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D. JOHNSON.

WIRE STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 21, 1919.

1,323,771.

Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

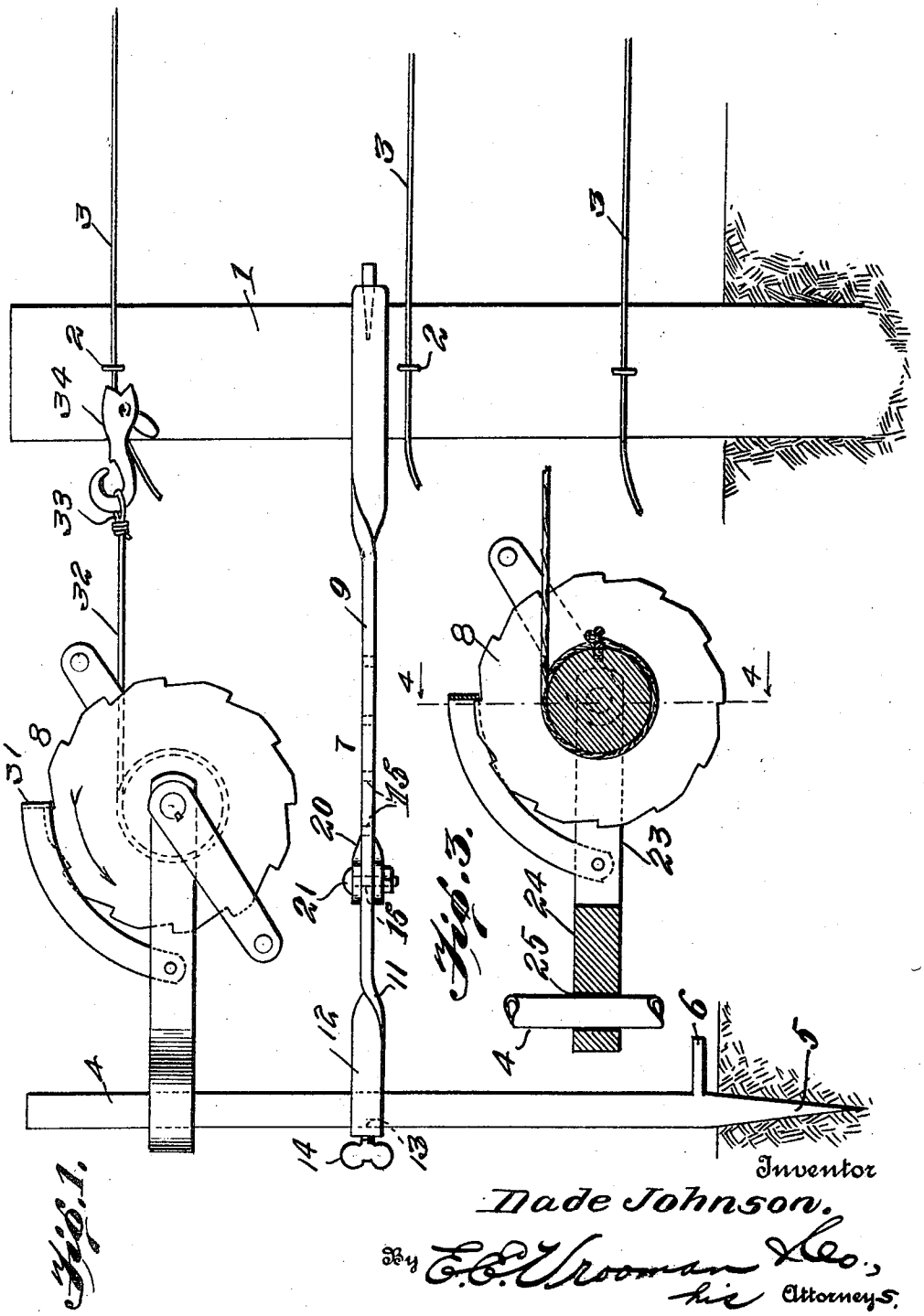


Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

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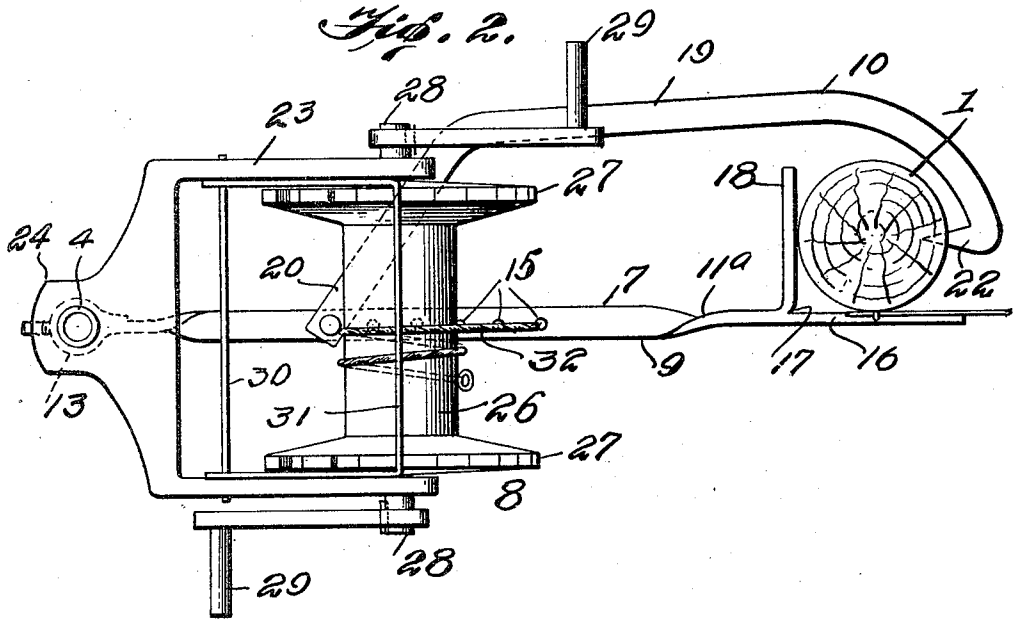
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Fig. 2.



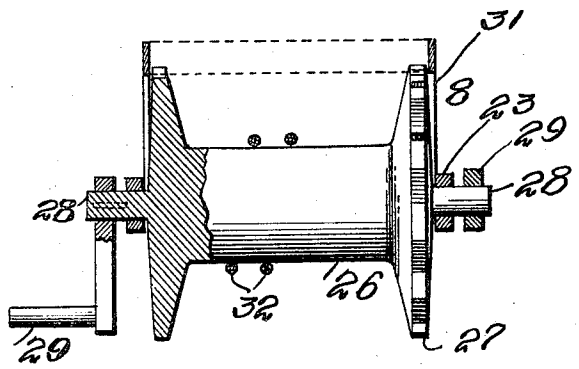


Fig. 4.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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WIRE-STRETCHER.

1,323,771. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 2, 1919.

Application filed March 21, 1919. Serial No. 283,973.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DADE JOHNSON, citizen of the United States of America, residing at Lemons, in the county of Putnam and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to wire stretchers and has for its object the provision of a practical and comparatively simple apparatus that will efficiently tighten the wires or strands of a fence, and which apparatus will be comparatively easy to repair, as well as easy to pack or ship.

With this and other objects in view, my invention comprises certain novel combinations and arrangements of parts as will be more specifically described in the following description, pointed out in the appended claims and clearly illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of an apparatus constructed in accordance with the present invention, shown associated with a fence, while

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the apparatus shown in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary vertical sectional view of the apparatus, showing particularly the reel device thereof, while

Fig. 4 is a partial transverse sectional view of the reel device.

Referring to the drawings by numerals, 1 designates the primary or fixed post of the fence to which are attached, by staples 2, the strands of wire 3.

In the construction of my apparatus, I employ a false or auxiliary post 4, which is provided with a lower pointed end 5 and an integral foot piece 6, which foot piece materially assists in the quickly positioning of post 4 in the ground at the desired distance to the main or primary post 1. This false or auxiliary post 4 is preferably made of hollow material, such as a pipe, and mounted upon the auxiliary or false post 4 is the connecting device 7 and the reel device 8.

The connecting device comprises a primary jaw 9 and an auxiliary clutch jaw 10. The primary jaw is preferably formed from a blank rod or strip of material and at 11 it is twisted to place the inner portion 12 at right angles to the central portion, and in the inner portion 12 is formed an eye 13 through which the false or auxiliary post extends (Figs. 1 and 2). The connecting device is retained in an adjusted position upon post 4 by set screw 14. The central portion of the jaw 9 is provided with a plurality of apertures 15, which permit the clutch jaw 10 to be adjusted thereon, by means hereinafter described, for allowing the jaws to fit accurately posts of the fence of varying size or diameters. The forward end of the primary jaw 9 is twisted at 11^a producing a right-angled forward-extension 16 that bears against one side of post 1, and this forward end is split or bifurcated as at 17 and an integral right-angled extension 18 bears against another side or portion of post 1

The adjustable clutch or auxiliary jaw 10 comprises a central body portion 19 having an integral angular end 20, which end is bifurcated (Fig. 1) for straddling the center body of the primary jaw 9, and this bifurcated end is apertured and through the apertures thereof and one of the apertures 15 of the primary jaw a bolt 21 extends, constituting fastening means for retaining the clutch jaw 10 in an adjusted position upon the primary jaw 9. The outer end of the clutch jaw 10 is curved and on its extreme end is a point 22 for entering the post 1 (Fig. 2). The approximate distance between the point 22 and the right-angled extension 18 is determined and then the fastening means 21 is inserted, then the point 22 is placed against the post and then the portions 16 and 18 of the primary jaws are swung inwardly toward the post 1 and thereby causes the pointed or sharpened end 22 of the auxiliary jaw to enter the post, retaining the two jaws during the operation of stretching the wire strand, in their correct position upon the post 1.

The reel device comprises a frame 23 having a rearwardly-extending apertured extension 24, which apertured extension 24 fits upon the false or auxiliary post 4, and by reason of making the aperture 25 of the extension 24 slightly larger than the post 4 (Fig. 3) the reel device has a binding action upon the post by reason of the outer end of the device being heavier than the inner end, and inclining as clearly shown

in Fig. 3, so that the reel device is held in an adjusted position upon the post 4 by its own weight.

A drum 26 is journaled upon the frame 23 and the drum 26 is provided with ratchets 27 on its ends, and projecting from the ends of the drum are stub shafts 28. Keyed upon the stub shafts 28 are suitable handles 29 for revolving the drum in either direction at either side of the frame 23. A rod 30 is secured upon the rear part of frame 23, and upon this rod is pivotally mounted a U-shaped, curved (Fig. 1) pawl 31; when the pawl 31 is permitted to drop down upon the ratchets 27, the drum 26 is prevented from revolving in one direction, so that cable 32 will not be unwound while stretching a strand 3. It will be understood that the word "cable" is used in generic sense, as this cable may be either rope, chain, or a strip of leather. Upon the outer end of the cable 32 is formed a loop 33, and attached to loop 33 is a wire clamp 34. This wire clamp is of any ordinary structure and is used to grip the strand 3 prior to the same being permanently fastened to the main post 1 by the staple 2.

What I claim is:

1. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination of a false post, a connecting device mounted upon said post, said device comprising a primary jaw including a central flat portion having a twisted portion near its front end, said twisted portion terminating in a straight outer end-portion at right-angles to the central portion, said end portion being bifurcated and provided with a right-angled extension, the extension and end portion adapted to engage opposite sides of a fence post, said central flat portion terminating at the opposite end in a twisted portion and the last-mentioned twisted portion provided with an eye portion surrounding the false post, said central flat portion provided with a plurality of alined apertures, an auxiliary jaw provided with an outer pointed end at an angle to the central part of said jaw, said auxiliary jaw having its inner end bifurcated and straddling the central flat portion of the primary jaw, said bifurcated end provided with registering apertures, fastening means extending through the apertures of the bifurcated portion and through an aperture of the central portion of the primary jaw, and reeling means mounted upon the false post.

2. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination with a false post, of a reel device upon said post, said reel device comprising a frame provided with a rear portion positioned over said post, said frame provided with parallel sides, a drum provided with stub shafts, said stub shafts journaled upon said parallel sides, handles keyed to said shafts, a rod mounted upon said sides, a substantially U-shaped pawl pivotally mounted upon said rod, said reel provided with ratchets at its ends, said pawl adapted to engage said ratchets for preventing movement of the reel in one direction, strand connecting means attached to said reel, and a connecting device carried by said post.

3. In an apparatus of the class described, the combination with a false post and a post of an ordinary fence, of a connecting device rigidly holding said false post assembled with said fence post, comprising a primary and an auxiliary jaw pivotally connected together, said primary jaw including a split or bifurcated end engaging different portions of the fence post, said auxiliary jaw provided with an angularly-disposed pointed end engaging the post between the portions engaged by the split end of the primary jaw, means rigidly connecting said primary jaw to the false post, and reeling means supported upon the false post.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature.

DADE JOHNSON.