

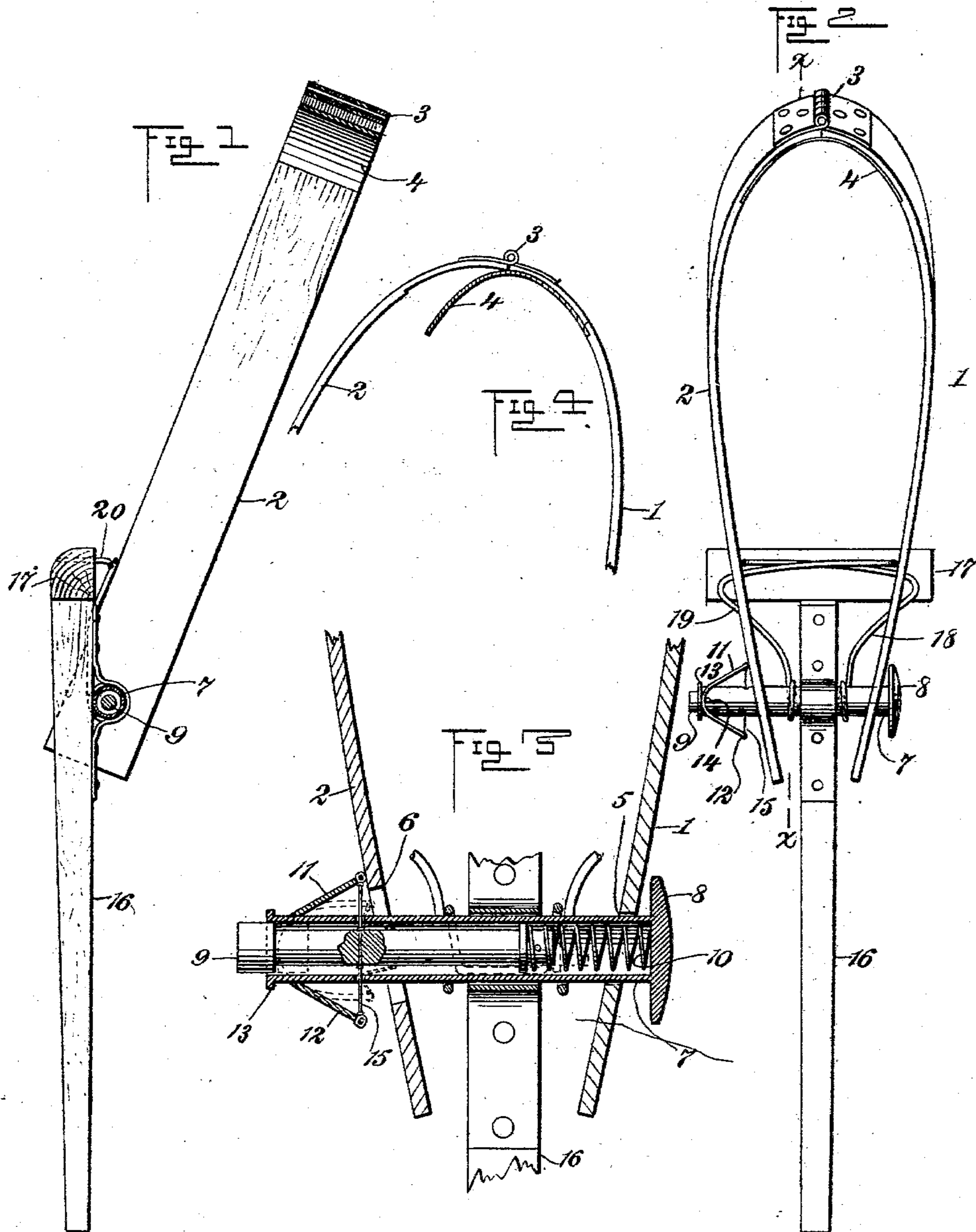
No. 704,924.

Patented July 15, 1902.

S. A. RITCHIE.
ANIMAL POKE.

(Application filed Mar. 22, 1902.)

(No Model.)



WITNESSES:

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SILAS A. RITCHIE, OF NORTH MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY.

ANIMAL-POKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 704,924, dated July 15, 1902.

Application filed March 22, 1902. Serial No. 99,442. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SILAS A. RITCHIE, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of North Middletown, in the county of Bourbon and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and Improved Animal-Poke, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in pokes for animals, particularly horses; and the object is to provide a poke with a simple means for locking the yoke members around an animal's neck, the lock being so arranged that it cannot be accidentally released by the animal rubbing it against a fence or tree, but may be readily unlocked when it is desired to remove the yoke.

Other objects of the invention will appear in the general description.

I will describe an animal-poke embodying my invention and then point out the novel features in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a section on the line *xx* of Fig. 2 of an animal-poke embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a front view of the poke. Fig. 3 is a section clearly showing the locking device, and Fig. 4 is a detail view showing the hinge connection of the yoke members.

The yoke comprises two members 1 2, which are connected together at the top by a hinge 3. Arranged on the inner side of the yoke at the joint is a metal plate 4, which is curved to conform to the shape of the upper portion of the yoke when closed, and one end of this plate is secured to one member of the yoke and free from the other member. This plate is designed to prevent the catching of a horse's mane in the joint when closing the members, and to prevent its rubbing at the ends against the neck of a horse the plate is shown as seated in the sections.

Passing through openings 5 6 in the lower ends of the yoke members is a tubular shaft 7, having a head 8 at one end to prevent its passing through the opening 5. Movable in this tubular shaft is a push-bar 9, which is held normally outward by means of a coiled spring 10, arranged in the tubular shaft and engaging at one end against the head of said

shaft and at the other end against a collar on the push-rod. Extended in opposite directions or from opposite sides of the shaft 7 are spring-fingers 11 12, which may be conveniently made of a single plate of metal, having an opening through which the shaft 7 may pass, and it is held from longitudinal movement on the shaft in one direction by the flanged end 13 of the shaft and in the other direction by a pin 14. The flange 13 may be turned up after placing the spring on the shaft. The ends of the fingers are connected by a cord or wire 15, which passes through openings in the wall of the shaft 7 and through an opening in the push-rod 9, as clearly shown in Fig. 3. When the fingers 11 12 are expanded, they will engage against the outer side of the yoke member 2, and as the spread is considerably greater than the length of the opening 6 the shaft cannot be accidentally drawn through the opening. Should it be desired to release the yoke to remove it from a horse's neck, the push-rod 9 is to be forced inward, which will bring the spring-fingers 11 and 12 toward each other, permitting them to pass readily through the opening 6. In placing the yoke on the animal's neck it is only necessary to pass the end of the shaft 7 through the opening, and the walls of the opening 6 will force the spring-fingers together, and they will again spring outward upon reaching the outer side of the opening.

Mounted to swing on the shaft 7 between the poke members is a poke-stick 16, having a cross-head 17 at its upper end designed to engage against the rear side of the poke members.

Pricking devices are employed to puncture the horse's neck or breast slightly should he rub the poke or force the poke-stick against a fence or the like. These pricking devices consist of wires 18 and 19, having swinging connection on the shaft 7, and the upper portions of these wires are looped to engage against the rear side of the yoke and are then crossed and turned rearward to form points 20, which pass through openings in the cross-head 17.

The operation of the device is quite obvious from the above description—that is, should a horse attempt to jump a fence or the like the poke-stick by engaging therewith will pre-

vent the jumping, and at the same time, as before mentioned, the points 20 will prick or puncture the horse's neck or chest.

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

1. An animal-poke, comprising a yoke, a tubular shaft extended through openings in the lower ends of the yoke, a spring-held push-rod movable in said shaft, spring-fingers carried by the shaft for engaging against the outer side of one portion of the yoke, a connection between said spring-fingers and the push-rod, whereby they may be drawn together, and a poke-stick mounted to swing on the shaft, substantially as specified.

2. An animal-poke comprising a yoke consisting of two hinged members, said members being provided with openings at the lower end, a tubular shaft for extending through said openings, a push-rod movable in said shaft, a spring in the shaft for holding the push-rod normally outward, spring-fingers on opposite sides of the shaft for engaging against the outer side of a member of the yoke, a connection

between the ends of said spring-fingers, the said connection passing through openings in the shaft and through an opening in the push-rod, and a poke-stick mounted to swing on the shaft, substantially as specified. 30

3. An animal-poke comprising a yoke consisting of two hinged sections, the sections being provided at the lower ends with openings, a locking-shaft extended through said openings, a poke-stick mounted to swing on the shaft, wires mounted to swing on the shaft at opposite sides of the poke-stick, the upper ends of said wires being crossed and having rearwardly-extended pointed portions, and a cross-head on the upper end of the poke-stick and having openings to receive said rearwardly-extended portions, substantially as specified. 35 40

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses. 45

SILAS A. RITCHIE.

Witnesses:

WM. GRANNAN,

CLAUDE M. THOMAS.