Blankets, of which the following description, in connection with the accompanying drawings, is a specification, like letters on the drawings representing like parts.

This invention has for its object to provide a horse-blanket with a novel arrangement of stays and surcingle-straps whereby the blanket is properly stayed and properly held in position upon the body of the horse.

Figure 1 is a view showing the left-hand side of the blanket, the said figure being to such an extent in perspective as to show the under middle portion of the surcingle-straps. Fig. 2 is a view similar to Fig. 1, but showing the right-hand side of the blanket. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the central portion of the surcingle-straps and the device connecting the same.

The blanket (denoted by B) is and may be of any usual construction and material and may be provided in the usual manner with a stay-piece running entirely around the edge of the blanket. The forward or shoulder portion of the blanket is provided with a stay (indicated by the letters A A'.) This stay may consist of a plurality of pieces, but is preferably formed of a single piece passing from the forward edge on one side of the blanket below the neck portion in a horizontal direction and then doubled upon itself at right angles and passing in a vertical direction over the top of the blanket at a point near the neck portion and then down upon the other side of the blanket in a vertical direction and then doubled upon itself at right angles and then passing in a horizontal direction to a corresponding point below the neck portion. This stay at the front edge of the blanket is provided with a suitable means, such as a strap and buckle, for fastening the blanket across the breast of the horse. The rear portion of the blanket is provided with a similar stay C C'. This stay likewise may be made in a plurality of pieces, but is preferably formed of a continuous piece and arranged upon the blanket in a manner corre-

sponding to the stay A A'. Both of the said stays are shown and preferably should be fastened throughout their length to the blanket; but this is not essential, it only being necessary that they should be fastened at such points as to hold the blanket in position and resist the pull of the surcingle-straps.

The surcingle-straps D E are attached to the blanket at the points where the stay-pieces A A' and C C' are doubled upon themselves. The means employed for attaching the surcingle-straps at these points may vary. In Fig. 1 the stay A is shown as folded through an ordinary D-iron *a*, which affords a convenient means for coöperating with an ordinary snap-hook *b*, attached to one end of the surcingle-strap E. In the same figure a double-loop iron *c* is shown attaching the other end of the surcingle-strap E to the stay C. This double-loop iron *c* allows the stay C to pass through one loop and the surcingle-strap through the other loop. In Fig. 2 the surcingle-strap D is shown at one end *f*, as attached by a loop-iron held by the fold in the stay-piece A', and at the other end as attached to the stay C' by the same means *c*, as shown in Fig. 1. Either one of these various fastening means at the ends of the surcingle-straps or any combination of the same may be used. Either or both surcingle-straps D E is provided with suitable means *d* whereby the length of the same can be adjusted. It will be noted that each surcingle-strap is attached at both its ends upon the same side of the blanket, the surcingle-strap E being upon the left-hand side and the surcingle-strap D upon the right-hand side, and the two straps are connected together by a double-loop iron H of the shape shown in Fig. 3, one loop in the said iron being preferably larger than the other, so as to allow a more ready removal of one strap therefrom.

It will be seen from the foregoing description that the stays are so arranged that any pull on either part of a surcingle-strap in the direction of the length will tend to hold the blanket more closely around the neck or the rump of the horse. It will also be seen that by folding the stays through the means *a c f*, used for connecting the surcingle-straps thereto, a very strong and firm attachment is

provided. It will also be seen that in order
to remove the blanket from the horse it is
only necessary to detach one end of one sur-
cingle-strap—as, for example, the end of the
5 strap E, provided with the snap-hook *b*. This
end of the surcingle-strap is then run through
the iron H and the blanket is ready to be re-
moved from the horse, the surcingle-strap E
being in the hand of the attendant, and the
10 surcingle-strap D upon the opposite side of
the blanket, since it is attached at both ends,
being prevented from swinging down and
dragging in the dirt. This arrangement of
surcingle-straps is of great value in that it
15 allows the blanket to be fitted to the horse
by means of a single adjustment, by reason
of the sliding connection between the two
straps. Hitherto in order to adjust the
blanket it has been necessary to adjust both
20 surcingle-straps. This arrangement is of
further value in that it provides to a certain
extent for an automatic adjustment of the
blanket to the shape of the horse during any
movement of the horse. For example, when
25 the horse stoops or lowers his neck so as to
shorten the forward ends of the surcingle-
straps, a sliding movement will take place
through the iron H and the slack in such por-
tion of the strap will be taken up and deliv-
30 ered to the other portion of the straps. It
will further be seen that by reason of the ar-
rangement of the loop-irons *a c f* obliquely
with relation to the length of the blanket and
in a position at right angles to the direction
35 of the surcingle-straps any pull exerted along
the surcingle-straps will act directly upon
the stays and there will be no twisting of the
blanket or of the stays at the point of attach-
ment.

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

1. A horse-blanket provided with a sur-
cingle device comprising a strap attached at
45 both ends to one side of the blanket, one end
of said strap being attached to the fore por-
tion and the other end to the rear portion of
the blanket, and a strap attached at both
ends to the other side of the blanket, one end
50 of said strap being attached to the fore por-
tion and the other end to the rear portion
of the blanket, a sliding connection between

the middle portions of said straps, and a de-
tachable fastening device between one end
of one strap and the blanket. 55
2. A horse-blanket having intersecting
stays on each side of the blanket at the rear
portion, and intersecting stays on each side
at the fore portion, a strap connecting the
intersections of the stays on one side of the 60
blanket, a strap connecting the intersections
of the stays on the other side of the blanket,
a sliding connection between the middle of
said straps, and a detachable fastening de-
vice between one of said straps and one end 65
of one of said stay intersections.

3. A horse-blanket provided at its fore por-
tion and also at its rear portion on each side
with horizontally and vertically disposed in-
tersecting stays, and a surcingle device con- 70
necting the stay intersections on one side
with the stay intersections on the other side
of the blanket.

4. A horse-blanket provided at its fore por-
tion and also at its rear portion on each side 75
with horizontally and vertically disposed in-
tersecting stays, a strap connecting the in-
tersections of the stays on one side of the blanket,
a strap connecting the intersections of the
stay on the other side, a sliding connection 80
between the middle of said straps, and a de-
tachable fastening device between one end
of one strap and one stay intersection.

5. A horse-blanket provided at its fore por-
tion and also at its rear portion on each side 85
with intersecting stays, fastening devices con-
sisting of loop-irons attached to the blanket
at the intersection of the stays and disposed
obliquely with relation to the length of the
blanket, diagonally-arranged surcingle-straps 90
passing through the said loop-irons and con-
necting the stay intersections, whereby any
pull in the direction of the length of said
surcingle-straps will be substantially at right
angles to the length of the said loop-irons and 95
thus prevent twisting or turning of the
blanket or stays at the stay intersections.

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

WILLIAM H. MERTZ.

Witnesses:

GEO. W. GREGORY,
MARGARET N. DUNN.