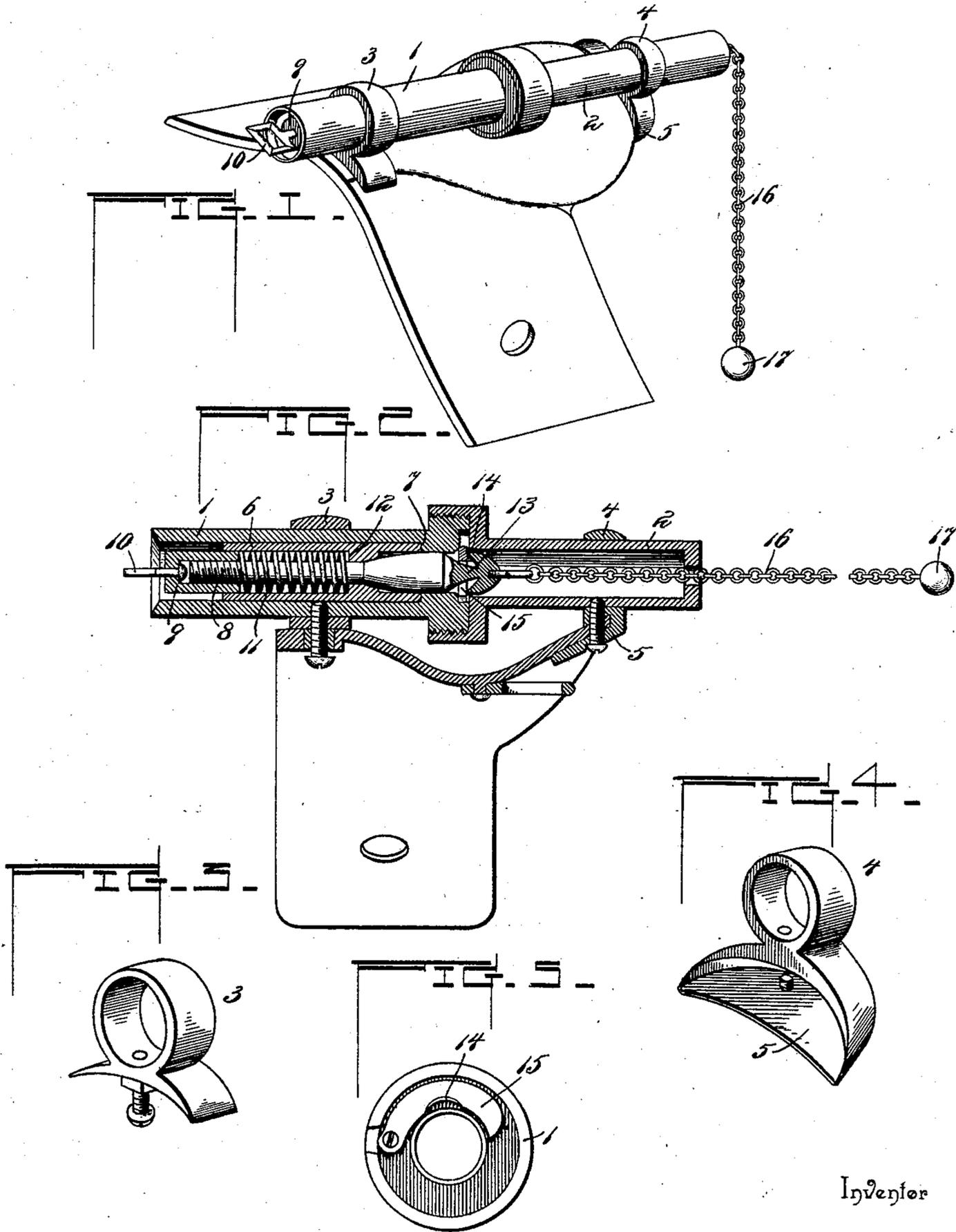


(No Model.)

F. X. LUSSIER.
HORSE CHECKING DEVICE.

No. 589,181.

Patented Aug. 31, 1897.



Inventor

Frank X. Lussier,

Witnesses

Milton O'Connell By *his* Attorneys,
U. B. Hillyard.

C. A. Snow & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANK X. LUSSIER, OF SAN JOSÉ, CALIFORNIA.

HORSE-CHECKING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 589,181, dated August 31, 1897.

Application filed January 20, 1897. Serial No. 619,958. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANK X. LUSSIER, a citizen of the United States, residing at San José, in the county of Santa Clara and State of California, have invented a new and useful Horse-Checking Device, of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object the provision of simple means, easy of operation, for releasing the checkrein or overdraw to permit a horse to drink or graze when in harness and again to fasten the check-line without requiring the dismounting or unseating of the driver or other person in the vehicle for this purpose.

The improvement takes the place of the ordinary check-hook and securely fastens the check-line or overdraw and places the same under the control of the driver or occupant of a vehicle, whereby the check-line can be released or secured at will.

For a full understanding of the merits and advantages of the invention reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings and the following description.

The improvement is susceptible of various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and to a full disclosure of the invention an adaptation thereof is shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improved horse-checking device. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section thereof. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view of the front guide. Fig. 4 is a detail perspective view of the rear guide. Fig. 5 is a view of the rear end of the front section of the case.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in the several views of the drawings by the same reference-characters.

The case for inclosing the operating parts is composed of a front section 1 and a rear section 2, which are connected together so as to be readily separable to admit of access being had to the working parts for any required purpose. The middle portion of the case is enlarged and forms a stop to hold the case in place when applied to the harness-saddle.

Front and rear guides 3 and 4 are attached to the tree or other convenient portion of a harness-saddle and support and hold the device in position. The upper portion of the front guide is apertured to receive the front section of the case, and its base portion is expanded so as to secure an extended bearing on the tree, to which it is secured in any substantial manner. The rear guide has its upper portion formed similar to the corresponding portion of the front guide and receives the rear section of the case, and its base portion 5 is expanded and formed with a socket, in which is fitted the rear end of the saddle, thereby holding the guide against displacement in any direction. By removing either guide the case may be detached at the pleasure of the attendant.

A barrel 6 is removably fitted within the front section of the case and its inner end engages with a shoulder or stop 7 at the inner end of the part 1, so as to retain the barrel in proper position. A rod 8 is slidably fitted within the barrel 6 and its front end is threaded to receive a plug 9, which is supplied with an eye 10, having swivel connection therewith. A coil-spring 11 is placed upon the rod 8 and is confined between the plug 9 and an inner shoulder 12 at the inner or rear end of the barrel and serves to normally hold the rod in a retracted position or within the barrel. The rear end of the rod 8 is enlarged and pointed and is reduced a short distance from the point, forming a neck 13, and the base portion of the point or head bordering upon the neck 13 is undercut or made hollow, so as to receive a projection or lip 14 of a pivoted catch 15, whereby positive engagement is had between these parts at all times, which is essential to the effectiveness of the device, thereby preventing accidental disengagement or release of the rod 8 by reason of the motion of the horse or from any other cause imparting a sudden jar or movement to the device. The check-line or overdraw is snapped into or otherwise connected with the eye 10. A chain, cord, or strap 16 has connection with the rear end of the rod 8 and passes through the rear section 2 of the case and is provided with a button 17 to be pulled upon either to effect a release of the rod 8 or to place the same in position to be

engaged by the catch 15. This button 17 forms a stop and prevents the operating chain or cord 16 from being drawn through the case when the rod 8 is liberated.

5 The catch 15 is semicircular or curved throughout its length and is pivoted at one end to the inner or rear end of the section 1 and is adapted to operate across the path of the rod 8, so as to engage with the head
10 thereof and retain it in place against the action of the spring 11 and the strain upon the overdraw or check-line. The lip or projection 14 interlocks with the head of the rod and secures the latter against accidental re-
15 lease. The inner or rear end of the section 1 is recessed or chambered, thereby forming a housing for the catch.

The device being secured to the harness-saddle in the manner set forth or in any other
20 convenient way, and the check-line or overdraw being connected with the rod 8 and the latter engaged with the catch 15, and it being required to release the animal for watering or any other purpose, the line 16 is pulled
25 upon, thereby drawing the rod 8 rearwardly and withdrawing the catch 15 from engagement therewith, and upon releasing the line 16 quickly the spring 11 will shoot the rod 8 forward and by the catch 15 before the latter
30 has had time to settle and engage with the head of the rod, whereby the check-line is released and the animal free to drink or graze. To secure the overdraw or check-line, the chain, cord, or line 15 is pulled upon, thereby
35 drawing the barrel 6 back into the case and the head of the rod 8 beyond the catch 15, and by slacking the line 16 slowly the catch 15 will automatically engage with the head of the rod and retain the parts in place, as pre-
40 viously described.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is—

1. In a horse-checking device, a case, a barrel removably fitted within the case, a rod
45 located within the barrel and adapted to have the check-line and the release-line connected therewith, a spring arranged within the barrel and operating upon the said rod, and a catch carried by the case and adapted to en-
50 gage with the said rod, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a horse-checking device, the combination of a case, a catch operating at right
55 angles to the case and having a projection or lip, and a rod adapted to have the release and check lines connected therewith and having a tapering head hollowed out at its inner end to receive the aforesaid lip or projection and
60 having a neck portion in front of the tapering head, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a horse-checking device, the combination of a case, a barrel removably and slidably fitted therein, a rod slidably mounted
65 within the barrel and having a tapering head, a plug having adjustable connection with the

rod, a spring mounted upon the rod, located within the barrel, and confined between the
said plug and a shoulder or stop of the barrel, the said rod having the check and release
70 lines connected therewith, and a catch provided on the case to engage with the head of the rod, substantially in the manner set forth for the purpose described.

4. In a horse-checking device, the combination of a case comprising corresponding
75 sections having a chamber formed between their inner or opposing ends, a catch located in the said chamber, a rod removably and slidably fitted within the front section of the
80 case and having a tapering end or head to be engaged by the said catch, and adapted to have the check and release lines connected therewith, and a spring for giving an initial impetus to the rod to shoot it by the catch
85 when suddenly released, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

5. In a horse-checking device, the combination of a case, a catch applied thereto, a barrel removably and slidably fitted within
90 the case and having an inner shoulder or stop, a headed rod slidably fitted within the barrel and having a threaded end, a plug mounted upon the threaded end of the rod, and a spring located within the barrel and confined
95 between its shoulder and the aforesaid plug, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

6. The combination with a harness-saddle, of front and rear guides, a two-part case fitted
100 in the guides and having an enlarged portion between its ends, a catch attached to the case, a barrel removably and slidably fitted within the case, and a spring-actuated rod slidably mounted within the barrel and adapted to be
105 engaged by the said catch and to have the check and release lines connected therewith, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

7. A horse-checking device comprising a case formed of front and rear sections having
110 a chamber between their inner or opposing ends, a catch having a lip or projection located within the said chamber, a barrel operating within the front section of the case and having an inner shoulder, a rod, a plug
115 adjustably connected with the rod, a spring placed within the barrel and confined between the said plug and shoulder thereof, an eye having a swivel connection with the said plug and adapted to have the check-line at-
120 tached thereto, and a release-line operating through the rear section of the case and connected with the rear end of the aforesaid rod, and provided with a button, substantially as described for the purpose set forth.

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

FRANK X. LUSSIER.

Witnesses:

J. E. ALEXANDER,
W. F. JAMES.