(No Model.)

# B. F. FOSTER.

## TONGUE SUPPORT.

No. 470,931. Patented Mar. 15, 1892.

Fig. 1.

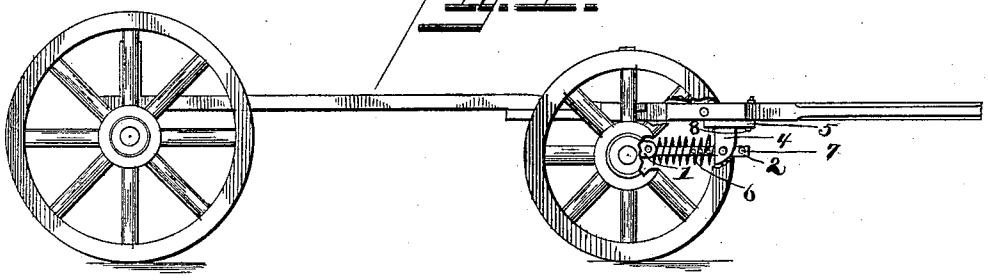
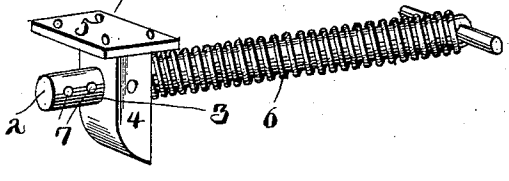



Fig. 2.




WITNESSES
C. S. Frye
E. C. Lodge

Benj. F. Foster
INVENTOR;
By W. T. Fitzgerald & Co.,
Attorneys.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN F. FOSTER, OF NEOSHO, MISSOURI, ASSIGNOR OF TWO-THIRDS TO J. M. PROPST AND GEORGE GRAVES, OF SAME PLACE.

## TONGUE-SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 470,931, dated March 15, 1892.

Application filed November 12, 1891. Serial No. 411,686. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. FOSTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Neosho, in the county of Newton and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Spring-Supports for Wagon-Tongues; 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 spring-supports for vehicle-tongues, the object of which is to relieve the necks of horses from the weight of such tongue, and thus enable the vehicle to be more easily guided and controlled by the driver.

My invention consists in providing a spring on the under side of the tongue in such a manner that the tension thereof may be utilized, and by the addition of a pin, as will be hereinafter set forth, the tongue may be rigidly secured in any preferred position.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a wagon having my invention applied thereto. Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective detail view of the device removed.

Referring in detail to the various parts of my invention by their respective figures of designation, 1 is the base-plate, which may be attached to the front side of the front axle of the wagon of the usual construction, while 2 represents a horizontal bar affixed to said plate and reaching forward through an aperture 3, provided in the downwardly-reaching arm 4 of the bracket 5, said bracket being secured to the under side of the tongue near the rear end thereof.

Intermediate the base 1 and the bracket 5 I place upon the bar 2 the spiral spring 6, the tension of which regulates the position of the tongue. The bar 2 is provided with the series of apertures 7, the object of which is to enable a pin to be inserted therein immediately in the rear of the bracket 5, when the tension of the spring will be relieved and the weight of the tongue will come upon such pin. The base-plate 1 is preferably bolted to the axle, while the bracket 5 is secured in the same manner to the tongue by bolts 8 passing through the front end of such bracket and the rear end of the tongue, when they are secured by nuts in the usual manner.

From the foregoing description the construction of my invention will be readily understood. The operation thereof is as follows: The base-plate 1 is affixed to the axle and the spiral spring placed over the standard, when the aperture in the arm 4 is so placed that it will receive the free end of the bar 2 and the bracket is moved rearwardly into the desired position and secured by the bolts. When the parts are thus assembled, it will be seen that the tongue will be held in the desired position and the weight thereof will be taken from the necks of the animals, leaving the vehicle in such condition that it may be easily guided.

I am well aware that it is old in tongue-supports to connect a plate to the forward side of an axle-tree; to connect a bearing-plate having an aperture to the under side of a pivoted tongue; to provide a rod connected to the plate on the axle-tree and taking loosely through the aperture in the plate on the tongue and having screw-threads for a portion of its length, a nut mounted on the threaded portion of the rod, and a spiral spring surrounding the rod intermediate of the nut and the bearing-plate on the tongue, and I therefore make no claim to such construction; but

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

In a tongue-support for vehicles, the combination, with the vehicle and the tongue connected thereto, of the plate 1, connected to the front axle of the vehicle, the bar 2, connected to said plate and having an aperture adjacent to its forward end, the bracket connected to the under side of the tongue, the depending arm connected to the bracket and having an aperture to receive the forward end of the bar 2, the spiral spring mounted on the bar between the plate 1 and the bracket-arm, and the pin adapted to be inserted in the aperture of the bar 2 to take the strain off the spring, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

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

BENJAMIN F. FOSTER.

Witnesses:
DALLAS MASON,
P. R. SMITH.