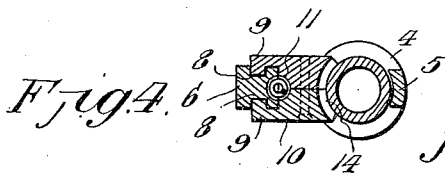
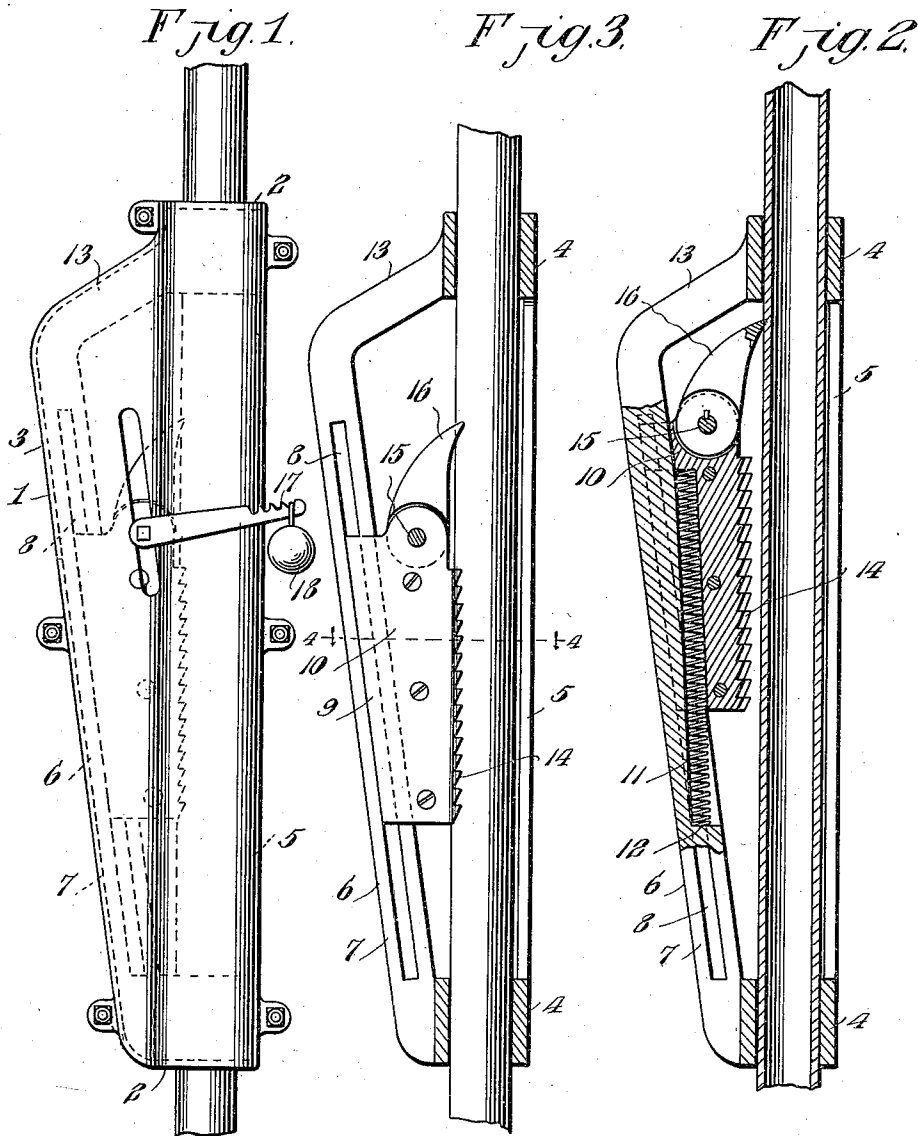


J. H. BELSER.
 ROD CATCHER.
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1,006,900.

Patented Oct. 24, 1911.



Witnesses
 Frank Hough
 Edw. W. Hough

Inventor
 Joseph H. Belser,
 By Victor J. Evans
 Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSEPH H. BELSER, OF KANE, PENNSYLVANIA.

ROD-CATCHER.

1,006,900.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 24, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH H. BELSER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kane, in the county of McKean and State of Pennsylvania, have invented new and useful Improvements in Rod-Catchers, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to rod holding devices and the object of the invention is the provision of a device which will automatically grip and hold a pump or sucker rod while a fresh grip is obtained by the pulling devices or in case of accidental disconnection of the pulling device from the rod being pulled.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a novel gripping device which is normally thrown out of engagement with the rod and which does not act upon the upward movement of the rod but which is automatically thrown into operative gripping position upon any downward movement of the rod.

Further objects of the invention will appear as the following specific description is read in connection with the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this application, and in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the device. Fig. 2 is a similar view with the casing removed and the gripping device shown in inoperative position. Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 with the gripping device shown in operative position. Fig. 4 is a transverse section on the line 4—4 of Fig. 3.

Referring more particularly to the drawing, 1 represents a casing which is provided with open cylindrical ends 2 and with a bulging side, as shown at 3, provided for a purpose to be hereinafter described. The casing is constructed in two parts joined together in any suitable manner and mounted in the casing is a frame which comprises the end rings 4, a longitudinal connecting bar 5 and an angular track 6. The bar 5 and the track 6 connect the rings together and are secured within the casing in any suitable manner. The long leg 7 of the track is provided with longitudinal grooves 8 which are engaged by lateral fingers 9 on the gripping dog 10 which is mounted to slide upon the track. The dog 10 is grooved upon its outer surface so as to receive a spring 11 which engages a shoulder 12 upon the track and normally forces the gripping

dog along the track toward the short leg 13 thereof. The inner side of the gripping dog is provided with a concaved, serrated, gripping face 14 which is adapted to conform to the shape of the rod or pipe being operated upon. Journaled in the upper end of the gripping dog is a short shaft 15 which has keyed thereto a pawl 16 which is normally held in engagement with the rod or pipe being pulled by means of a lever 17 and weight 18. The shaft 15 extends through the casing so as to receive the lever when the weight 18 is adjustably mounted thereon to determine the action of the gripping dog.

In the operation of the device the gripping dog is normally forced out of engagement with the rod or pipe being pulled by the spring 11 but the pawl 16 is constantly held in engagement with the pipe or rod by means of the lever and weight. When the rod or pipe is released to obtain a fresh grip or becomes accidentally disengaged from the pulling means and the rod drops, the pawl 16 will have sufficient pressure against the rod for the rod to carry the locking dog down the inclined track and wedge itself between said track and the pipe, the serrated gripping surface effectively engaging the latter so as to hold it from further downward movement until a fresh grip or connection can be made.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is:—

1. A device of the class described comprising a casing, a frame mounted in the casing and comprising in part an inclined track, a wedge shaped locking dog slidably mounted upon the track, means for normally holding the same out of operative position, and means actuated by the rod being pulled for automatically pulling the dog into operative position.

2. A device of the class described comprising a frame having an inclined track thereon, a wedge shaped locking dog slidably mounted upon the track, a spring for normally holding the locking dog in inoperative position, a pawl carried by the locking dog, and means for normally holding the pawl in gripping relation with the member being operated upon.

3. A rod catcher comprising a casing, a frame mounted within the casing and including an inclined track, a wedge shaped

locking dog slidably mounted upon the track, a spring to normally keep said dog in inoperative position, a pawl pivoted upon the dog and adapted to engage the rod being operated upon, and a lever for normally throwing said pawl into engagement with the rod, said pawl being adapted to permit free movement of the rod in one direction but to grip the rod in the opposite direction

and force the dog into wedging engagement 10 between the rod and track.

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

JOSEPH H. BELSER.

Witnesses:

JAMES R. ROSS,

FRED ECK.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."
