

W. C. DODGE.
Breech-loading Fire-arm.

No. 44,290.

Patented Sept. 20, 1864.

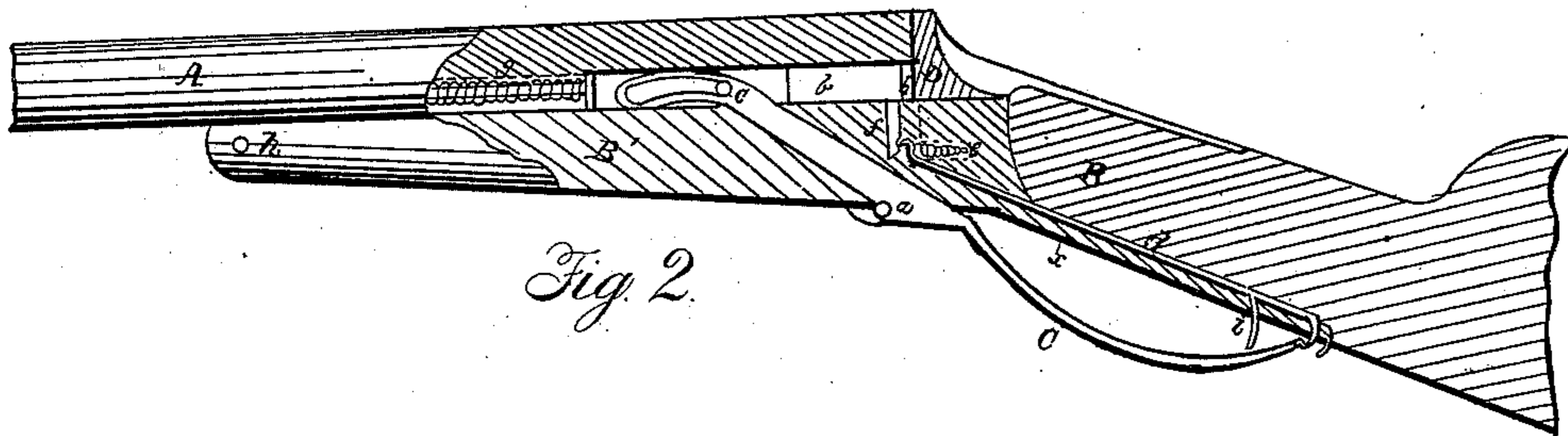


Fig. 2.

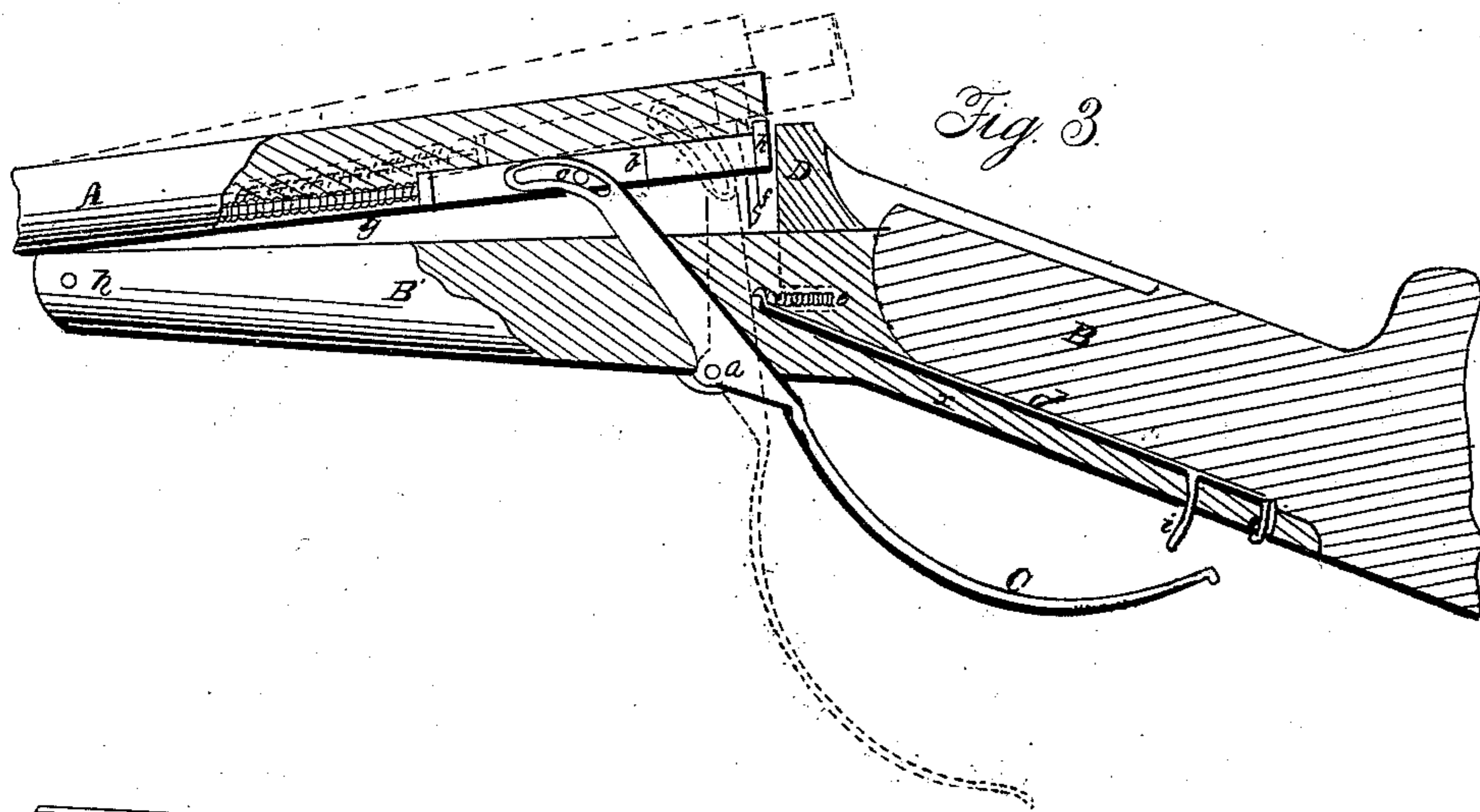


Fig. 3.

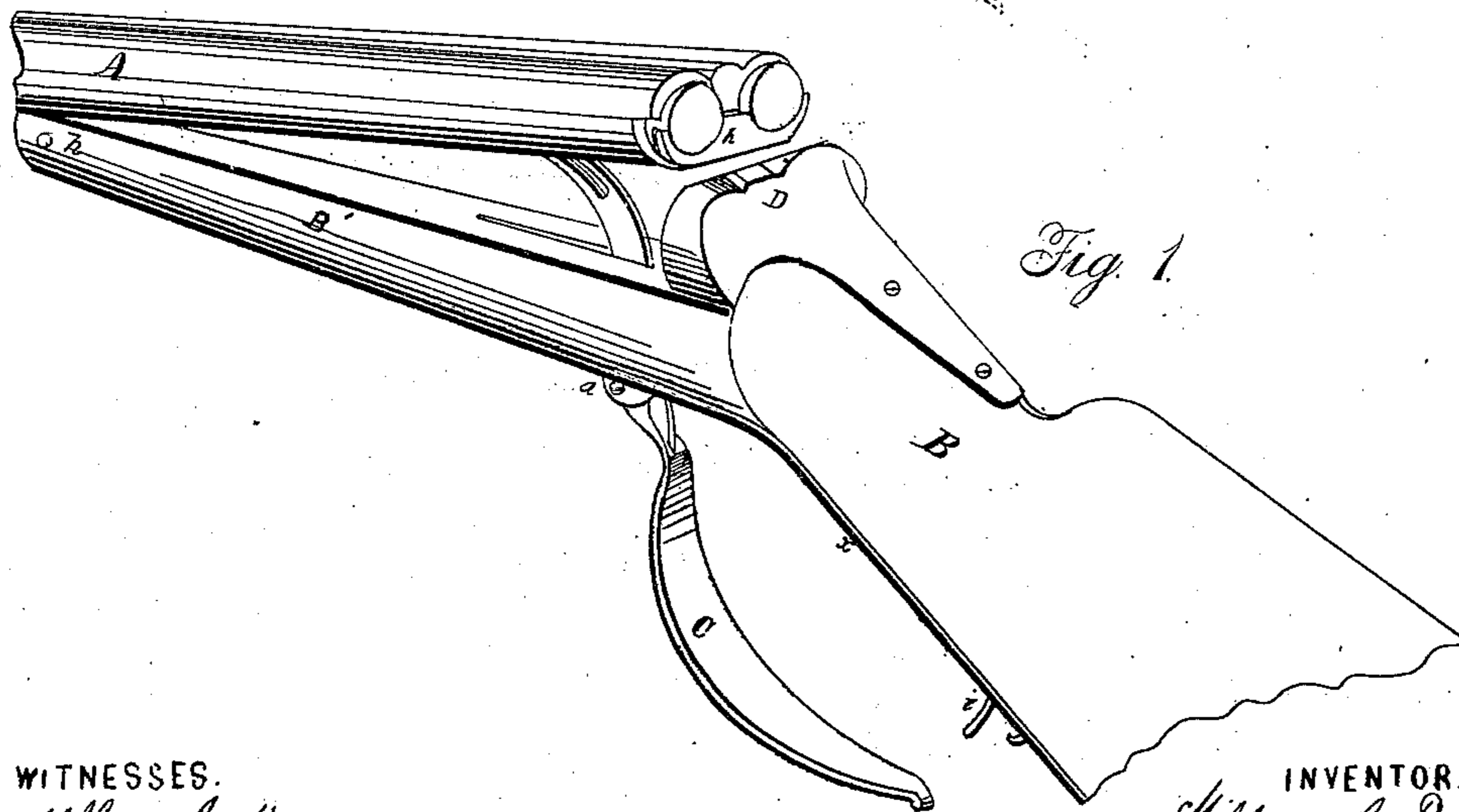


Fig. 1.

WITNESSES.
Clifford A. Cook.
E. M. Kean

INVENTOR.
William C. Dodge

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WM. C. DODGE, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN BREECH-LOADING FIRE-ARMS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,290, dated September 20, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. DODGE, of the city of Washington and District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Breech-Loading Fire-Arms; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view; Fig. 2, a side elevation, with a portion of the barrel and stock broken away so as to show the arrangement of the working parts in position; and Fig. 3, a similar view with the operation of parts shown in red.

The nature of my invention consists in the peculiar construction of the lever-guard and retractor, and in so combining and arranging the same with the stock and barrels as that a single movement of the lever-guard shall both elevate the rear end of the barrels and remove the cartridge-cases.

It further consists in a novel arrangement of parts for locking and securing the barrels and lever-guard in position.

To enable others skilled in the art to construct and use my invention, I will proceed to describe it.

A in each of the figures represents the barrel, which may be either single or double, it being shown double in the drawing. The barrel is constructed in the usual manner, except that it is left open at the breech, and is recessed for the reception of the retractor-plate, *p*, as shown in Fig. 1.

B represents the stock, the front portion, *B'*, of which is preferably made of metal, and to which the recoil-plate *D* is firmly and rigidly secured. If desired, these parts *B'* and *D* may be forged or cast in one solid piece, and will, in any event, be provided with the proper straps or projections for securing them to the wooden portion *B* of the stock. The barrels are hinged to the front end of the stock by the pin *h*, as shown in the various figures.

C represents the lever-guard, which is pivoted at *a*, and has its upper end projecting upward and forward, as shown, its extreme upper portion being slightly curved and slotted, as clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 3. In the recess underneath and between the bar-

rels, if two be used, as in this case, or directly underneath the center, longitudinally of the barrel, if a single one be used, is placed the stem *b* of the retractor *p*. A pin, *c*, passing through this stem *b*, and also through the slot in the end of the guard *C*, serves to unite those two parts. To the outer end of *b* is firmly secured the retractor-plate *p*, which, when in position, fits snugly in the recess at the rear end of the barrels. To the opposite end of the stem *b* is secured the spring *g*.

f represents a lug or projection, which is firmly secured to the under side of the barrels, close to the rear end thereof, and fitting into a corresponding recess provided for it in the stock, as shown in Fig. 1. The lower end of *f* is beveled, and in its rear side, near its lower end, is a notch, the object of which will be hereinafter explained. This lug *f* serves the additional purpose of relieving the pin *h* of the strain that would otherwise be thrown upon it by the tendency of the barrels to be thrown forward when the discharge takes place.

d represents a sliding bolt, which may be located either above or below the tang *x*, though preferably above it, as it would thereby be enclosed, and hence more perfectly protected from injury. The rear end of this bolt *d* is curved, as shown at *o*, where it is provided with a suitable notch for engaging the rear end of the guard *C* for the purpose of securing the latter in position. The front end of *d* is bent upward and then forward, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, for the purpose of bringing it into the proper position to engage in the notch in *f*, as shown in Fig. 1, and thereby also lock the barrels securely in their place. The bolt *d* is also provided with a trigger or finger-piece, *i*, which projects below the lower edge of the stock, directly in front of the rear end of the guard *C*, as shown in Fig. 1. A spiral spring, *e*, serves to operate the bolt *d* and keep it up to its work.

The operation is as follows: The finger is pressed against *i*, whereby *d* is forced backward sufficient to unlock the guard *C* and the barrels at the same time, when, by pressing down the rear end of the guard *C*, the rear ends of the barrels are elevated above the recoil-plate *D*, as shown in Figs. 4 and 3, and by continuing the movement of the guard *C* the retract-

or is forced backward, ejecting the cartridge-cases, as shown in red in Fig. 3. The slot in the upper end of this guard permits the guard to be moved a sufficient distance to elevate the barrels above the recoil-plate D without at all moving the retractor; but at the instant when the barrels are so elevated as to clear the plate D the guard C, at the front end of its slot, comes in contact with the pin *c*, when the further movement of C necessarily carries *b* and *p* with it, as clearly shown in red in Fig. 3, and thus removes the cartridge-cases.

In the case of a double-barreled gun, when but one of the charges has been exploded, and it is desired to reload the one barrel, the guard will be thrown down only far enough to partially remove the cases, as shown in Fig. 1, when the empty shell may be removed by the hand, a fresh one substituted, the other cartridge shoved into its place, and the process rendered complete without throwing the exploded cartridge from the gun.

By simply removing the pins *h* and *c* the barrels can be readily detached from the stock, and, if desired, rifle-barrels substituted in their place, the same locks, stock, and guard being used in either case. It is also obvious that one of the barrels may be a shot-barrel and the other a rifle-barrel, as is now common

in double-barreled guns used for hunting or sporting purposes, especially when large game—such as deer—is hunted.

While the arm as here illustrated is more especially adapted to sporting purposes, it is obvious that it may also be used as a military weapon.

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

1. So constructing and combining the stock, guard, barrel, and retractor of a breech-loading gun as that a single movement of the guard shall both elevate the barrel and operate the retractor without the aid or use of any other parts than those herein mentioned.

2. The lever-guard C, constructed and operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as above set forth.

3. The combination of the lever-guard C and the cartridge-retractor of a breech-loading gun, when constructed and operating substantially as shown and described.

WILLIAM C. DODGE.

Witnesses:

CLIFFORD ARICK,
E. R. MCKEAN.