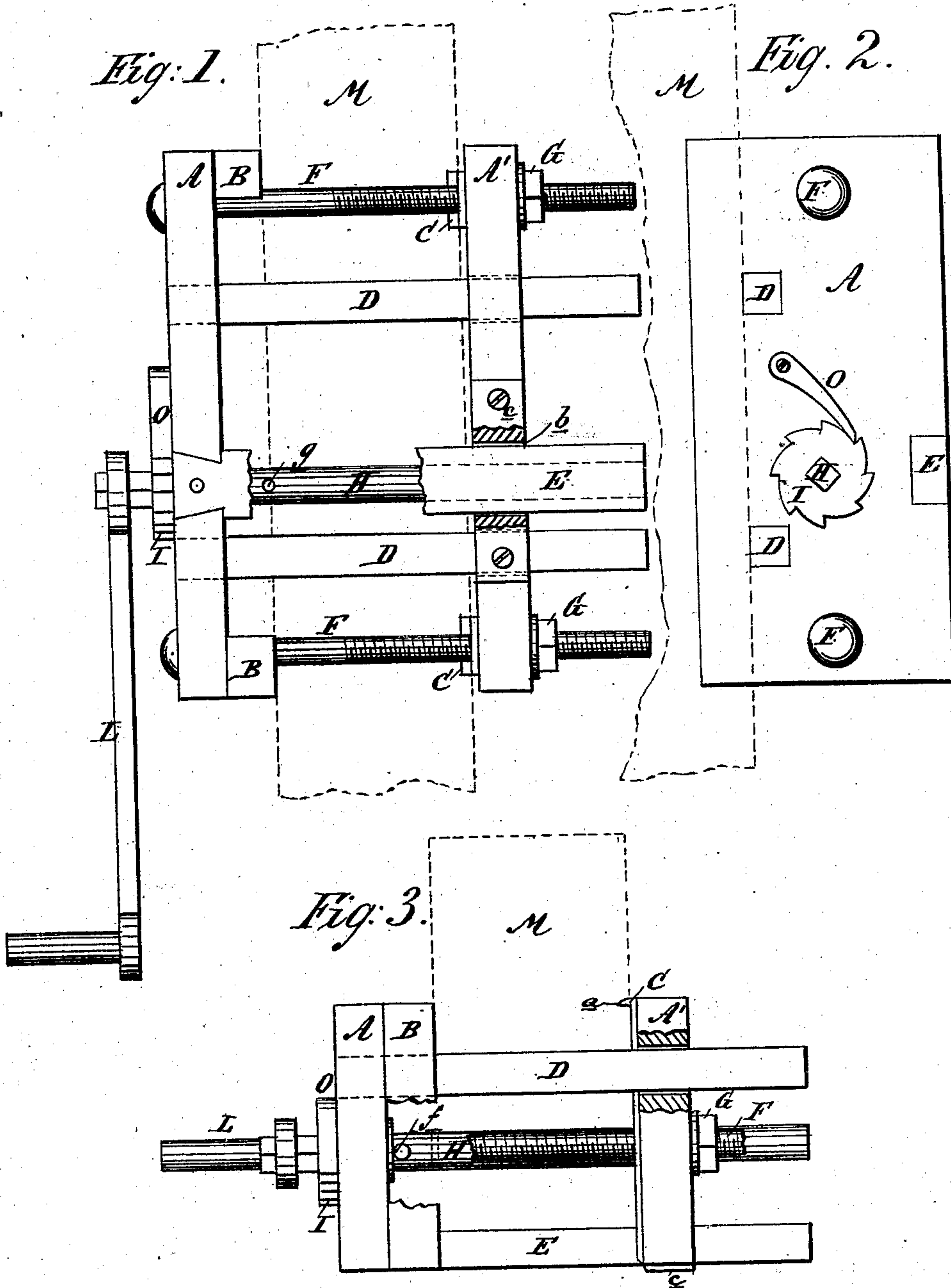


J. FOWLE.
Wire-Stretcher.

No. 224,892.

Patented Feb. 24, 1880.



WITNESSES:

A. Schuhl.
C. Dequien

INVENTOR:

J. Fowle
BY *Mum & Co*
ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOSHUA FOWLE, OF IOWA CITY, IOWA.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 224,892, dated February 24, 1880.

Application filed November 18, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSHUA FOWLE, of Iowa City, in the county of Johnson and State of Iowa, have invented a new and Improved Wire-Stretcher, of which the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a side elevation, partly in section, representing the stretcher in place on a post. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is an end view of the same, partly in section.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

The object of this invention is to provide a simple, convenient, and effective device for stretching wires along posts in the making of wire fences.

The invention consists of a clamp provided with devices for adjusting and holding it upon a post, and provided also with crank and crank-shaft for stretching and tightening the wire.

In the drawings, A A' represent the front and back plates of the clamp. The front plate, A, has secured on its inner face, near its ends, two transverse strips, B B, and the back plate, A', has fastened on its inner face two corresponding metallic plates, C C, whose ends are bent at right angles to the bodies of the said plates A' and sharpened, that they may hold better in the post, as shown at *a*.

The two plates A A' are held parallel and opposite to each other by the parallel bars D, D, and E, the two former of which are firmly mortised in the plate A, and extend through opposite mortises in the plate A', while the bar E is centrally dovetailed in an edge of the plate A and passes loosely through the socket *b*, wherein it is held by the metallic plate *c*.

The jaws or plates A A' of the clamp may be drawn together by the screw bolts and nuts F G, respectively, the said bolts F being made to pass through holes bored through the jaws A A', near their ends, and through the strips and plates B C, and as the jaws A A' are thus drawn together the jaw A' slides on the bars D, D, and E.

H is a shaft passing through the centers of

the jaws A A', parallel with the bars D, D, and E, and held in place by the pin and washer *f* on the inside of jaw A, and by the ratchet-wheel I, that is keyed on the said shaft H outside of the jaw A. This shaft H is provided with a hole, *g*, bored transversely through it for the insertion of the end of the wire that is to be stretched, and is revolved by means of the crank-handle L.

The device is operated by setting it on the side of a post, M, as shown in Fig. 1, and turning the nuts G on the screws F until it is firmly secured by the entrance of the points *a* of the plates C C into the said post. The end of the wire to be stretched is then inserted into the hole *g* and turned once or twice around the shaft H to prevent its slipping; then by means of the crank-handle L the shaft H is turned, winding the end of the wire around it and stretching the wire or taking the slack out of it to any desired extent, and as the wire is fully stretched across the faces of the posts staples driven over it into the posts at their points of contact will hold the said wire securely.

The pawl O, engaging in the teeth of the ratchet I, prevents the reverse action or unwinding of the shaft H as the work progresses. When one section or length of wire is thus stretched and secured the clamp may be removed and fixed on another post for a repetition of the process.

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

As a means for stretching wire in the construction of a wire fence, the within-described clamp, consisting of jaws or plates A A', provided with strips or plates B C, respectively, in combination with the bars D D E, screw bolts and nuts F G, and crank-shaft H, provided with hole *g*, substantially as herein shown and described.

JOSHUA FOWLE.

Witnesses:

THOMAS DAVIS,
LUTHER F. LEE.