

(No Model.)

O. J. LA BAUVE.

WIRE STRETCHER.

No. 341,251.

Patented May 4, 1886.

Fig. 1.

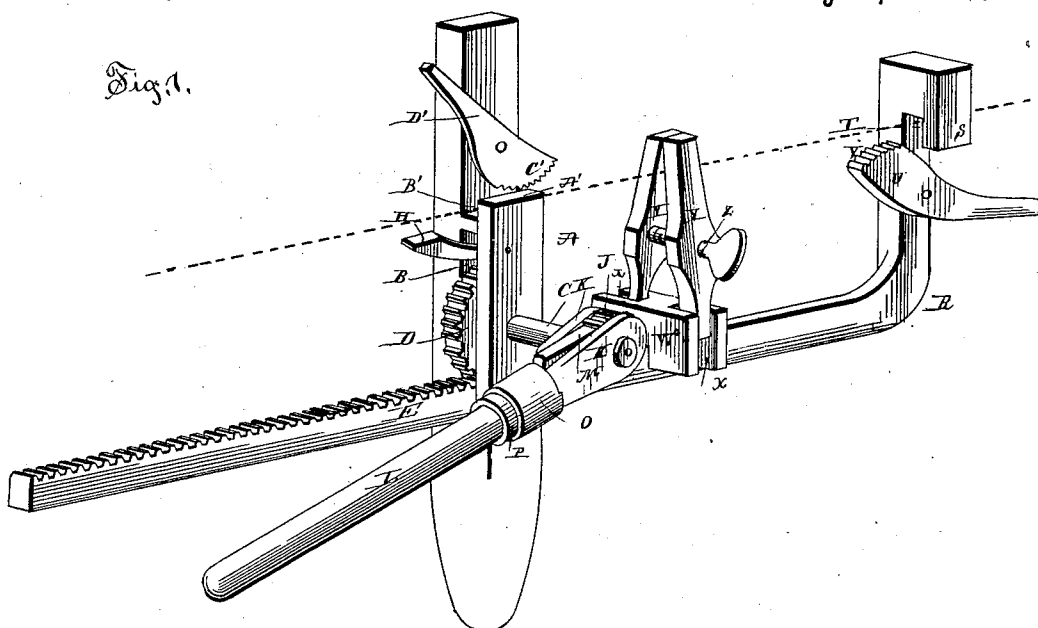


Fig. 2.

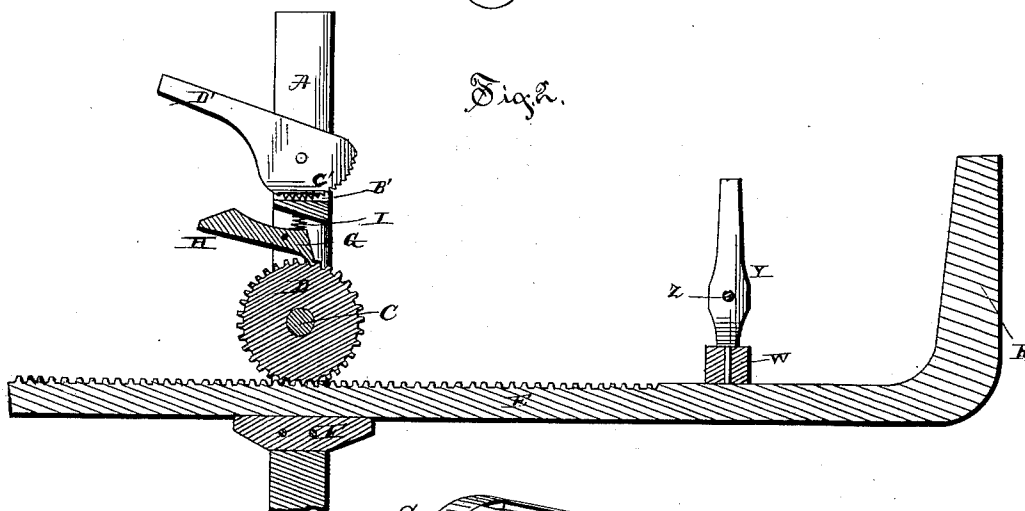
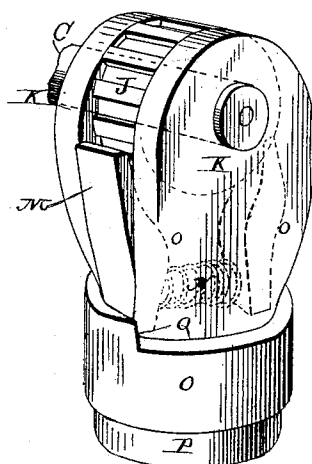


Fig. 3.



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WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 341,251, dated May 4, 1886.

Application filed February 9, 1886. Serial No. 191,327. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ODELON JOSEPH LA BAUVE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Edna, in the county of Jackson and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved wire-stretcher, showing it in operation. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view of the same, and Fig. 3 a perspective detail view of the handle.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

My invention has relation to devices for stretching fence-wires and for drawing the ends of wire together and uniting them in repairing fences; and it consists in the improved construction and combination of parts of the same, as hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, the letter A indicates the main bar of the device, which bar is provided with a longitudinal slot, B, through the sides of which passes a shaft, C, upon which a pinion, D, is secured, revolving within the slot. A rack-bar, E, meshes with its upper cogged edge with the pinion, sliding in the lower end of the slot, and a short bar, F, is secured in the lower end of the slot below the rack-bar, having its ends projecting beyond the slot, supporting and guiding the rack-bar. The upper edge of the pinion is engaged by a pawl, G, having a short handle, H, projecting out at one side of the slot and having its other end cut-off to stop the pinion when revolved toward the said end, while the other side of the end of the pawl is beveled, so as to allow the cogs of the pinion to slip under it. A spring, I, bears between that end of the pawl and the upper end of the slot and forces the end of the pawl to engage with the cogs of the pinion. A ratchet-wheel, J, having square cogs, is secured upon one end of the pinion-shaft, and the perforated lips K

K of the handle L are pivoted with their perforations upon the shaft, one at each side of the ratchet-wheel, and pawls M M are pivoted between the lips of the handle, engaging opposite edges of the ratchet-wheel, and having a spring, N, bearing against the outer ends of the pawls, being confined between the said ends of the pawls and between the lips of the handle. A sleeve, O, revolves upon the handle below the lips, being confined by a shoulder upon the handle, which is lettered P, and which bears against the outer end of the sleeve. The inner end of the sleeve is formed with a lip or flange, Q, tapering toward its ends, and this lip may be brought to bear alternately against the outer ends of the pawls by revolving the sleeve upon the handle, and will force the said ends inward in such a manner as to disengage the inner ends of the pawls from the ratchet-wheel. One end, R, of the rack-bar, which I will term the "forward" end of the bar, is turned upward, and is formed upon its upper end with a downwardly-facing shoulder, S, provided with a groove, T, and a cam-lever, U, is pivoted upon the side of the upturned end of the rack-bar, and has its inner serrated cam end, V, projecting into the said groove, the cam end of the lever tilting freely to the rear, while it will bear against the bottom of the groove when tilted forward. A cross-piece, W, is secured upon the forward portion of the rack-bar, inside of the upturned end, and the ends of this cross-piece are vertically recessed, as shown at X, and have the lower ends of two jaws, Y Y, pivoted within them, the said jaws having a screw, Z, for drawing them together and apart. The upper end of the main bar is formed with an upwardly-facing shoulder, A', having a groove, B', in its inner portion, and the lower serrated or roughened cam end, C', of a cam-lever, D', projects into this groove, the lever being pivoted upon the side of the bar, above the shoulder, and having its cam end tilting freely forward out of the groove, but binding against the bottom of the groove when the cam end of the lever is tilted rearward. When slack is to be taken up in a wire fence, the main bar is secured to a portion of the wire by means of the cam or clamping lever, and the rack-bar is drawn out to its farthest extent, the pawl being raised

from the pinion and the ratchet-handle being adjusted to revolve the pinion for forcing the bar outward. The clamping-lever at the outer end of the rack-bar is now clamped to the wire to be tightened, and by reversing the pawls upon the handle and rocking the same the pinion may be revolved, so as to draw the rack-bar and the wire toward the main bar.

The slack produced between the portions of wire held by the main bar and held by the up-turned end of the rack-bar may be disposed of in any suitable manner, being wound or twisted up, as may be desired, or cut off after having united the nearest portions.

When two ends of wire are to be spliced or united, the ends of wire are clamped by the clamping cam-levers upon the main bar and upon the rack-bar after the rack-bar has been forced sufficiently out to grasp the wire a distance from the end, and after having brought the ends of the wires together the said ends may be clasped and held between the jaws of the vise upon the rack-bar, and united by twisting; or, if the wires are too short and a piece of wire has to be spliced in between the ends, the said piece of wire may be held by the vise, while the ends of the wires may be held by the clamping-levers. It will be seen that by turning the sleeve upon the handle the pawls may engage the pinion from either side, so that the said pinion may be revolved in either direction by simply rocking the handle, thus either drawing the rack-bar in or out. The pawl engaging the pinion will prevent the pinion from revolving backward when the

rack-bar is drawn in, preventing the strain of the wire which is being stretched from slipping the wire and rack-bar out again if the handle is released.

Having thus described my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

In a device for stretching and repairing wire, the combination of a main bar having a longitudinal slot, and having an upwardly-facing shoulder provided with a groove, a guide-block in the lower end of the slot, a shaft journaled in the sides of the slot and having a pinion within the slot and a ratchet-handle at its outer end for revolving it, a spring pawl engaging the pinion, a cam-lever pivoted upon the upper end of the main bar and engaging the grooved shoulder with its cam end, a rack-bar sliding in the lower end of the slot upon the guide-block and meshing with the pinion, and having its forward end turned upward and provided with a clamping cam-lever, and cross-piece upon the rack-bar inside of the up-turned end having two vise jaws pivoted in its recessed ends, provided with a screw for operating them, as and for the purpose shown and set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ODELON JOSEPH LA BAUVE.

Witnesses:

GEORGE F. SIMONS,
R. EUGENE BURT.