

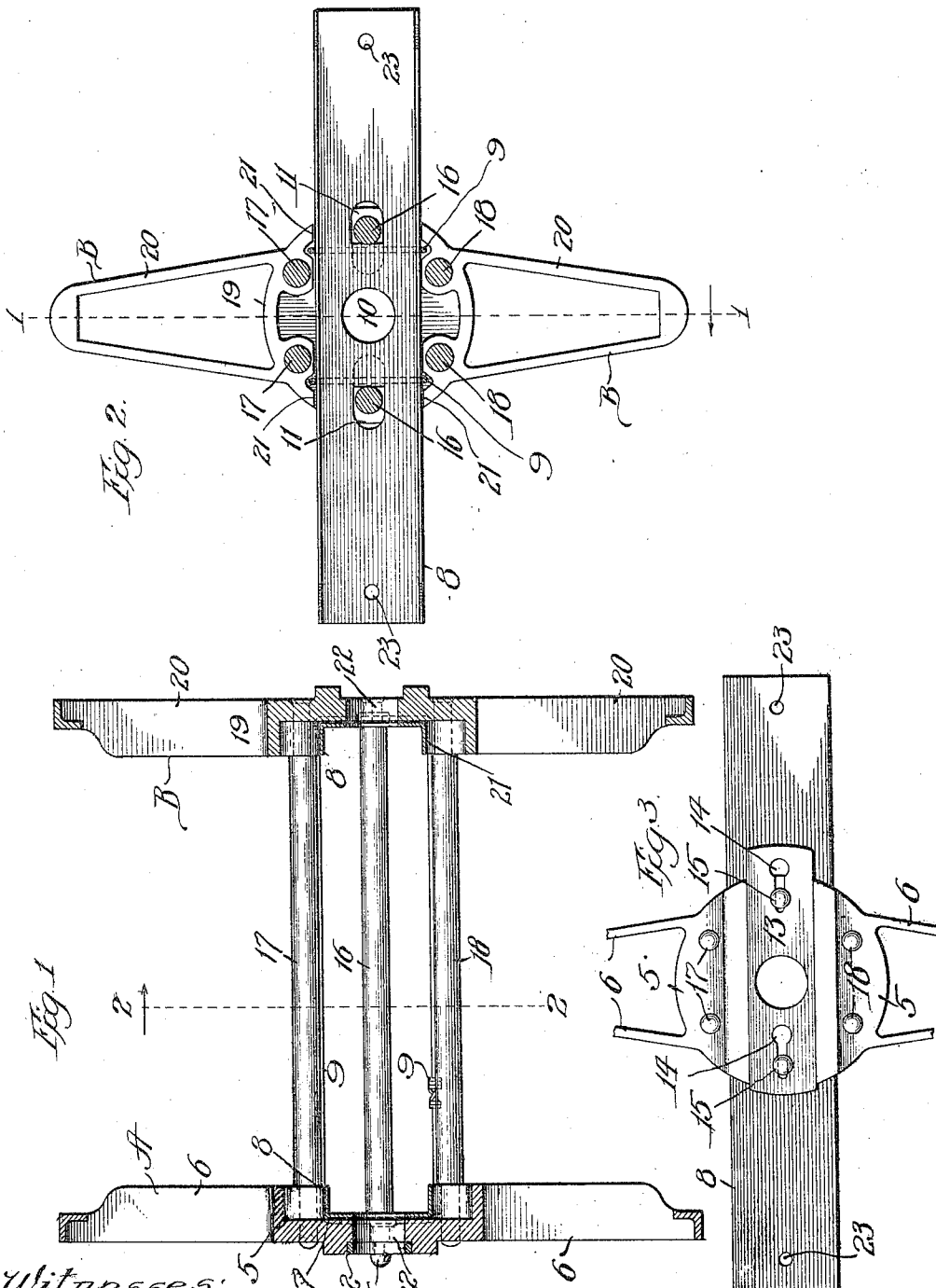
W. A. KILMER & S. SWANBUM.

SUPPORT FOR WIRE REELS.

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1,036,644.

Patented Aug. 27, 1912.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TO THE AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY, OF CHICAGO,
ILLINOIS, A CORPORATION OF NEW JERSEY.

SUPPORT FOR WIRE-REELS.

1,036,644.

Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 27, 1912.

Application filed July 22, 1910. Serial No. 573,217.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, WILLIAM A. KILMER and SANFORD SWANBUM, both of De Kalb, in the county of Dekalb and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Supports for Wire-Reels, of which the following is a specification.

This application relates to means for supporting a skeleton wire reel during the operation of reeling barbed wire, or other similar product thereon, and has particular reference to a support for wire reels such as disclosed in our co-pending application, Serial No. 535,262, filed December 28, 1909.

As will be understood by those skilled in the art, the marketing of barbed wire has almost exclusively, been accomplished by reeling the wire into bundles on rigid wooden reels. This has been necessary in order to provide means whereby the wire could be unreel'd by the user without inconvenience, but the use of this rigid wooden reel has been attended with certain manufacturing difficulties, the principal of which is that of providing a sufficient number of these wooden reels ready for use without at the same time providing a very large storage space therefor. To that end, we have devised skeleton reels such as shown in the drawings of this application, as well as in our co-pending application, Serial No. 504,497, filed June 26, 1909, either of which skeleton reels is adapted to be collapsed prior to use and therefore occupy a very small storage space. However, in order to use such reels, it has been necessary to devise a support therefor which shall be adapted to readily secure the reel in the barbed wire machine during the reeling operation, and such a reel is disclosed herein.

It has been found in practice that the wire must be placed on the reel in such manner that the central opening through the bundle of wire shall be of substantially circular outline; that is to say, where the wire is wound on a support having but four cross members the opening is substantially rectangular, and that in unwinding the bundle of wire, the wire becomes tangled for the last four or five turns and considerable thereof is wasted. It has been found also that where the support for the reel during the winding operation is provided with at least six cross members, and that therefore

the opening through the bundle is substantially circular, the wire will unwind to the last strand without tangling. It has also been found in practice that it is undesirable to wind the barbed wire on the cross wires of the wire reel; that is, that the barbed wire must be wound on the cross members of the support and not contact the light cross wires of the reel.

Our invention will be more readily understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein,

Figure 1 is a sectional elevation on the line 1—1 of Fig. 2; Fig. 2 is a cross section on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is an end elevation showing the method of securing the removable head of the reel support.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, it will be seen that our device is provided with end portions, A, B, both of which are similar in outline and construction. The end portion, A, comprises a substantially circular middle portion, 5, and radial extensions or arms, 6, 6. The middle portion, 5, is provided with a transverse slot or opening, 7, in which is adapted to be seated, the end portion, 8, of a skeleton reel such as shown in the drawings. This reel comprises channel end portions, 8, 8, and connecting cross wires, 9, 9. The end portions, 8, of the reel are perforated, as at, 10, 11, 11, the opening, 10, being provided for an unreeling arbor, the openings, 11, being provided for the accommodation of cross rods of the reel support. The metal which is punched out from the opening, 11, is bent over and provides clips for securing the cross wires, 9, 9, to the end portions, 8, 8.

Resuming the description of the end portion, A, a further slot, 12, is provided on the outside of the portion, 5, in which is mounted a slide, or catch, 13, having the key-hole slots, 14, 14, the larger ends of which are adapted to fit over the reduced end portions, 15, 15, of two cross members, 16, 16, of the support. These contracted end portions are provided with transverse slots, as best shown in Fig. 3, in which the contracted portions of the key-hole slots, 14, are adapted to be seated. The remaining cross members, 17, 17—18, 18, also have reduced end portions which fit into corresponding openings in the end portion, A, but no fastening means are provided.

The head, B, is provided with a circular middle portion, 19, and radial arms, 20, 20, similar to those of head, A. The central portion, 19, is also provided with a transverse slot or opening, 21, in which is seated the channel end member, 8, of the collapsible reel. The cross members, 16, 17, 18, have reduced end portions which fit within openings in the head, B, and are riveted or otherwise securely fastened in said head, B. Both heads, A, and B, have through openings, 22, mating with the opening, 10, in the end members, 8, of the reel.

In practice, a support such as described hereinbefore is used as follows: The head, A, being removed from the ends of the cross members, a skeleton reel of any approved construction, preferably one similar to that shown in the drawings, is placed on the support, the cross member, 16, being passed through the openings, 11, as shown in Fig. 2. The head, A, is then placed on the cross members, the slide, 13, securing the said head, A, thereon. The support and the reel are then placed on the mandrel in the barbed wire machine and the wire wound thereon. When the requisite amount has been wound the machine is stopped, the wire severed and the support removed from

the machine. After removing the head, A, the bundle of wire is lifted from the support and after binder wires are applied by means of the openings, 23, in the ends of the channel member of the wire reel, the bundle of wire is ready for the market.

Various modifications of our construction will undoubtedly suggest themselves to those skilled in the art and we do not therefore wish to be limited to the precise construction herein shown.

We claim:

A support for skeleton reels for barbed wire, comprising in combination, head portions, and at least six circularly arranged cross connecting members, said cross connecting members being rigidly secured in one head and removably held in the other head, and means for locking at least two of said cross connecting members in said removable head, said locking means including a latch slidably movable upon the head, substantially as described.

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