

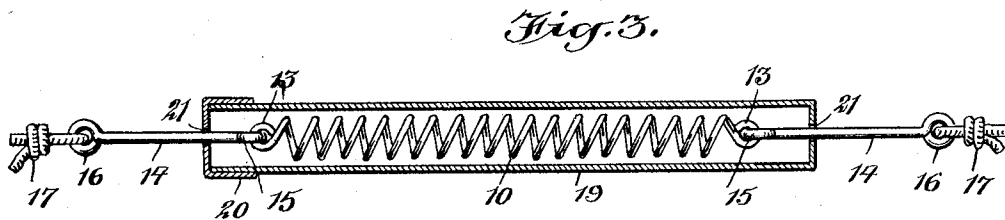
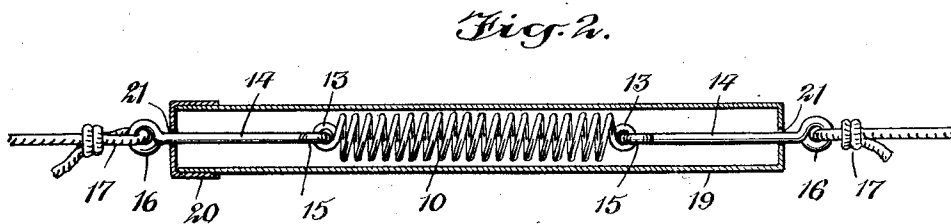
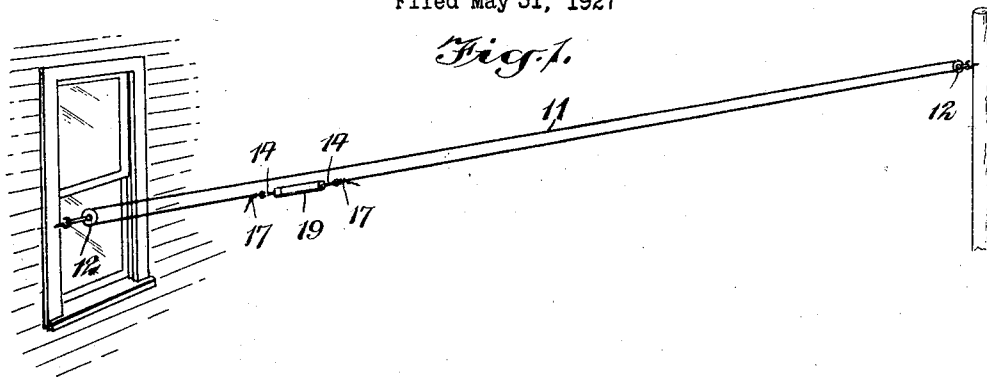
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TENSIONING DEVICE FOR CLOTHESLINES

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WITNESSES

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TENSIONING DEVICE FOR CLOTHESLINES.

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This invention relates to a tensioning device to be used in conjunction with a clothesline.

The principal object of the invention is to provide a tensioning device or means adapted to be connected with the opposite ends of a length of clothesline to produce an endless clothesline for use in conjunction with the usual anchored pulleys, and for protecting the clothesline against breaking on account of shrinkage of the clothesline due to continual wetting of the clothesline.

The nature of the invention and its distinguishing features and advantages will appear when the following specification is read in connection with the accompanying drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a view illustrating a clothesline with the tensioning device connected therewith.

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevation illustrating the normal condition of the tensioning means.

Fig. 3 is a view similar to Fig. 2 illustrating the condition of the tensioning means compensating for shrinkage of the clothesline.

The tensioning device 10 of the present invention is connected between the opposite ends of a length of clothesline to produce an endless support for the clothes which is adapted to be passed around pulleys anchored at different points. In the drawing the clothesline is designated 11 and the pulleys are designated 12. The device 10 is in the form of a coil spring having a loop 13 at each end. Each loop 13 has connected therewith a link 14 having a loop or eye 15 at one end which connects with the loop 13, and a loop or eye 16 at the opposite end thereof with which one end of the clothesline is connected. The end of the clothesline is passed through the loop or eye 16 and is tied as at 17. A suitable housing 19 encloses the spring 10. The spring 10 in its normally contracted or unstretched condition is shorter in length than the housing 19. The said housing includes a removable end 20 which permits the spring to be arranged within the housing. The links 14 extend respectively through holes 21 in the opposite ends of the housing. The links 14 are first connected with the loops 13 of the spring 10, and one link is extended through the hole 21 of the housing, after which the loop or eye 16 is formed. The end 20 is then

slid on to the other link 14 and is positioned on the housing to close the open end thereof. The loop or eye 16 is then formed. The spring 10 will then be arranged in the housing 19 and the opposite ends of the clothesline 11 may then be connected respectively with the loop or eye 16. The spring 10 will be in the condition shown in Fig. 2, contracted or unstretched in order to compensate for shrinkage. When the clothesline 10, due to the wetting shrinks, such shrinkage will be compensated by the spring 10 which yields or stretches, as shown in Fig. 3. It will therefore be apparent that the clothesline 11 will be held taut at all times and will not be allowed to sag to any appreciable extent and will make it possible to suspend or hang the clothes in a proper manner.

It is to be understood that the device may be connected between one of the pulleys 12 and one of the hooks of one of the fixed supports, instead of connecting the device between the ends of the clothesline.

I claim:

1. The combination with a clothesline, of a coil spring, whose opposite ends are connected respectively with the opposite ends of the clothesline to make it endless to be passed around spaced anchored pulleys, and to take up slack, a sectional housing which encloses the spring, the spring in normal condition being shorter than the casing, portions connected with the spring extending respectively through the opposite ends of the housing.

2. A tensioning device consisting of a coil spring, a link having a terminal eye connected with each end of said coil spring, a casing closed at each end within which the coil spring is arranged, the spring in normal condition being shorter than the casing, and said links respectively projecting loosely through the opposite ends of said casing.

3. A tensioning device consisting of a coil spring, a link having a terminal eye connected with each end of the coil spring, a casing open at one end, a closing wall at the opposite end, and a removable cap on the open end of the casing, said coil spring arranged within the casing, the spring in normal condition being shorter than the casing, and said links respectively projecting loosely through holes in the cap and closing end wall.

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