

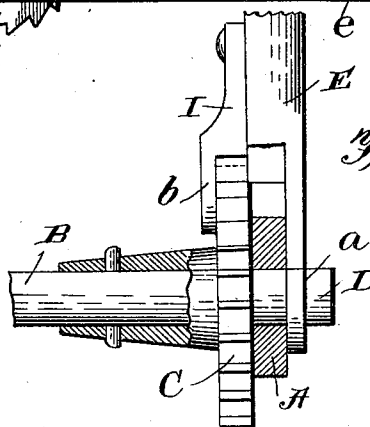
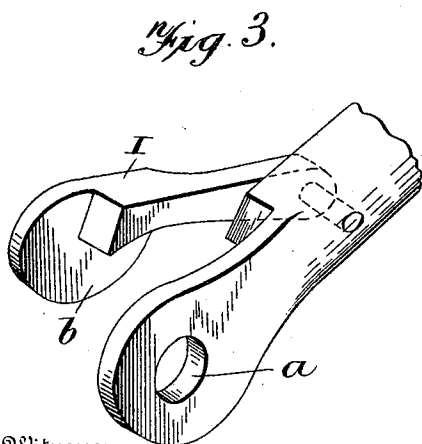
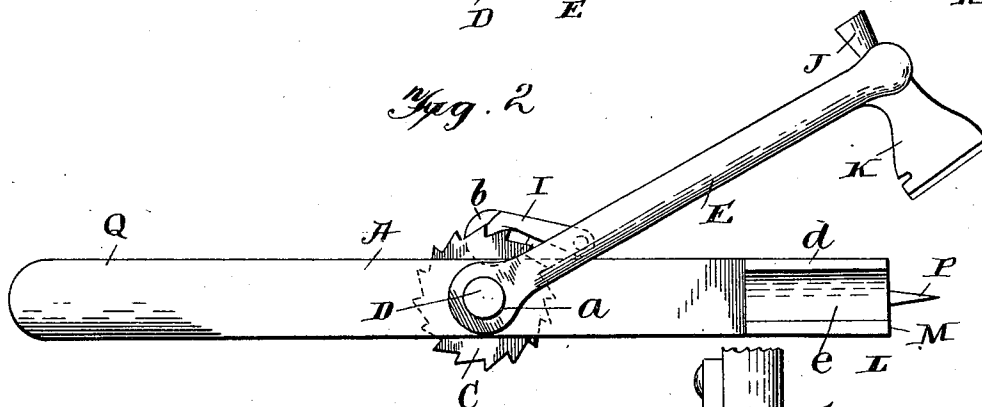
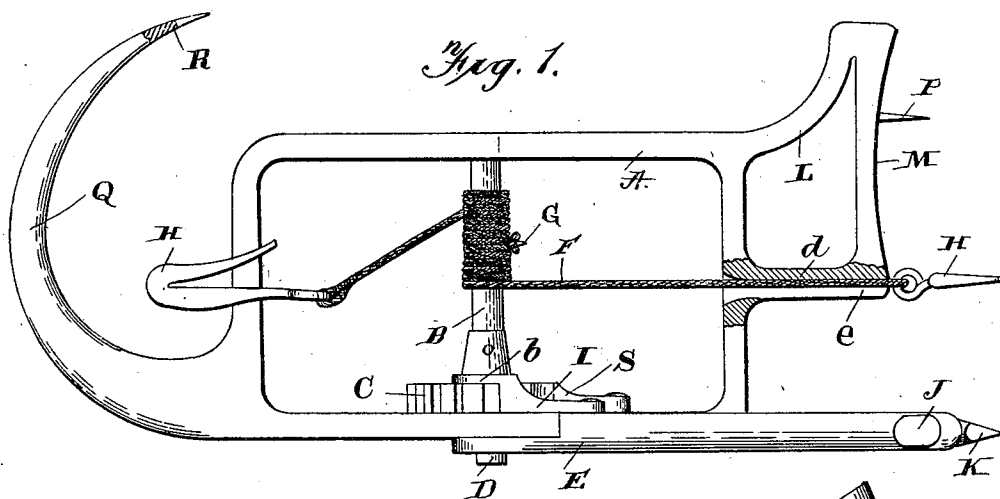
No. 658,759.

Patented Oct. 2, 1900.

A. C. CALHOUN.
WIRE STRETCHER.

(Application filed June 18, 1900.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

Geo. E. Frech.
B. L. Chadwell

Inventor
Albert C. Calhoun

S. H. Evans
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ALBERT C. CALHOUN, OF SOMERVILLE, TEXAS.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 658,759, dated October 2, 1900.

Application filed June 18, 1900. Serial No. 20,744 (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALBERT C. CALHOUN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Somerville, in the county of Burleson and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in wire-stretchers, and pertains to a tool which is particularly constructed for and adapted to be used as a wire-stretcher, but is also adapted to be used for other purposes, all of which will be fully described hereinafter, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a top plan view of my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation. Figs. 3 and 4 are detail views.

Referring now to the drawings, A indicates a frame which is preferably (though not necessarily) rectangular in form, as here illustrated. Passing transversely through this frame A is a shaft B, which carries fast thereto a ratchet-wheel C. The end D of the shaft adjacent the ratchet-wheel projects through the side of the frame A and is adapted to receive a removable operating lever or handle E. A rope F is adapted to be wound around the shaft B and is prevented from slipping thereon by engagement with a spur G, and preferably each end of the rope is provided with a hook H of the peculiar form here shown, the slots in the hooks being adapted to embrace the fence-wire at a point back of the barbs thereof and to cause the tightening of the wire when the rope is wound upon the shaft B when the machine is being used as a wire-stretcher. The lever or handle E has one end provided with an opening *a* to loosely receive the projecting end D of the shaft B, and this lever E carries a pawl I, adapted to engage the ratchet-wheel C for the purpose of rotating the ratchet-wheel and in turn rotating the shaft B when the handle or lever E is vibrated, as is well understood. The free end of the ratchet I is provided with a depending flange *b*, adapted

to rest at and overlap the inner side of the ratchet-wheel C, and thus serve to hold the lower end of the handle or lever E in position upon the projecting end D of the shaft when it is being used for rotating the ratchet-wheel and the shaft to which it is connected for the purpose of winding the rope thereon. The outer or free end of the lever or handle E is provided with a hammer J and a cutting edge or hatchet K, the former adapted to be used for driving staples and the latter for cutting barbs or knots out of the posts. By providing the handle with a hammer and a hatchet I avoid the necessity of carrying an extra hatchet in addition to the ordinary handle of a wire-stretcher, which is a great saving in trouble when carrying the machine around, avoiding the necessity of carrying a separate hatchet.

Projecting from the front end of the frame A is a bracket L, which has its outer surface M curved, as shown, and adapted to rest against the outer surface of a round or square post. The engaging surface is provided with a spur P, adapted to enter the post under the tension of the tightening of the wires, which will prevent any slipping of the frame and also serve to hold the machine in position upon the post, as will be understood. The end *d* of the bracket L is provided with a concave surface *e*, which serves as a guide for the rope.

Projecting from the rear end of the frame A is a hook Q, having its free end R provided with jaws for the purpose of performing the function of drawing staples. When it is desired to draw staples, the frame A will serve as a handle, while the jaws R of the hook Q will serve to be passed under the wire and to straddle the staple for withdrawing it in the usual manner, the end piece *d* of the bracket L in this instance serving as a handle and giving an enormous leverage.

When the machine is being used for stretching a fence or other wire, one of the hooks H of the rope will be connected to the wire in the manner before stated and the shaft B rotated through the medium of the handle E until the wire has received the required tension, when the handle E is removed and the hammer thereof used for driving in a staple to hold the wire in its tightened position.

When the machine is used for drawing together the ends of a broken wire or for tightening a wire intermediate its ends, the two hooks H will be separately attached to the wire and the shaft rotated, which will draw the hooks in opposite directions until the ends of the broken wire are caused to overlap for the purpose of being twisted or hooked together or the wire has received the sufficient tightening between its ends, and then so secured.

When the device is being used for lifting wagon-beds from running-gears, the hook Q serves as an important function in raising one end of the wagon-bed. The hook Q is also useful in pulling fence-posts, stumps, or trees, and, in fact, many other purposes, all of which I will not attempt to name, but will say in this connection that it is useful for hanging up hogs or beeves.

The device, as will be readily understood, is adapted to be used to lift any heavy object, to tighten a wire or other similar object, and in all connections of a similar nature.

For the purpose of holding the shaft B against backward rotation under the tension on the rope I provide a pawl S, which is pivoted to the inner side of the frame A and adapted to engage with the ratchet-wheel C.

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

A machine of the character described comprising a frame, a shaft journaled therein, the shaft carrying a ratchet-wheel fast thereto, one end of the shaft projecting through the frame, a handle having an opening loosely receiving the shaft, a pawl projecting from the handle and engaging the said ratchet, the pawl having a depending flange engaging the opposite side of the ratchet from the said handle for the purpose described.

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

ALBERT C. CALHOUN.

Witnesses:

W. T. DUNLOP,
J. I. ISBELL.