(No Model.)

B. E. DOUGLAS.

TREE PROP BRACKET.

No. 543,298. Patented July 23, 1895.

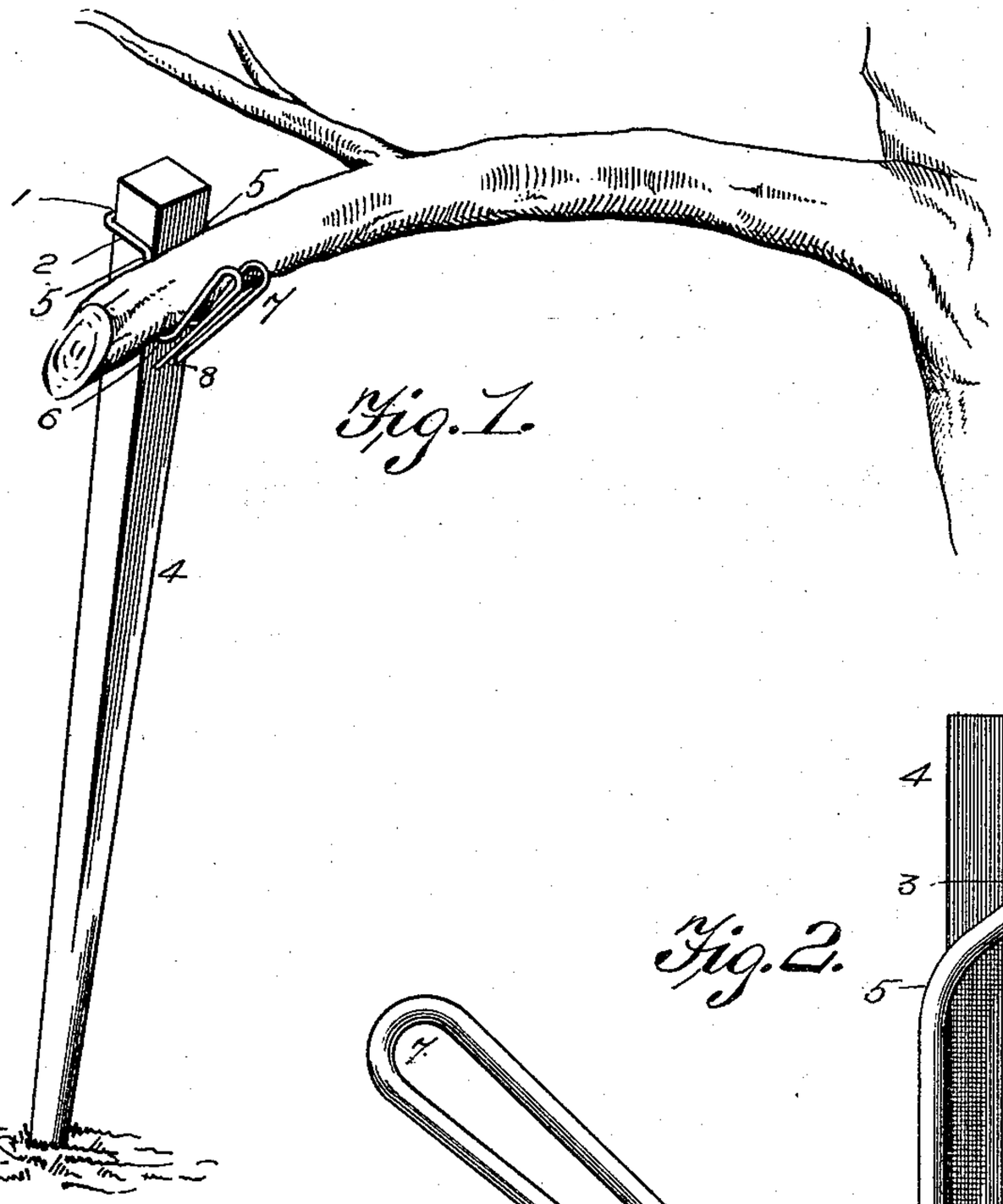


Fig. 1.

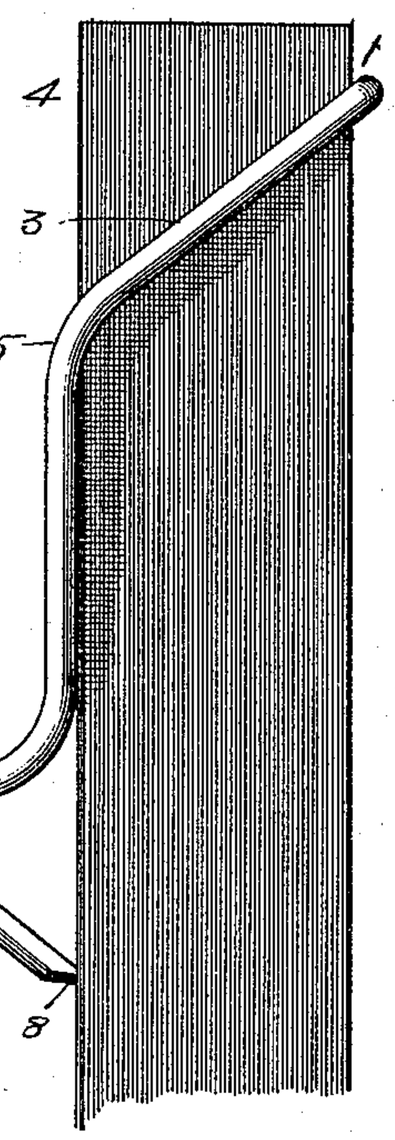
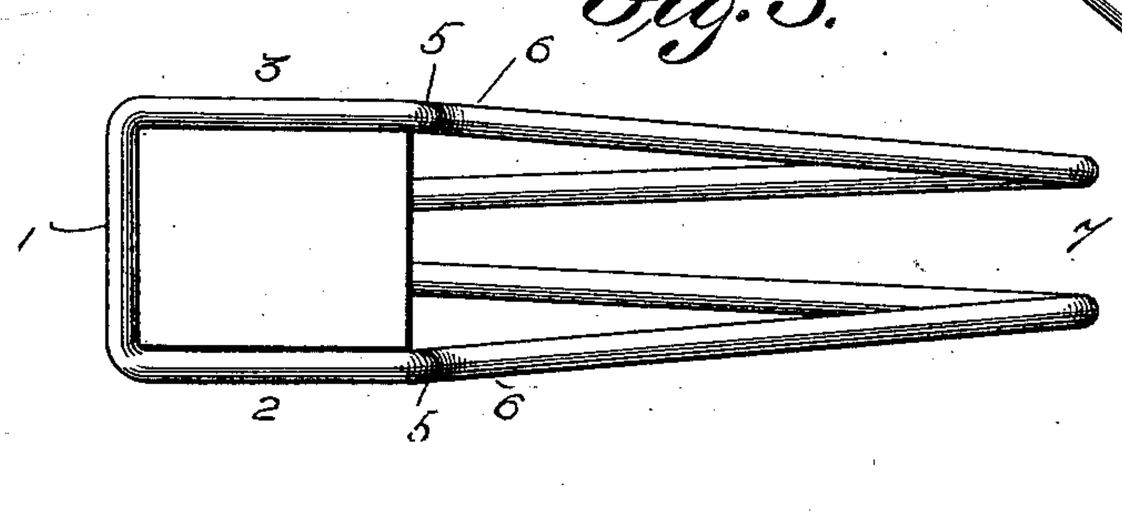


Fig. 2.

Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BRUCE E. DOUGLAS, OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA.

TREE-PROP BRACKET.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 543,298, dated July 23, 1895.

Application filed March 30, 1895. Serial No. 543,880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BRUCE E. DOUGLAS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Riverside, in the county of Riverside and State of California, have invented a new and useful Tree-Prop Bracket, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in devices for supporting the overburdened limbs of trees to prevent their being broken by the weight of the fruit upon them or by storms or other causes.

The object of the present invention is to simplify and improve the construction of tree-props and to provide a supporting-bracket which shall be simple and inexpensive in construction, capable of being quickly and easily adjusted in height to suit any limb, which shall automatically grasp the prop or pole at any point, and which shall be thoroughly efficient and durable in practice.

To this end the invention consists in making a bracket from a wire blank and bending the same at its center in such manner as to form an open loop for striding or embracing the pole or prop; also, to form adjacent thereto a pocket or hook adapted to underlie and uphold the limb of a tree, and also to form one or more prongs or tines independently of said loop and pocket or hoop adapted to penetrate and engage the pole or prop so as to hold said bracket in position to prevent its downward movement.

It further consists in certain features and details of construction and arrangement hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the drawings, and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the manner in which my improved bracket is applied in practical use. Fig. 2 is an enlarged side elevation of the same shown applied to a pole or prop. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the same.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

The improved bracket which I will now proceed to describe is made from a wire blank of any desired gage for imparting the requisite strength to the completed bracket. This blank is bent at its central portion 1 to form a three-sided open loop, as indicated at 1 2 3, which is adapted to stride or embrace a pole or prop 4, as shown. The terminals of the blank are each given a corresponding downward bend at 5, and a short distance below said bends the terminals are again curved or bent at 6 and inclined upwardly and outwardly to form a pendent pocket or hook, which is adapted to underlie and uphold the limb of a tree. At the outer end of the pocket or hook portion the terminals are given a backward bend upon themselves, as indicated at 7, and from this point said terminals converge toward their extremities, which lie in close proximity to each other and are pointed, as shown at 8. In this manner a pair of converging and pointed prongs or tines are provided, which are adapted to penetrate and engage the prop 4 at any point for preventing the downward movement of the brackets *per se*.

The bracket above described may be applied to a pole or prop square, rectangular, or round in cross-section and may be adjusted to any height thereon for receiving and upholding the limb of a tree. The open loop portion partially surrounds and embraces the pole or prop for holding the bracket in place thereon, and the downwardly-inclined pointed prongs or tines penetrate the fiber of the pole or prop and prevent the downward movement of said bracket.

It will be apparent that the greater the weight imposed upon and within the pocket or hook the more firmly will the prongs or tines be pressed into the fiber of the prop. It will also be apparent that a number of such brackets may be employed in connection with the same prop for the purpose of supporting several limbs. It will also be apparent that these brackets may be manufactured with great ease and rapidity and at very slight expense, and that they possess all the advantages of other devices of a similar nature.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. A tree prop bracket made from a wire blank bent at its central portion to form an open link for striding or embracing a pole or prop, a pocket or hook portion adapted to underlie and uphold the limb of a tree, and one or more pointed prongs or tines formed

by the terminals of said blank having their pointed extremities arranged beneath the pocket or hook portion and adapted to penetrate and engage said pole or prop, substantially as specified.

2. A tree prop bracket made from a single piece of wire bent to form an open loop at the center of its length for engaging a pole or prop, with its ends bent to form prongs or tines for engaging said pole or prop, and the hook for supporting the limb of a tree formed between said open loop and the prongs or tines, substantially as described.

3. A tree prop bracket made from a wire blank bent at its central portion to form an open loop for striding or embracing the pole or prop, a pair of converging prongs or tines formed by the terminals of said blank for penetrating and engaging said pole or prop, and an intermediate pocket or hook formed by said terminals and located between said open loop and the prongs or tines, substantially as specified.

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

BRUCE E. DOUGLAS.

Witnesses:

SLAYTON WALKER,

ANDREW H. MCHURON.