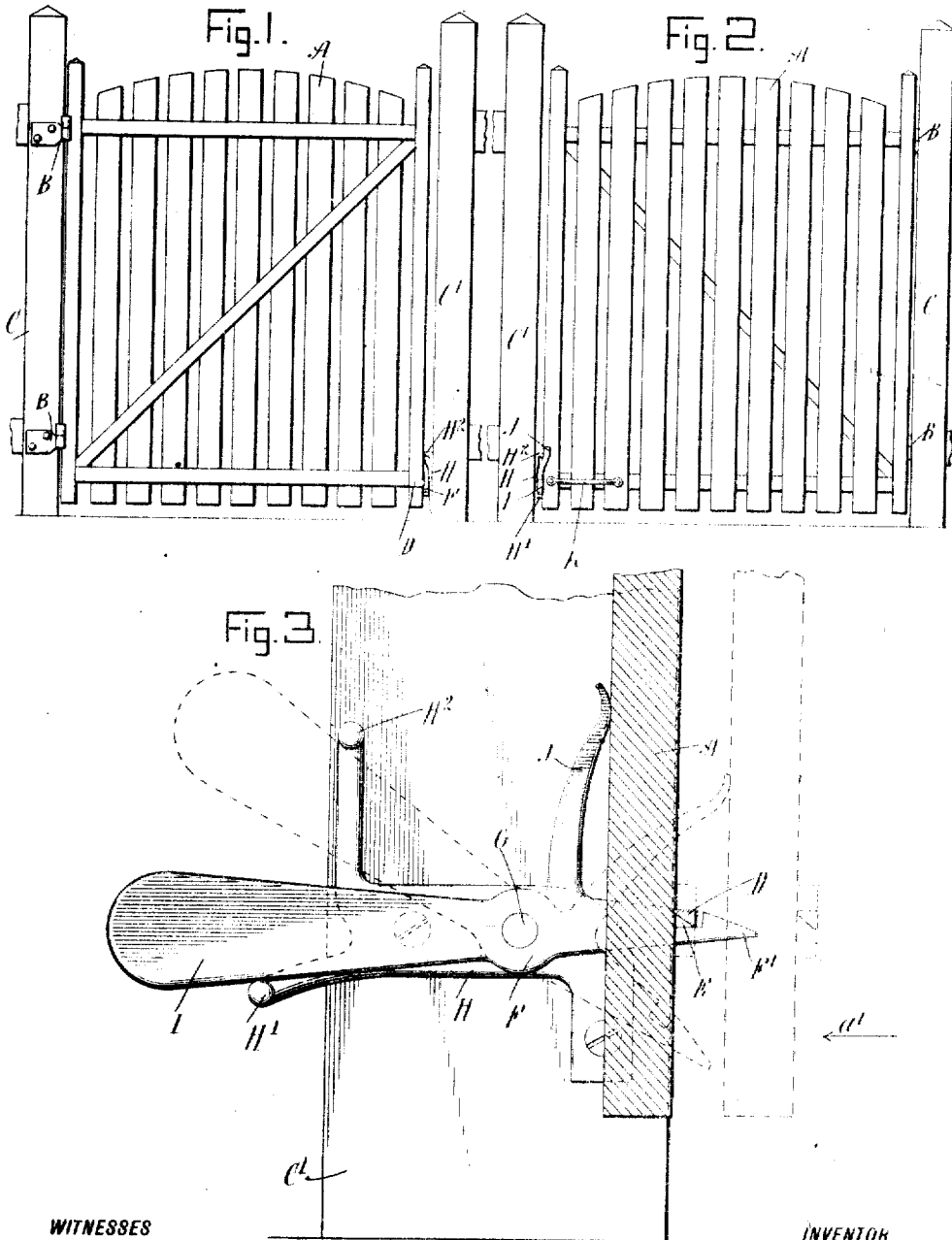


E. RAATHS.
GATE LATCH.
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ERNEST RAATHS, OF ANGELICA, WISCONSIN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO ERNEST H. BRAMSCHREIBER, OF ZACHOW, WISCONSIN.

GATE-LATCH.

1,022,872.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Apr. 9, 1912.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ERNEST RAATHS, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the town of Angelica, in the county of Shawano and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and Improved Gate-Latch, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

The object of the invention is to provide a new and improved gate latch arranged to permit conveniently opening or closing and locking the gate without the use of the hands, and to prevent hogs and cattle from opening the gate.

For the purpose mentioned, use is made of a latch lever fulcrumed on the gate post and having a notch for engagement with a keeper on the gate, the said latch lever also having an integral push arm adapted to engage the gate and swing the same open on imparting an opening movement to the latch lever.

A practical embodiment of the invention is represented in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the views.

Figure 1 is a face view of one side of the gate provided with the improved gate latch; Fig. 2 is a similar view of the other face of the gate provided with the gate latch; and Fig. 3 is an enlarged transverse section of the same.

The gate A on which the improved gate latch is used is connected by hinges B to a gate post C and on the free end of the gate A and near the bottom thereof is arranged a keeper D adapted to be engaged by a notch E formed in a latch lever F extending transversely and fulcrumed on a pivot G held on a latch plate H screwed or otherwise fastened to the inner side of the gate post C' adjacent the free end of the gate A. The latch lever F is provided with a weighted arm I normally resting on a stop H' formed on the latch plate H, and the upward swinging movement of the weighted arm I is limited by a stop H² spaced from the stop H' and likewise forming part of the latch plate H. The latch lever F is further provided with an upwardly-extending arm J adapted to engage the face of the gate A opposite the one carrying the keeper D, so that when the gate A is in a closed position the free end of the push arm J

bears against the face of the gate A, as will be readily understood by reference to Fig. 3, while the notch E is in engagement with the keeper D. A loop K is attached to the face of the gate A at the side opposite the one carrying the keeper D, the said loop being preferably located near the free end of the gate A and near the lower end thereof, as plainly indicated in Fig. 2. A person coming in the direction of the arrow a' and desiring to open the gate A needs only to press with one foot on the forwardly-projecting terminal F' of the latch lever F so as to swing the latch lever F downward and thereby disengage the notch E from the keeper D to unlock the gate. A further downward swinging movement of the latch lever F causes the push arm J to push the gate A open so that the person can walk through the opening between the gate posts. A person after passing through the open gate A engages one foot with the loop K and pulls the gate shut, it being understood that the latch lever F, after being relieved of pressure by the foot of the person as previously described, immediately swings back to normal position, as indicated in Fig. 3, and when the gate A is swung shut, as mentioned, the beveled top of the terminal F' slides under the keeper D, thus imparting a slight downward swinging motion to the lever F until the notch E registers with the keeper D, at which time the latch lever F is swung upward to its normal position by the action of the weighted arm I. The gate A is now again locked. A person coming in the inverse direction of the arrow a' lifts with his foot the weighted arm I so as to swing the latch lever F downward with a view to disengage the notch E from the keeper D and to cause the arm J to push the gate A open, as indicated in dotted lines in Fig. 3, to allow the person to walk through the open gate when in the inverse direction of the arrow a'. After having passed through the open gateway, it is only necessary for the person to give a return push to the gate A to cause the latch lever F to re-engage the keeper D in the manner above described.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the gate latch shown and described is very simple and durable in construction and composed of comparatively few parts, not liable easily to get out of order. It will also be

noticed that the gate is normally securely locked in position and cannot be opened by hogs or cattle, and a person coming in either direction can readily open the gate without the use of the hands.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. In combination with a swing gate and gate post, of a keeper fixed on the gate, a latch plate fixed on the gate post and provided with spaced stops, a latch lever fulcrumed on the said latch plate and provided with a notch adapted to engage the said keeper, the said latch lever having a weighted arm for engagement with the said stops and the latch lever having a push arm for engagement with the gate when the notch end of the latch lever is swung downward.

2. In combination with a swing gate and gate post, of a keeper on the gate, and a latch lever fulcrumed on the gate post and having a notch for engagement with the said keeper, the said latch lever also having

an integral push arm adapted to engage the gate and swing the same open on imparting an opening movement to the latch lever.

3. In combination with a swing gate and gate post, a keeper fixed on the gate, a latch plate fixed on the gate post and provided with spaced stops, a latch lever fulcrumed on the said latch plate and provided with a notch adapted to engage the said keeper, the said latch lever having a weighted arm for engagement with the said stops and the latch lever having a push arm for engagement with the gate when the notch end of the latch lever is swung downward, and a loop fixed on the said gate at the side at which the said weighted arm is arranged.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ERNEST RAATHS.

Witnesses:

R. C. WENDT.

J. E. LUTSEY.