No. 728,087. PATENTED MAY 12, 1903.

P. DEARDORFF.

GATE LATCH.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 6, 1902.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

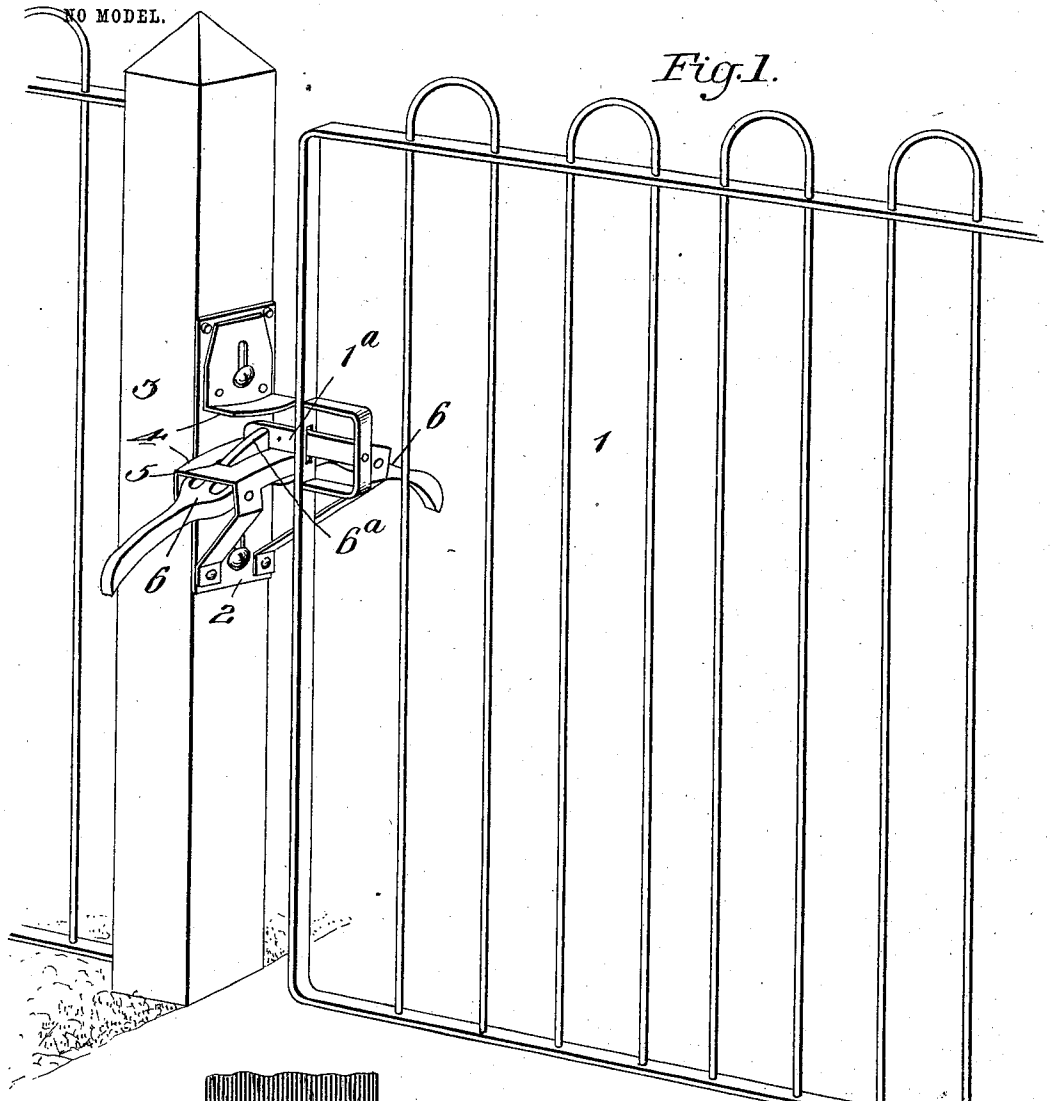


Fig. 2.

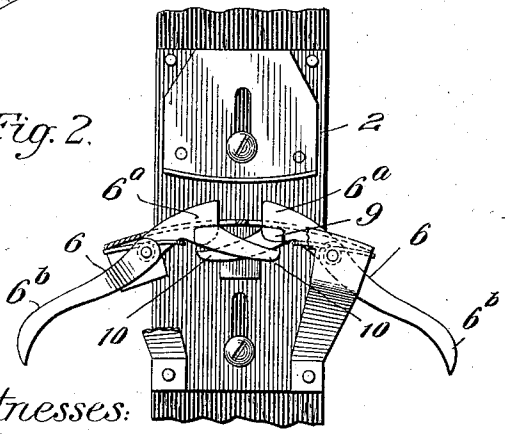


Fig. 3.

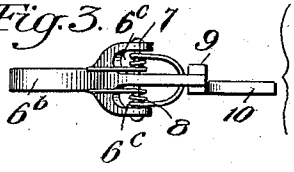
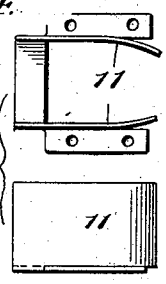


Fig. 4.



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THE NORRIS PETERS CO., PHOTO-LITHO., WASHINGTON, D. C.

No. 728,087. Patented May 12, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER DEARDORFF, OF HAGERSTOWN, INDIANA.

GATE-LATCH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 728,087, dated May 12, 1903.

Application filed October 6, 1902. Serial No. 126,152. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER DEARDORFF, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hagerstown, in the county of Wayne and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gate-Latches; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to improvements in gate-latches.

The object of my invention is to provide an efficient gate-latch of simple and durable construction which may be released from either side to permit the gate to be swung inwardly or outwardly, as may be desired.

The nature of my invention consists of the feature of construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described, and more particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, illustrating the preferred embodiment of my invention, and in which like reference characters designate similar and corresponding parts, Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved gate-latch, showing it applied for use. Fig. 2 is a view of the device in elevation with parts of the casing broken away in order to disclose more clearly the pawls and their arrangement. Fig. 3 is a plan view of one of the pawls, and Fig. 4 is a side and front elevation of a guide to be attached to the latch for use in connection with a drive-gate.

Referring to the drawings, 1 is a gate having a pin 1^a, and 2 is my improved latch secured to a fence-post 3 by preferably screws passing through slots in the base of the latch-casing. Inclined guides or approaches 4 to the locking-point of the latch are provided for the pin 1^a, and the lower one of said guides is provided with slots 5, through which pass the tongues 6^a of the pawls 6. Each pawl 6 has a handle 6^b and on opposite sides is provided with recesses 6^c 6^c, through which passes the pivoting-pin 7, having its ends bearing in the latch-casing. Upon the pivoting-pin 7 in the recesses 6^c 6^c is coiled a spring 8, which has its central portion preferably looped around and bearing upon the under portion of the tongue and its free ends bearing against the under side of the lower guide or approach 4. Said springs normally retain the pawls 6 in such a position that the tongues 6^a will project through the slots 5 and be presented above the surface of the lower guide 4, so as to catch or retain the pin 1^a of the gate 1.

The forward end of the tongue 6^a of each of the pawls 6 has a preferably laterally-projecting lug 9 and a forwardly-extending arm 10. The arms 10 of the opposite pawls laterally lap or come opposite to each other, with their lugs 9 engaging opposite arms, respectively. Said lugs 9 also serve to limit the upward movement of the forward end of the pawls by engaging the under side of the lower guide 4.

While I have shown and described springs for retaining the pawls 6 in operative position, I do not wish to limit myself thereto, as it is obvious that the pawls may be so weighted at the handles as to effectively keep them in operative position.

As shown in the modification as disclosed by Fig. 4, I may substitute in lieu of the upper member 4 of my gate-latch the device 11, comprising a base-plate having vertical spaced-apart plates outstanding therefrom, with the lower ends of said outstanding plates slightly converging toward each other. This device or contrivance is more particularly designed for use in connection with gates actuated by the operator when seated in a vehicle or on horseback, the latch being permitted to ride up as it is disengaged from the latch-post in between said plates 11, while the gate itself has the usual rising or lifting movement when thus actuated until said latch clears the catch on said post. The gate then being moved as in opening the same, the latch will clear the previously-engaged catch and be permitted to drop down upon or past said catch within the limits bound by said plates below the plane of the lower ends of said plates, and thus permit the continued opening of the gate.

My latch is adapted to be operated from either side, and the movement of one of the pawls will cause the movement of the opposite pawl, by reason of the lug on the first-operated pawl engaging the arm on the opposite pawl, thereby releasing the pin 1^a at both sides and permitting the gate to be

swung either inwardly or outwardly. The slots in the base of the latch, through which pass the means for securing it in position, permit the device to be adjusted to the gate-pin. This is particularly advantageous when through wear the front of the gate droops, thereby causing the gate to be out of alinement with the guides.

It will be observed that the lower guide or approach, upon which the gate-pin rests, prevents the gate from sagging and that the upper guide retains the gate-pin from being raised above the locking-points of the pawls, and thereby releasing the gate.

I do not wish to limit myself to the details of construction and arrangement of parts herein shown and described, as I am fully aware that changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention and the same still remain intact and be protected.

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

1. A gate-latch comprising opposite pawls each provided with a forwardly-extending arm and laterally of said arm, with a lug, said arms adapted to lap or come opposite to each other, with their lugs engaging opposite arms, respectively.

2. In a gate-latch, the combination of a closure and opposite pawls having latch-engaging portions projecting up through slots in said closure and having forwardly-extending arms and provided, laterally of said arms, with lugs engaging the lower surface of said closure.

3. A gate-latch composed of a closure and oppositely-arranged pawls having their latch-engaging portions arranged in slots of said closure and provided with forwardly-extending lapping arms and, laterally of said arms, with lugs, in combination with a gate-latch.

4. In a gate-latch, the combination of oppositely-arranged pawls having forwardly-extending lapping arms and, laterally of said arms, lugs, said lugs adapted to engage said arms, respectively.

5. In a gate-latch, the combination with a casing having slots, of oppositely-pivoted pawls each having recesses on opposite sides and a tongue adapted to project through one of said slots, and springs having their coils arranged in said recesses and looped around said tongue and their free ends held by said casing, substantially as set forth.

6. In a gate-latch, the combination of a casing having a top plate adapted to serve as a rest for the gate-pin to prevent the gate from sagging and provided with openings, oppositely-pivoted pawls having their locking-points adapted to project through the openings in said casing and a guide arranged above said casing adapted to prevent the raising of the gate-pin above the locking-points of the pawls and thereby releasing the catch for the gate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

PETER DEARDORFF.

Witnesses:
HENRY WEBER,
OLIVER M. DEARDORFF.