

No. 615,334.

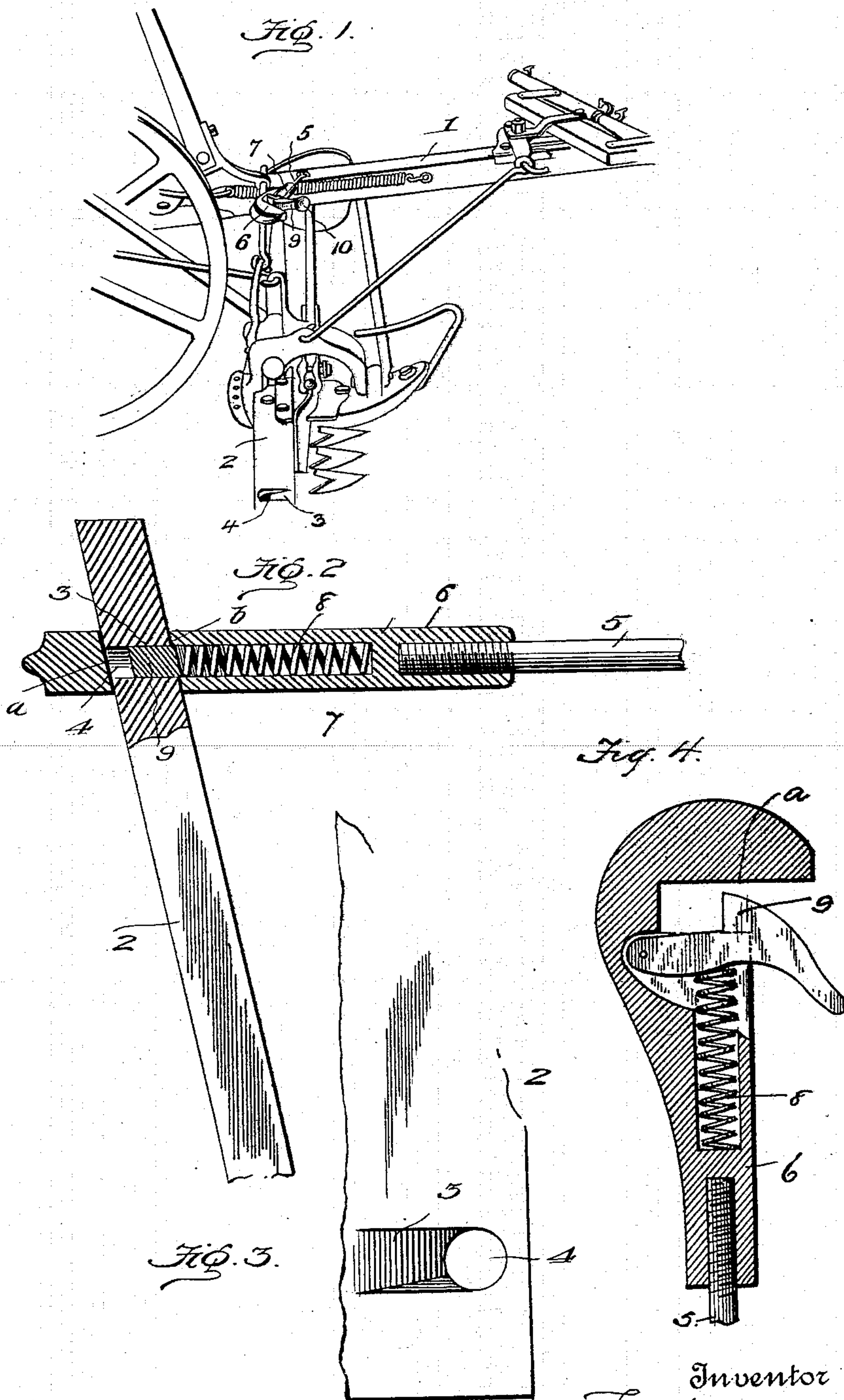
Patented Dec. 6, 1898.

J. WOODS.

FINGER BAR LATCH FOR MOWING MACHINES.

(Application filed Sept. 16, 1897.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WOODS, OF UNITY, MAINE.

## FINGER-BAR LATCH FOR MOWING-MACHINES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 615,334, dated December 6, 1898.

Application filed September 16, 1897. Serial No. 651,879. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN WOODS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Unity, in the county of Waldo and State of Maine, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Finger-Bar Latches for Mowing-Machines; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to latches for holding the finger-bar of a mowing-machine in an upright position during the transportation of the machine from the field in which it is used; and the object is to provide a latch of this character by means of which the finger-bar may be easily and quickly fastened in its upright position and as easily detached and swung down into use.

With this object in view the invention consists in certain features of construction and combination of parts, which will be hereinafter fully set forth.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portion of a mowing-machine, illustrating the application of my invention thereto. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the latch and finger-bar. Fig. 3 is a plan view of a fragment of the finger-bar, showing the bolt-socket therein. Fig. 4 is a horizontal section through the latch-hook.

In the drawings I have represented a fragment of a mowing-machine to illustrate the application of my invention; but it is evident that the invention may be applied to any of the well-known types of mowing-machines now in use, and therefore I will have it understood that I do not wish to restrict my invention in its application to the particular form of machine shown in the accompanying drawings.

In said drawings, 1 denotes the tongue of a mowing-machine, and 2 the finger-bar, connected to the tongue in the usual manner. The finger-bar has on its upper surface, back of the fingers, an inclined recess 3, that inclines upwardly from an aperture 4 near the rear edge of the finger-bar.

5 denotes a rod loosely connected to the tongue of the machine and provided with a screw-threaded end that receives the shank of the latch-hook 6. This hook is provided

with a tubular portion 7, inclosing the coil-spring 8, which exerts its energy to force the latch 9 into the recess of the finger-bar.

By referring to Fig. 3 of the drawings it will be seen that the two jaws *a* and *b* of the hook have inclined contiguous faces, so that when the finger-bar is elevated and engaged between these two faces it will be supported in an inclined direction to enable it to fall to the ground when the thumb-piece 10 of the latch is depressed.

When it is desired to move the machine from one field to another or away from the field to the shed or other place of storage, the finger-bar is swung upward and engaged with the hook, which will hold the bar in its upright position during transportation. The hook is quickly attached to and detached from the bar and when in engagement therewith will hold it firmly in place.

Although I have specifically described the construction and relative arrangement of the several elements of my invention, I do not desire to be confined to the same, as such changes or modifications may be made as clearly fall within the scope of my invention without departing from the spirit thereof.

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

In a mowing-machine, the combination with the tongue thereof and a finger-bar, the latter provided with an aperture near its rear edge and with an inclined recess leading therefrom, of a rod loosely attached to the tongue and provided with a hook having a spring-latch adapted to enter the perforation of the finger-bar, the contiguous faces of the jaws of the hook being inclined to support the bar in an inclined position and thereby enable it to fall to the ground when the hook is released therefrom, one of the jaws of said hook being adapted to enter the recess at the rear of the aperture of the finger-bar, and thereby prevent the twisting of the hook with respect to said bar and steady it in its adjustment thereto, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I hereunto affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JOHN WOODS. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

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