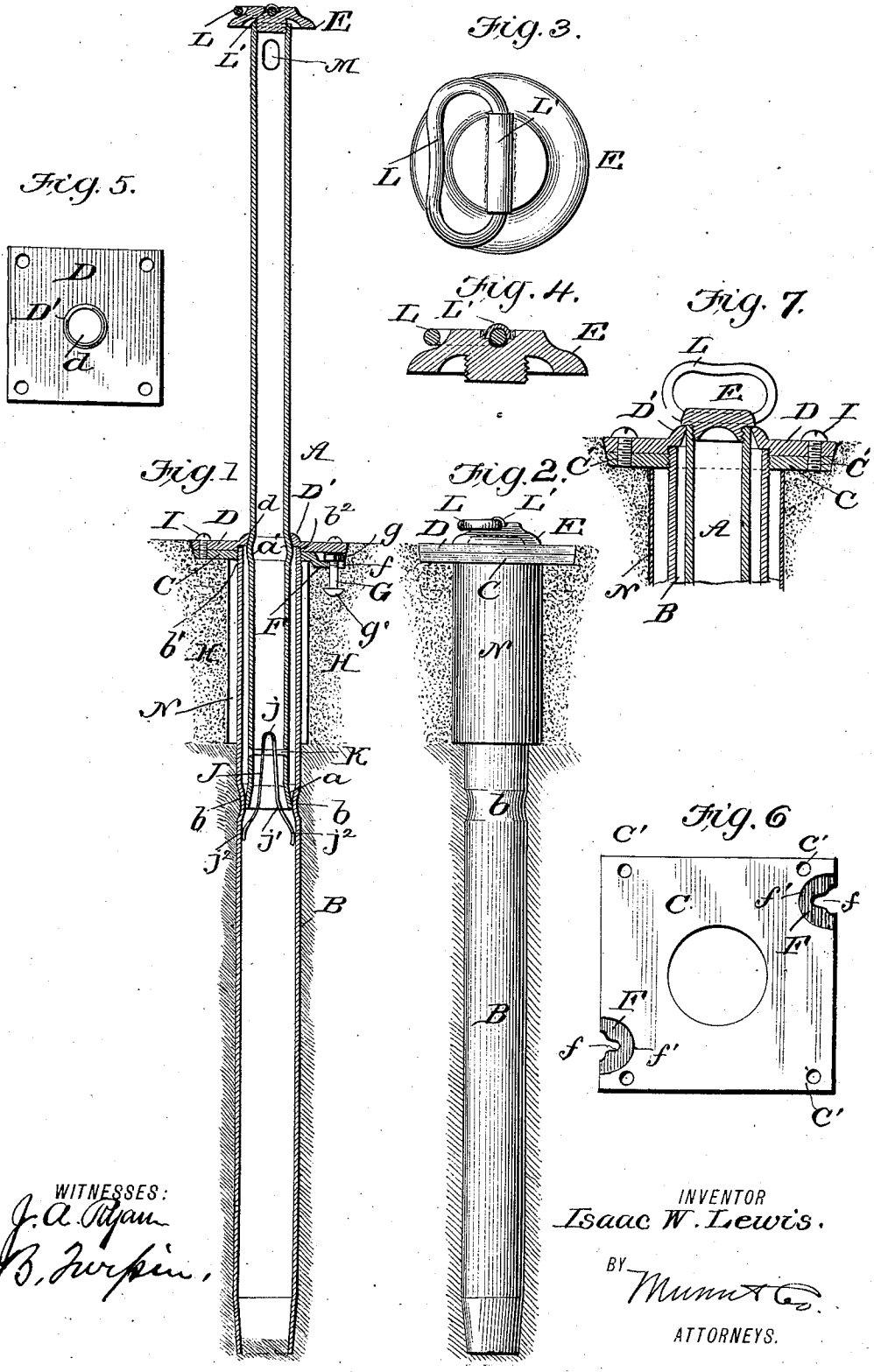
(No Model.)

I. W. LEWIS.

HITCHING POST.

No. 566,196. Patented Aug. 18, 1896.



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HITCHING-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 566,196, dated August 18, 1896.

Application filed February 29, 1896. Serial No. 581,365. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ISAAC W. LEWIS, of Washington city, in the District of Columbia, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hitching-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in hitching-posts, and particularly in that class of such devices in which the post proper is arranged to be lifted out of the ground for use or be adjusted into the ground and out of the way when not in use; and the invention consists in certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangements of parts, as will be hereinafter described, and pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section of my post in position in the ground, the post proper being raised to position for use. Fig. 2 is a side view of the post in the ground, the post proper being lowered, as when not in use. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views of the cap. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the top plate. Fig. 6 is a detail view of the lower plate. Fig. 7 is an enlarged detail section showing a somewhat different form of cap from that shown in Figs. 1, 3, and 4.

My post is shown as comprising the post proper, A, the ground-tube B, the lower plate C, the top plate D, and the cap-plate E, the said parts being constructed as shown and as will now be described.

The ground-tube B is seated in the ground with its upper end at or near the ground-surface and is made of such length, preferably four feet eight inches, as to form a receptacle for the post A when the latter is pushed down. At a point comparatively near its upper end, preferably eighteen inches from its top, the bore of the ground-tube B is contracted at b, preferably by pressing such tube inward, as shown. The upper end of the ground-tube is threaded at b' to receive the lower plate C, which is threaded on the tube B, the latter projecting at b^2 above the plate C to aid in centering the top plate D in applying the same. The plate C is provided with holes C′ for the bolts which secure the top plate D, and is also provided at its edges with dropped portions F, having notches f to permit the lateral insertion of the anchor-bolts G, and mortises f' to receive the nuts g on said bolts, the heads g' thereof being embedded in the concrete or other street material H, as shown.

The top plate D has a central opening d slightly smaller than the bore of the ground-tube, which opening is countersunk on its under side to form a seat for the bulged or enlarged part of the post presently described. In its under side the plate D is recessed or rabbeted surrounding the opening d to fit the projecting end b^2 of the ground-tube, and so center the top plate in applying the post and said plate to the ground-tube and lower plate.

Bolts I secure the top plate D firmly to the lower plate and yet permit the ready removal of the said post and top plate whenever desired.

In securing the countersunk opening in the top plate it is preferred to form the same with a central upwardly-projected bead D′ to ward off grit, which bead rounds up from the top surface of the plate and forms a broad seat in its countersunk portion for the swelled portion of the post.

The post A is preferably tubular, four feet six inches long, has its lower end flared or projected at a, and is provided with a swelled portion a', preferably one foot six inches from the flared part a, and arranged in proper relation to the flared or projected part a to engage the seat in the top plate when the said part a is engaged with the contracted portion b of the ground-tube. At its lower end the post is provided with the spring J, made in the form of a bow-spring, bent at j, forming the arms j', and secured in the lower end of the post by the cross-pin K, passing through its arms j', the extremities of the spring being projected beyond the end of the post and being rounded at j^2 to bear against the inner side of the ground-tube and hold the post in any position to which it may be adjusted.

At its upper end the post is provided with a cap E, which may be made with the thin beveled ogee edges, as shown in Fig. 1, so it can lie flat upon the top plate, or such cap may, if desired, be made, as shown in Fig. 7, with just sufficient edge projection to catch on the beaded rim around the opening in the top plate to ward off grit. The cap in each case is threaded in the post and is provided

with a ring or pull L, secured by a shell L', fitted over the ring and soldered or otherwise secured to the body of the cap. By this pull the post may be readily lifted to any desired height, from which it may be pushed into the ground when not in use.

Just below the cap the post has an opening M, through which a rein may be passed and looped over the cap to secure the horse without tying, such loop being easily displaced when desired. To prevent the cement and concrete filled in below the lower plate from coming in contact with the ground-tube, I prefer to provide a casing N of tin or other suitable material, which extends around the ground-tube in the square opening formed as presently described.

In placing the post it is preferred to cut a square hole about half inch larger all around them the size of the lower and top plates and about four inches deep, from the bottom of which square hole a round hole is bored down to within three or four inches of where the ground-pipe will reach. The tin casing will be put in the square hole and cement filled in around it. Then put in the ground-tube with top plate applied and secured as shown and before described.

In use it will be seen that if the post be drawn up to its full height its lower flared end will bear against the contracted portion of the ground-tube and its swelled or enlarged portion will bear against the seat of the top plate, as shown, the post being thus steadied in position and held therein by the spring which binds it at any vertical adjustment. When pushed down from said position, the post fits loosely in the ground-tube and may then be slipped quickly into the ground; but when in position for use it will be firm, rigid, and practically immovable.

In setting the ground-tube the hole is bored slightly shorter than the said tube and the latter is forced into the ground, a small portion of the dirt entering the lower end of the tube, and in order to prevent the springs of the post from entering such dirt I ram the latter out of the ground-tube in any suitable manner.

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

1. A hitching-post comprising the ground-tube, having its bore provided with a contracted portion, the post having a flared portion at or near its lower end and a swelled or enlarged portion as described, the top plate having a bearing for engagement by said enlarged portion when the flared lower portion is in engagement with the contracted portion of the ground-tube, and means for holding the post elevated, substantially as shown and described.

2. A hitching-post comprising the ground-tube having a portion of its bore contracted, the top plate, means whereby said top plate is held to the ground-tube, such top plate having a seat for the enlarged portion of the post the post having the swelled or enlarged portion and the flared lower end and the spring all substantially as shown and described.

3. In a hitching-post the combination of the ground-tube, the lower plate held thereto, the top plate held to the lower plate, the post, and means for holding the post elevated, substantially as shown and described.

4. The combination of the ground-tube and lower plate a slight central projection being provided above said lower plate the top plate having a rabbet or recess to receive said projection whereby to center the said top plate means by which to secure the top plate, the post and means for holding the post elevated, substantially as shown and described.

5. The combination of the ground-tube having its upper end threaded, the lower plate threaded on said tube the latter projecting above the said plate, the top plate having a recess receiving said upper projection and secured to the lower plate, the post, and means for holding the post elevated, substantially as shown and described.

6. The combination of the ground-tube having its bore provided with a contracted portion, the lower plate threaded on said tube, the upper end of the latter projecting above the said plate, the top plate having a recess receiving said projecting end and an upwardly-projected bead surrounding its central opening, means by which to secure the top plate to the lower plate, the post, and the spring substantially as shown and described.

7. The combination with the top plate having a central opening and a countersunk seat surrounding the under side thereof of the ground-tube having its bore provided with a contracted portion and the post having a swelled portion arranged to engage said countersunk seat and a flared lower end to engage the contracted portion of the ground-tube, and the spring substantially as shown and described.

8. The combination of the ground-tube, the lower plate, the top plate secured to the lower plate, the anchor-bolts secured to the lower plate, the post proper, and means for holding the post elevated, substantially as set forth.

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