July 10, 1951 J. T. BATEMAN 2,560,150

CLOTHES LINE PROP

Filed May 20, 1947

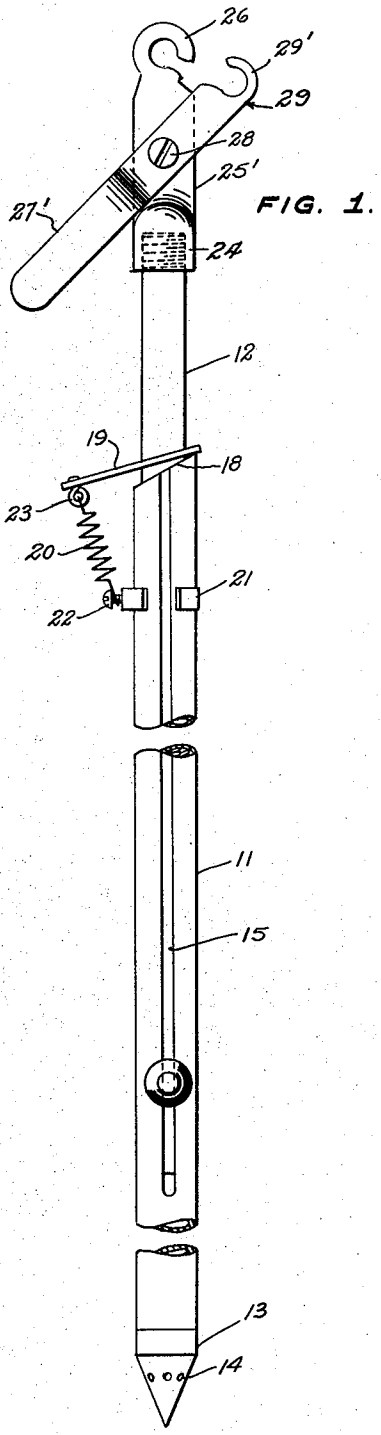


FIG. 1.

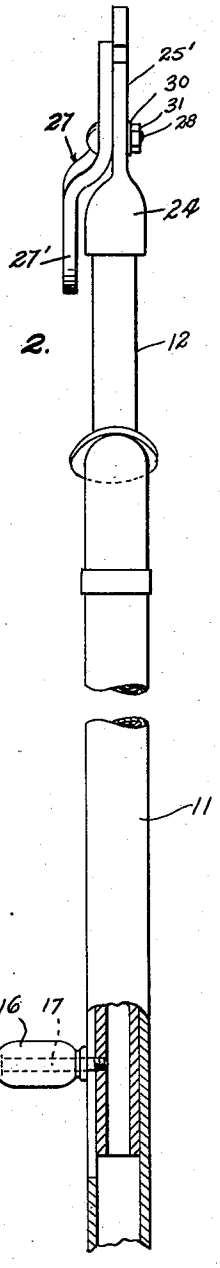


FIG. 2.

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CLOTHESLINE PROP

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2 Claims. (Cl. 248—253)

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This invention relates to a prop for supporting a line, such as a clothes line, at a point intermediate its length, and particularly concerns a prop of this character which may be easily adjusted and held in adjusted position to support the line at a desired level.

It is among the objects of the invention to provide a prop of the type described which is securely locked in any adjusted position; which is simple in construction, and readily manufactured.

The foregoing and other objects and features of the invention will be made fully apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawing, in which:

Figure 1 is an elevational view of a prop constructed in accordance with the invention;

Figure 2 is a view similar to Figure 1 but taken at a right angle thereto and showing parts in section.

Referring to the drawing, the prop illustrated comprises a lower section 11, and an upper section 12. Both sections are preferably of metal pipe of such diameter that the upper section telescopes into the lower section. For example, the lower section 11 may be formed of three quarters inch pipe and the upper section 12 of three eighths inch pipe. The lower end of the section 11 may be provided with a pointed end cap 13, or otherwise sharpened to permit this section to be forced into the ground. Preferably openings 14 are provided to release rain which might otherwise accumulate in the lower section. The upper or second section 12 is mounted in the lower or first section 11 for extensile and contractile movement. A longitudinal slot 15 is provided in the section 11 and a handle 16 projecting externally of the section 11 and secured to the section 12 by a bolt 17 extending through the slot 15 permits the section 12 to be extended and contracted relative to the section 11.

In order to lock the two sections in any adjusted position the upper end of the lower section is cut at an angle to its transverse dimension as indicated at 18, and a washer 19 surrounds the upper section 12 and is adapted to rest on the upper end of the lower section. The washer 19 has an opening corresponding to the outer diameter of the upper section 12 to the end that when the washer is normal to the section 12 said section may slide through the opening with only a small clearance therebetween. However, when the washer 19 is at an angle to the horizontal the

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washer grips the section 12 preventing relative motion therebetween. The washer 19 is biased into an oblique or tilted position by a spring 20. Preferably one end of the spring 20 is secured to the lower section 11 by a clamp 21, which clamp may be adjusted longitudinally of the lower section 11 to adjust the tension of the spring 20. A screw 22 holds the clamp 21 in any adjusted position on the pipe 11 and also provides a means to attach the spring 20 to the clamp. The other end of the spring 20 is attached to the outer elongated end of the washer 19 by means of an eye bolt 23. Preferably the clamp 21 does not completely surround the pipe 11, having an open portion to clear the slot 15, permitting the movement of the handle 16 the full length of the slot 15.

The upper end of the section 12 is externally threaded to be received in the internally threaded socket 24 of a fitting member 25. The member 25 also includes an upper elongated plate 25' formed to have a line receiving hook 26 and an elongated plate 27 is pivoted on a bolt 28 which is secured to the member 25 and said plate 27 is provided with a hook portion 29' adapted to coact with the hook 26 to secure the line therebetween. A split washer 30 on the bolt 28 between the nut 31 and the member 25 permits the bolt 28 to be tightened sufficiently to cause the lever 29 to frictionally engage the plate 25' when the lever is closed on the line, tending to hold the parts in closed position. It will be appreciated that the pivoted plate may be swung to and from its overlapping position with the stationary plate by manually engaging handle 27', the same being offset, as stated, in order to clear the enlarged socket of the fitting, all as shown in the drawings.

In the operation of the device it will be apparent that when the upper section 12 is lifted the washer 19 will tend to move into a horizontal position and the upper section 12 will slide through the opening in the washer. When the line has been adjusted to the desired level, and the weight of the line bears on the upper section, the washer 19 assumes an oblique position, the right hand end thereof resting on the upper end of the oblique cut 18, and the opposite end being biased downwardly by the spring 20, so that the washer securely grips the section 12. Any downward force due to the weight of the line, is in a direction to increase the tendency of the washer 19 to tilt and thus lock the two sections in adjusted position.

Having thus described the invention, I claim:

1. A clothes line prop comprising a first tubular section having one end open and having the other end pointed for insertion into the ground, a second section having one end extending into the open end of said first section and mounted for extensile and contractile movement therein, a fitting member having one end adjacent to the other end of said second section and fixedly secured thereto, a hook on the other end of said fitting member for supporting a clothes line, a lever arranged in side by side relation with respect to said fitting member and mounted on the latter intermediate its ends for movement about an axis transverse of said fitting member toward and away from the latter, a second hook on the end of said lever adjacent the hook on said fitting member and facing the latter to thereby lock the clothes line therebetween, hand actuating means positioned exteriorly of and extending through said first named section and connected to said second named section adjacent said one end for effecting the extensile and contractile movement of said second section, and a spring actuable means slidably engaging said second section and engageable with the open end of said first section for holding said second section in any select position of its expansible movement.

2. A clothes line prop comprising a first tubular section having one end open and having the other end pointed for insertion into the ground, a second section having one end extending into the open end of said first section and mounted for extensile and contractile movement therein, a fitting member having one end adjacent to the other end of said second section and fixedly secured thereto, a hook on the other end of said

fitting member for supporting a clothes line, a lever arranged in side by side relation with respect to said fitting member and mounted on the latter intermediate its ends for movement about an axis transverse of said fitting member toward and away from the latter, a second hook on the end of said lever adjacent the hook on said fitting member and facing the latter to thereby lock the clothes line therebetween, there being a longitudinally extending slot in said first section extending inwardly from said one end thereof and terminating at a point adjacent to and spaced from said pointed end, a bolt extending through said slot and having one end fixedly secured to said second section adjacent said one end of the latter, hand actuable means on the other end of said bolt for effecting the extensile and contractile movement of said second section, and a spring actuable means slidably engaging said second section and engageable with the open end of said first section for holding said second section in any select position of its expansible movement.

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