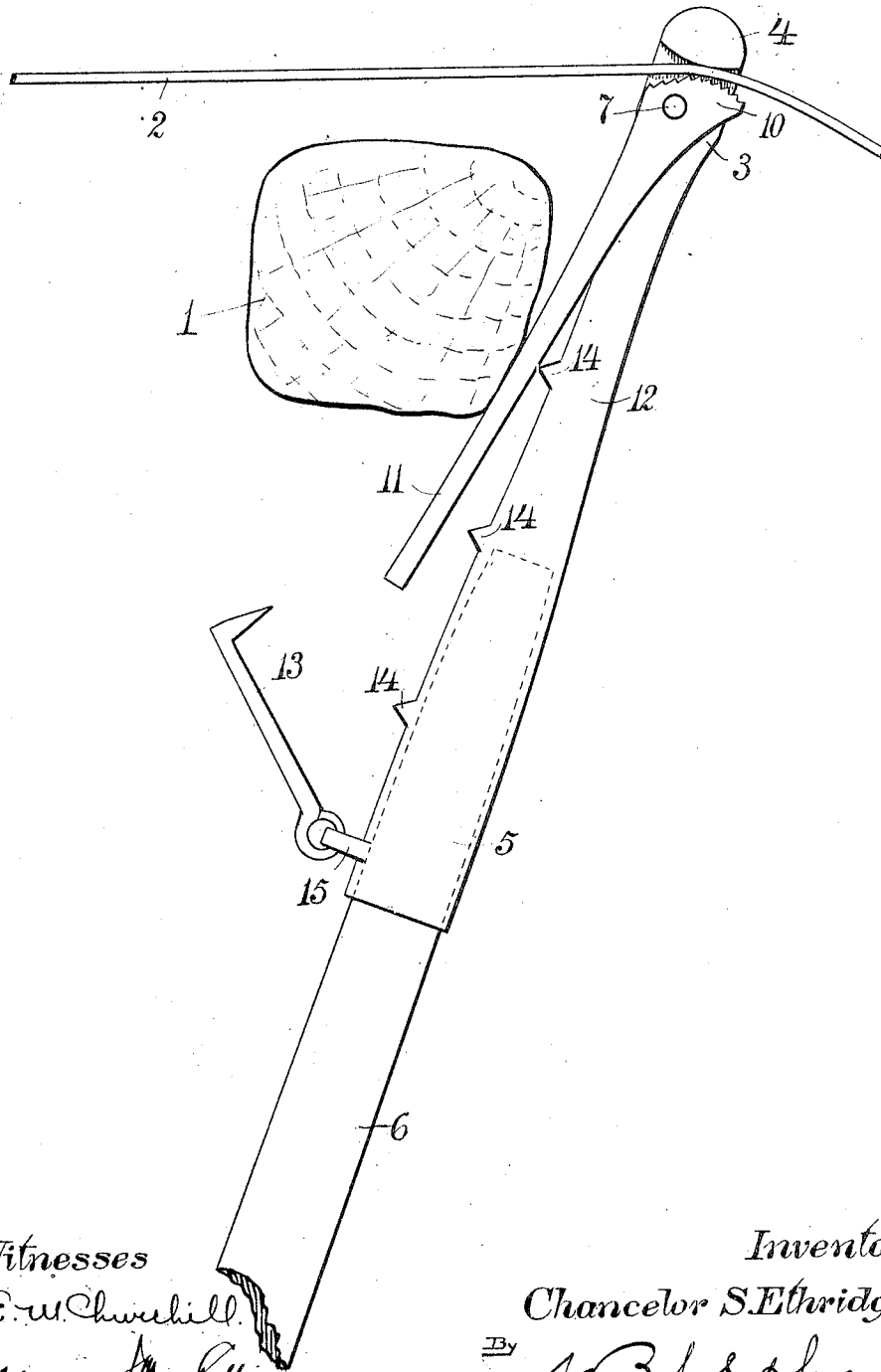


C. S. ETHRIDGE.
WIRE STRETCHER.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 13, 1912.

1,057,534.

Patented Apr. 1, 1913.



Witnesses

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WIRE-STRETCHER.

1,057,534.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 1, 1913.

Application filed June 13, 1912. Serial No. 703,405.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHANCELOR S. ETHRIDGE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Sandwich, in the county of Carroll and State of New Hampshire, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers, of which the following is a full and exact description.

This invention has for its object the construction of a device for stretching wire fencing, which can be fastened in place after it has drawn the wire taut, so that a man can leave it and staple the wire to the posts, thereby enabling one person to do the work of the two ordinarily required. In addition, this wire stretcher embodies other improvements hereinafter set forth.

The drawing forming part of this specification illustrates the wire stretcher made in accordance with my invention and in operative position.

The reference numeral 1 designates a fence post shown as viewed from above; and 2, a wire being stretched. The wire stretcher itself comprises a head 3 having a jaw 4 and a socket member 5 carrying a wooden bar or handle 6 of suitable length for giving ample leverage. Pivoted to said head at 7 is a cam jaw 10 preferably roughened or serrated, and provided with a lever extension 11. The position of this lever 11 relative to the shank 12 of said head when a wire is gripped between said head and cam jaw, is at an acute angle therewith as shown. Hence, a wire being gripped, and the stretcher being fulcrumed against the post as illustrated, the pressure applied to the bar or handle 6 acts against the lever 11 to increase the grip of the jaw upon the wire. When the stretcher bar has been swung far enough about the fence post to thoroughly stretch the wire, the dog 13 is struck into the side of the post and the parts thereby retained in place. To insure that the stretcher shall not slip when it is swung back toward

the wire, the shank 12 is formed with several spurs 14 which by their engagement with the post, effectually hold the device from slipping or sliding. Said dog 13 is attached to the socket end of the device by means of an ear 15 preferably formed integral with said socket and shank. After the stretched wire has been fastened to the posts in the usual manner, the dog 13 is struck out from its engagement with the post, and the wire stretcher removed to another section of the wire.

This wire stretcher is in effect a self-tightening tong-jaw cam lever; is simple and strong in construction, grips the wire with great power, but above all else in importance, it can be fastened in its wire-tightened position and left to itself, while the man can go to other parts of the fence.

What I claim as my invention and for which I desire Letters Patent is as follows; to wit:—

A wire stretcher comprising a lever having a jaw at one extremity, and a pivoted jaw adapted to coact with the first-named jaw for gripping a wire, said lever having spurs along its side facing the point from which the wire is to be stretched, and said pivoted jaw having a lever extension adapted to make a sharply acute angle with said lever at the side provided with said spurs, whereby said lever being fulcrumed against the fence post to which the wire is to be attached with certain of said spurs engaging the same, said lever extension will be pressed against said post by the stretching-force applied to the lever and the jaws will be made forcibly to grip the wire.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing invention, I have hereunto set my hand this seventh day of June, 1912.

CHANCELOR S. ETHRIDGE

Witnesses:

HERBERT E. WEASETTA,
JOHN S. QUIMBY.