No. 636,502. Patented Nov. 7, 1899.

A. B. DOCKERY.

SPRING LATCH.

(Application filed Aug. 15, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

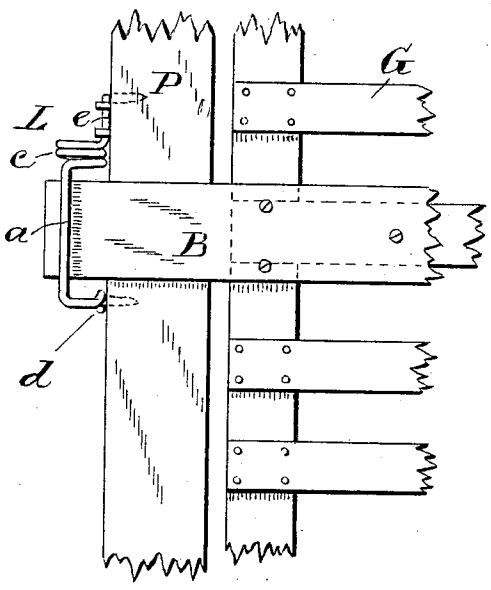


Fig. 2.

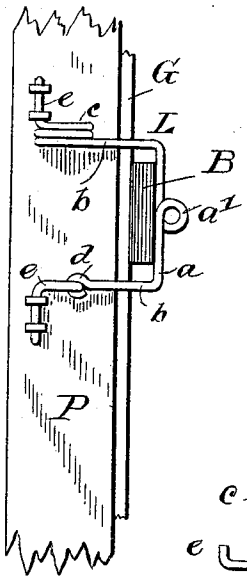


Fig. 3.

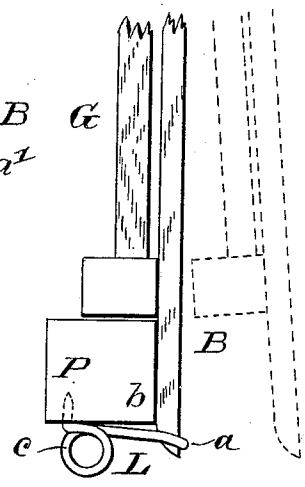


Fig. 4.

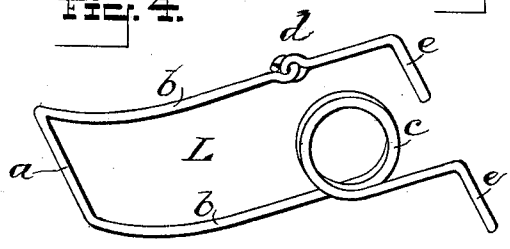


Fig. 4a.

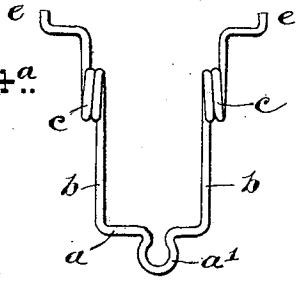


Fig. 5.

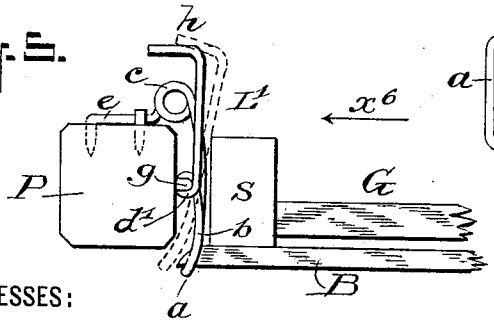
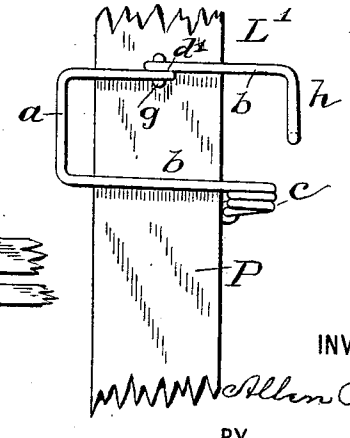


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALLEN B. DOCKERY, OF UVALDE, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO D. R. WINGATE, OF SAME PLACE.

SPRING-LATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 636,502, dated November 7, 1899.

Application filed August 15, 1899. Serial No. 727,274. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALLEN B. DOCKERY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Uvalde, in the county of Uvalde and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Spring-Latches, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the class of latches adapted for use on farm-gates, yard-gates, barn-doors, and the like. It is made from stiff wire, preferably of spring-steel, and is adapted to catch by wiping over a beveled or rounded latch-bar on the gate, door, or other hinged part when the latter is closed.

In the accompanying drawings, which disclose several embodiments and applications of the invention, Figure 1 is a front view showing the latch applied to a closed farm-gate. Fig. 2 is a view of the same as seen from the left in Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 shows the same parts in plan. In this latter view the dotted lines show the gate partly open. Fig. 4 shows the latch of Figs. 1, 2, and 3 detached, and Fig. 4ª shows the latch with a coil-spring at each side. Figs. 5 and 6 illustrate a form of the latch as best adapted to a yard-gate, although it may be as well applied to any gate or hinged part. Fig. 5 is a plan and Fig. 6 is a face view of the latching-post seen from the arrow x^6 in Fig. 5.

Referring to the first four figures primarily, G represents any kind of gate, P the latching-post of the gate, and B a fixed latch-bar on the gate. This bar has a rounded or beveled end, as seen in Fig. 3. On the post P is mounted the spring-latch L. This latch will be made, by preference, of stiff steel wire of bail-like form and comprises an end bar *a*, Fig. 4, two side bars *b b*, a coil-spring *c* in one of the side bars, a hinge-link *d* in the other side bar, and securing branches *e e*. It is not important just how this latch is secured to the latching-post P so long as it is firmly fixed. The side bars *b b* may be slightly curved, as shown in Figs. 3 and 4, and the end bar *a* may have formed in it a thumb-piece *a'*, as seen in Fig. 2, for convenience in pressing the latch to one side for opening the gate.

The latch automatically engages the latch-bar when the gate is shut, and the gate may be freed by pressing or springing the latch to one side.

Fig. 4ª shows a latch like that of Fig. 4 except that it has a coil-spring *c* in each side bar *b*.

The latch L' (seen in Figs. 5 and 6) is situated on the inner face of the post P and between said post and the gate-stile *s*. It has a hinging-eye *d'* formed in one of its side bars, and this bar hinges at said eye on a staple *g*, driven into the face of the post. The spring *c* is back of the post. Only the side bar in which is formed the spring *c* has a securing branch *e*, the other bar terminating in a handle *h*, whereby the latch may be freed from the latch-bar from inside of the gate. The dotted lines in Fig. 5 show how this may be done.

Obviously when the latch is applied to a gate or door where there is a bar or piece over the opening the latch may be placed above, so as to take over the upper end of the latching-stile or over the end of a latch-bar fixed in an upright position. It has not been deemed necessary to illustrate any other obvious applications of the latch.

The object is to provide a simple, durable, and inexpensive latch that cannot well be disengaged by cattle or become accidentally disengaged, but which may be readily operated by any one.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a bail-like spring-latch made from wire and having an end bar, side bars, a securing branch or branches, and a coil-spring in its side between the attaching-point and end bar, substantially as set forth.

2. As an improved article of manufacture, a bail-like spring-latch made from wire and having an end bar, two side bars, a coil-spring in one of said side bars, a hinge at the other side bar, and a securing branch or branches, substantially as set forth.

3. As an improved article of manufacture,

a spring-latch made from steel wire and bent into shape, said latch comprising an end bar, two side bars, one of which is provided with a hinging-eye and a handle, and the other with a coil-spring and an attaching branch, substantially as set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name, this 31st day of July, 1899, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ALLEN B. DOCKERY.

Witnesses:
CLARENCE W. HARPER,
WILLIAM WALL.