(No Model.)

F. McMASTER.

TREE PROTECTOR.

No. 329,926. Patented Nov. 10, 1885.

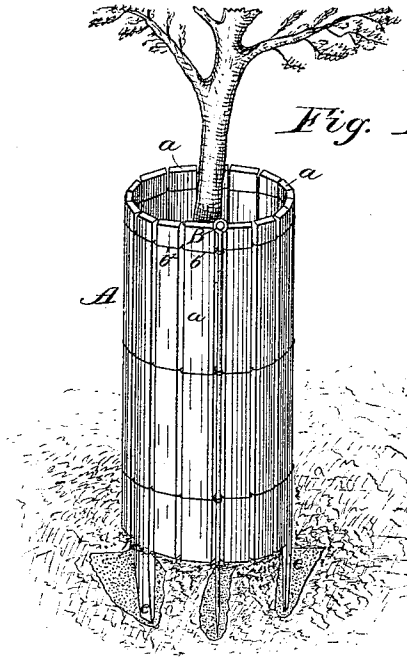


Fig. 1.

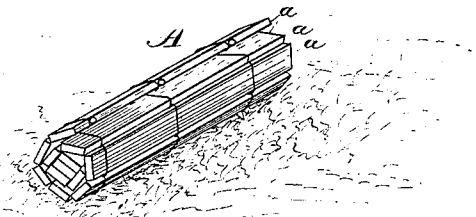


Fig. 3.

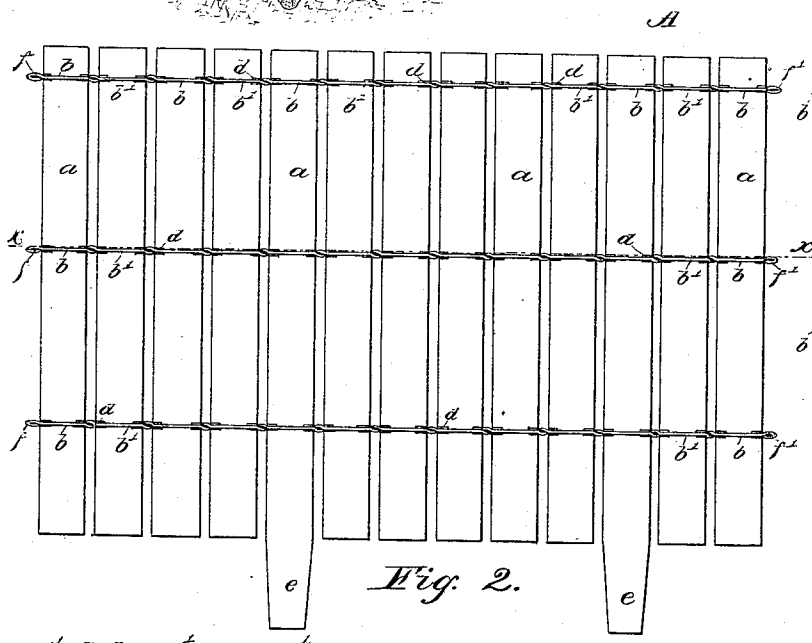


Fig. 2.

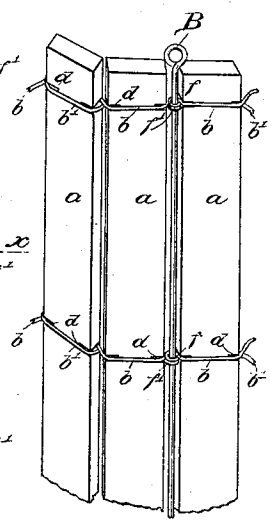


Fig. 5.



Fig. 4.

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TREE-PROTECTOR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 329,926, dated November 10, 1885.

Application filed June 11, 1885. Serial No. 168,397. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK McMASTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cherryvale, in the county of Montgomery and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Tree-Protectors, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to tree-protectors; and it has for its object to provide a device of this character which will protect the trees from the ravages of worms and insects and from the damaging influences of the sun and wind.

With this end in view the said invention consists in certain details of construction and novel combination of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved tree-protector applied in position. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the protector detached from the tree, and showing it extended as when applying in position. Fig. 3 is a perspective view showing the protector in its folded position. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section on the line *x x*, Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a detail view showing more clearly the connection at the meeting ends of the protector.

Like letters are used to indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

Referring to the drawings, A designates the body of my improved tree-protector, which consists of a series of wooden slats or vertical uprights, *a*, connected at suitable intervals along their length by wires *b b'*, grooves or slots *d* being provided on the side edges of the uprights or slats, in which grooves are seated the said wires. As will be seen, the wire *b* extends across the outer face of the first slat and the inner face of the second slat, and the wire *b'* extends across the inner face of the first slat and the outer face of the second slat, and so on alternately throughout the series, the wires *b b'* crossing each other once at the meeting edges of the slats, but not twisted together as is usually the case. By this connection the inclosing-bands formed by the wires will not fit the slats closely, but will be allowed to yield in folding the protector together for transportation and other purposes.

Two or more of the slats or uprights may be extended below the others, as at *e*, these extensions being adapted to be driven into the ground in securing the protector in place around the tree.

The wires *b b'*, at the meeting ends of the body of the protector, are formed with eyes *f f'*, the eye *f* on one end overlapping and registering with the eye *f'* on the adjacent end, a vertical bar, B, being passed through the several eyes and driven at its lower end into the ground. By this arrangement the body of the protector is secured firmly together at its meeting ends, (where the greatest strain comes,) and may be readily detached at will by simply withdrawing the bar B. I have shown this bar as driven into the ground to make the connection more secure; but it will be apparent that said bar may simply connect the eyes *f f'* and not be embedded in the ground, and in that case the upper end of the bar should have a head or angular bend formed thereon to prevent it from slipping down through the eyes.

The operation of my invention will be readily understood from the foregoing description, taken in connection with the annexed drawings.

The protector is adjusted in position by passing it around the tree until the eyes on the meeting ends of the body register with each other, when the bar B is slipped down through the eyes and driven into the ground. This secures the protector together around the tree; and to provide additional security the extended ends *e* of the slats are forced into the ground. In this manner the protector will be proof against accidental detachment, the extension *e* being firmly embedded in the ground so that the lower ends of the adjacent slats will rest upon the surface thereof. After the protector has been adjusted in position, slaked lime or ashes are thrown inside the protector, so as to cover the surface of the ground around the base of the tree, and thus prevent worms or insects from injuring the same. Since the lower ends of the slats rest on the surface of the ground, the lime or ashes within the protector cannot be blown away.

By the peculiar method of construction the slats are brought close together, and at the same time are allowed to bend or yield in folding the protector for transportation. Since

the wires are not twisted tightly together, the bands which inclose the slats will yield while the protector is being folded. In this manner the strain on the wires is taken off, and the protector may be folded into a very small space, as shown in Fig. 3, without injury to any of the parts.

In place of the bar B, with the eyes *f f'*, I may substitute a hook-and-eye connection; but I prefer the construction shown, since by reason of the same the connection is made with greater ease, and is more secure in every respect.

My improvement is not intended to be used as an ordinary tree-box, but is designed especially to protect the trees from the depredations of worms and from the action of the sun and wind.

Having described my invention, I claim—

The herein-described tree-protector, comprising a series of slats having grooves *d* in their side edges, two or more of said slats having extensions *e*, a series of wires crossing each other once at the meeting edges of the slats and extending over the outer and inner faces thereof alternately, eyes formed on the meeting ends of the wires, and a bar for connecting the eyes, for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in presence of two witnesses.

FRANK McMASTER.

Witnesses:
JAMES H. BAIR,
THAD. C. HISTED.