UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM T. SHAFFER, OF EVANSTON, WYOMING.

CLOTHES-LINE PROP.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 656,053, dated August 14, 1900.

Application filed September 13, 1899. Serial No. 730,303. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM T. SHAFFER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Evanston, in the county of Uinta and State of Wyoming, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Clothes-Line Props; 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.

My invention relates to an improved adjustable clothes-line prop; and the object is to simplify and improve the construction and increase the convenience and utility of the device.

To this end the invention consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of the same, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings the same reference characters indicate the same parts of the invention.

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved clothes-line prop as it appears when housed. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section showing the prop as it appears when extended. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section taken at a right angle to that shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal transverse sectional view taken on the line X-X in Fig. 2.

1 denotes the pointed base which rests upon the ground, and it is formed with the longitudinal parallel arms 2 and 3, which are connected near their upper ends by the strap-braces 4 and 4, to preserve their parallelism and which also serve as guides for the extension-bar 5, which has a sliding engagement between the arms 2 and 3. The inner end of the bar 5 is provided with a guide-plate 6, which is secured in place by pins 5' and overlaps the arms and is formed with an integral thumb-piece 7 for manipulating the bar. The opposite side of the bar 5 is also provided with a guide-plate 6', which is also secured in place by pins 5'1. One side of said bar 5 is formed with a series of ratchet-shaped notches 8, the front edge of the upper wall of each of which is prevented from wear by a staple 9, inserted flush with the face of the bar and in the path of a spring-pawl 10, fixed in the base-arm 2. The free end of this pawl extends through a recess or slot 12 in the arm 2 and terminates in an eye 13 for conveniently withdrawing the pawl when it is desired to retract the bar 5. Both guide-plates 6 and 6' are of the same construction except that the guide-plate 6 is provided with a thumb-piece. The outer end of this bar 5 is formed with a V-shaped notch 14 to receive the clothes-line and with a spring-keeper 15, the bill 16 of which extends over the line and prevents its accidental displacement, while to withdraw the prop it is only necessary to press the keeper back and then detach the 65 prop.

It will of course be understood that various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, 75

1. A clothes-line prop, the combination of the pointed base having the integral parallel longitudinal arms 2, 3, connected near their upper ends by strap-braces 4, 4, serving, also, as guides for the extension-bar, 5; the recess or slot, 12, extending entirely through the integral arm, 2, near the upper end of the latter; the spring-pawl, 10, having an integral arm extending outwardly through said 85 recess or slot, 12, and terminating in an integral eye, 13; and the extension-bar, 5, provided near its lower end on its opposite exposed faces with the guide-plate, 6, provided with an integral thumb-piece, 7; and a guide-plate, 6', directly opposite said guide-plate, 6, said plates, 6 and 6', being secured to said extension-bar, 5, by pins, 5', driven through said guide-plates, 6, 6', into said extension-bar; the V-shaped notch, 14, in the upper end of the extension-bar, 5; the spring, 15, having the bill-shaped keeper, 16, arranged to operate in conjunction with said notch, 14, and the ratchet-shaped notches, 8, provided with rear-staples, 9, to engage the point of the 100 spring-pawl, 10, substantially as specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

WILLIAM T. SHAFFER.

Witnesses:

JAMES BROWN,
ALEX NISBET.