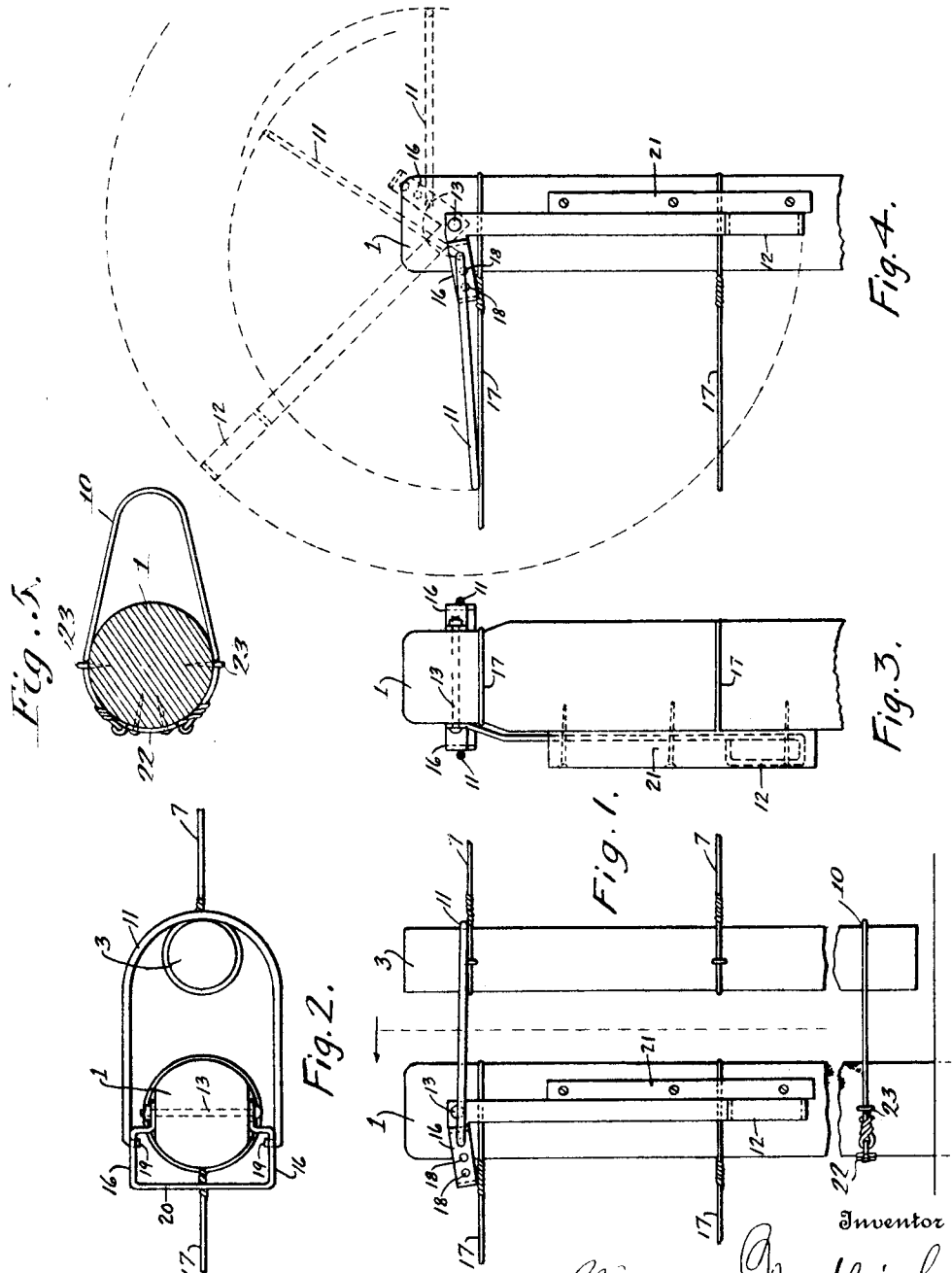


T. WADLEIGH.
GATE FASTENER.
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1,036,040.

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Witnesses
Harry W. Mool
Max R. Tippell

Inventor
Theodore Wadleigh
By Willard Eddy, Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THEODORE WADLEIGH, OF KNIERIM, IOWA.

GATE-FASTENER.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THEODORE WADLEIGH, of the town of Knierim, county of Calhoun, and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gate-Fasteners, which improvements are described in the following specification and are illustrated by the accompanying drawings.

In connection with wire fences, it is common in some parts of this country to use gates which are in a sense collapsible, being formed of flexible wires, either barbed smooth or woven, which are connected together by separate crosspieces, or stays.

My invention relates in general to fasteners for gates of this kind, and in particular to means for attaching the free end of such a gate to an adjacent post of the gateway.

The objects of the invention are, to render such a fastener convenient and easy to be applied and to be operated by hand, as well as safe and not liable to be rubbed loose by cattle; to render the fastener adjustable for the purpose of taking up slack and of regulating the gate tension; to place the gate under longitudinal tension, approximately equal to that of the wire fence with which it may be used; and in general to produce a superior fastener for gates of this kind. To accomplish these objects I incorporate in my improved gate fastener a bent lever, which is fulcrumed on a pivot at the side of the gateway, and a bail, which engages the free end of the gate and is pivoted to the short arm of the bent lever.

The best manner in which I have contemplated applying the principles of the invention, is shown in said drawings; yet I wish it understood that the invention is not limited to any specific construction or arrangement of parts, except in so far as limitations of that kind are specified in the subjoined claims.

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my improved gate fastener, mounted on a gate post, and holding the gate shut. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is an elevation and section on the section line in Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a side elevation of the same fastener mounted on the gateway post in a position of complete disengagement from the gate. Fig. 5 is a detail.

One of the side posts of a gateway through a common wire fence, is denoted in the drawings by the numeral 1. The gate comprises a number of upright wooden stays

3 and the horizontal wires 7, which are separately fastened to those stays. This gate post is provided, near the ground, with a wire-loop 10, into which the foot of the end stay 3 is set, as in Fig. 1, as often as the gate is closed, and out of which that stay is lifted by hand as often as the gate is opened. This loop is preferably adjustable in length, being inserted a variable distance through the staples 23 and through wire-holes in the bracket 22, which is fastened to the back side of the post 1, as shown in Fig. 5. The gate fastener comprises the bifurcated bent lever 12 and the bail 11, which are pivoted to the top of the gate post and to each other by the bolt 13. This lever, which is of the bell-crank type, comprises a single long arm, or handle, which is denoted by the same numeral 12, and a pair of duplicate short arms 16, which are united with each other by a cross-connection 20 and form with the long arm 12 an angle of about ninety degrees. One of these deflected short arms 16 is united immediately with the long arm 12; both of them are perforated by the pivot-holes 18, which register in pairs and constitute bearings for the alining intumed ends 19 of the bail 11. The elasticity of this bail, which is preferably formed of steel, permits its pivotal ends 19 to be readily shifted by hand from pair to pair of these bearings, as may be required, and retains the same in the bearings into which they are sprung. The block 21 is fastened to the side of the post 1 to stop the long arm 12 in its vertical position, and to guard the same from being rubbed and moved by cattle.

In operation the loop 10 is adjusted in length, as often as may be necessary, by being untwisted from the bracket 22, by then being slipped endwise by hand under its retaining staples 23, which are temporarily loosened for the occasion, and by then being twisted through the bracket, as shown in Fig. 5. To fasten the gate shut, the operator sets the foot of the gate stay 3 into the loop 10 in the position shown in Fig. 1; then swings the bail 11 over the top of that stay, and into a horizontal position; and then turns the long arm, or handle 12, of the bell-crank lever to the vertical position shown in Figs. 1 and 3, where it is stopped by block 21. The top of the stay 3 is drawn forcibly toward the post 1 by the bail 11, during this movement of the bell-crank lever, and is held by the bail securely in the

position to which it is so drawn: while the bottom of that stay is held in position by the loop 10. Thus the gate is placed under a degree of longitudinal tension predetermined by the adjustment of the pivots 19 in the selected bearings 18 and by the adjustment of the loop 10. For the purpose of taking up slack and maintaining that tension, these pivots are easily changed from one pair of these bearings to another, when the fastener is not in actual use. To unfasten the gate, the handle of the bent lever 12 is turned by hand in the opposite direction, as shown by broken lines in Fig. 4, and the bail 11, which is thereby relieved of tension, is turned by hand off and away from stay 3. The latter is then lifted by hand out of loop 10. Then the gate collapses, and is readily carried to one side of the gateway.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A gate fastener, comprising a bifurcated bell-crank lever having a normally dependent long arm and having two connected parallel short arms perforated with engagement holes alined in pairs unequally distant from the fulcrum of that lever; a pivotal bolt by which said bifurcated lever is fulcrumed astride the top of a vertical gate post, a U-shaped elastic bail having intumed alining ends for adjustment as pivots in said pairs of alined holes selectively and adapted to be swung over the top of an adjacent gate stay, and a protecting stop block projecting from said gate post along the side of said long arm in its dependent position.

2. A gate fastener, comprising a bifurcated bell-crank lever of less than ninety degrees, having a normally dependent long

arm and having two parallel short arms 40 perforated with engagement holes in alignment in pairs unequally distant from the fulcrum of that lever, a pivoting bolt on which said bifurcated lever is fulcrumed astraddle the top of a gate post, an elastic 45 bail having intumed alining ends for insertion selectively in said pairs of alined engagement holes and adapted to engage the top of an adjacent gate stay, and a vertically arranged stop block projecting from said 50 gate post and adapted to engage side by side the said long arm of the lever in its dependent position.

3. A gate fastener, comprising a bifurcated bell-crank lever having a long arm 55 and having two short arms perforated with pivot holes alined in pairs unequally distant from the fulcrum of said lever, a pivotal bolt on which said lever is fulcrumed astride the top of a vertically arranged gate 60 post, an elastic bail having intumed alining ends to be sprung alternatively into said pairs of alined pivot holes and adapted to loop the top of an adjacent gate stay, and a loop for the foot of said stay, in combination with a stop block arranged vertically 65 along the side of said gate post in a position to engage side by side the free end and the middle portion of said long arm when the latter is stopped in its normally vertical position.

In testimony whereof I hereunto set my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

THEODORE WADLEIGH.

Witnesses:

WILLARD EDDY,
THOS. F. PAYTON.