

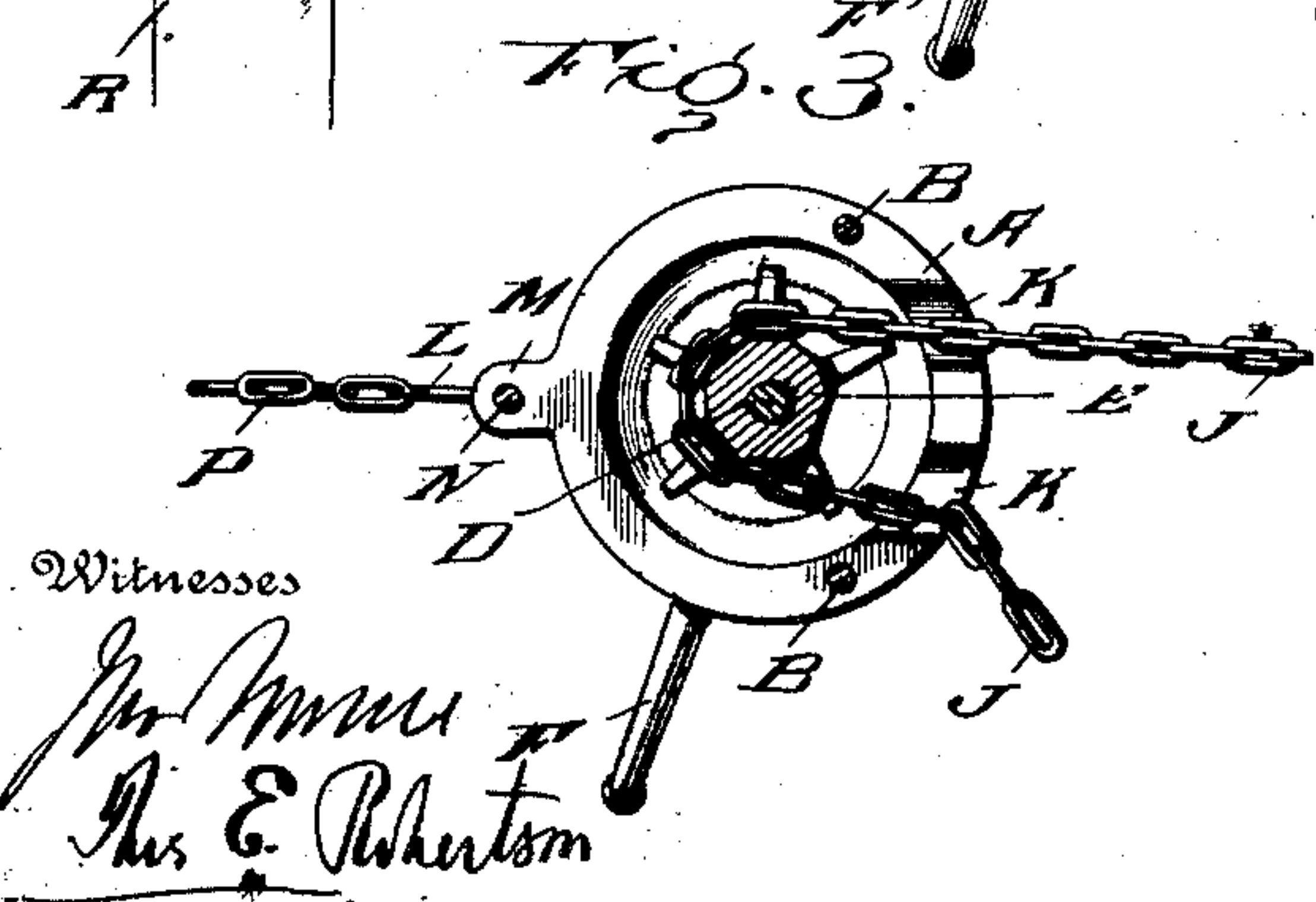
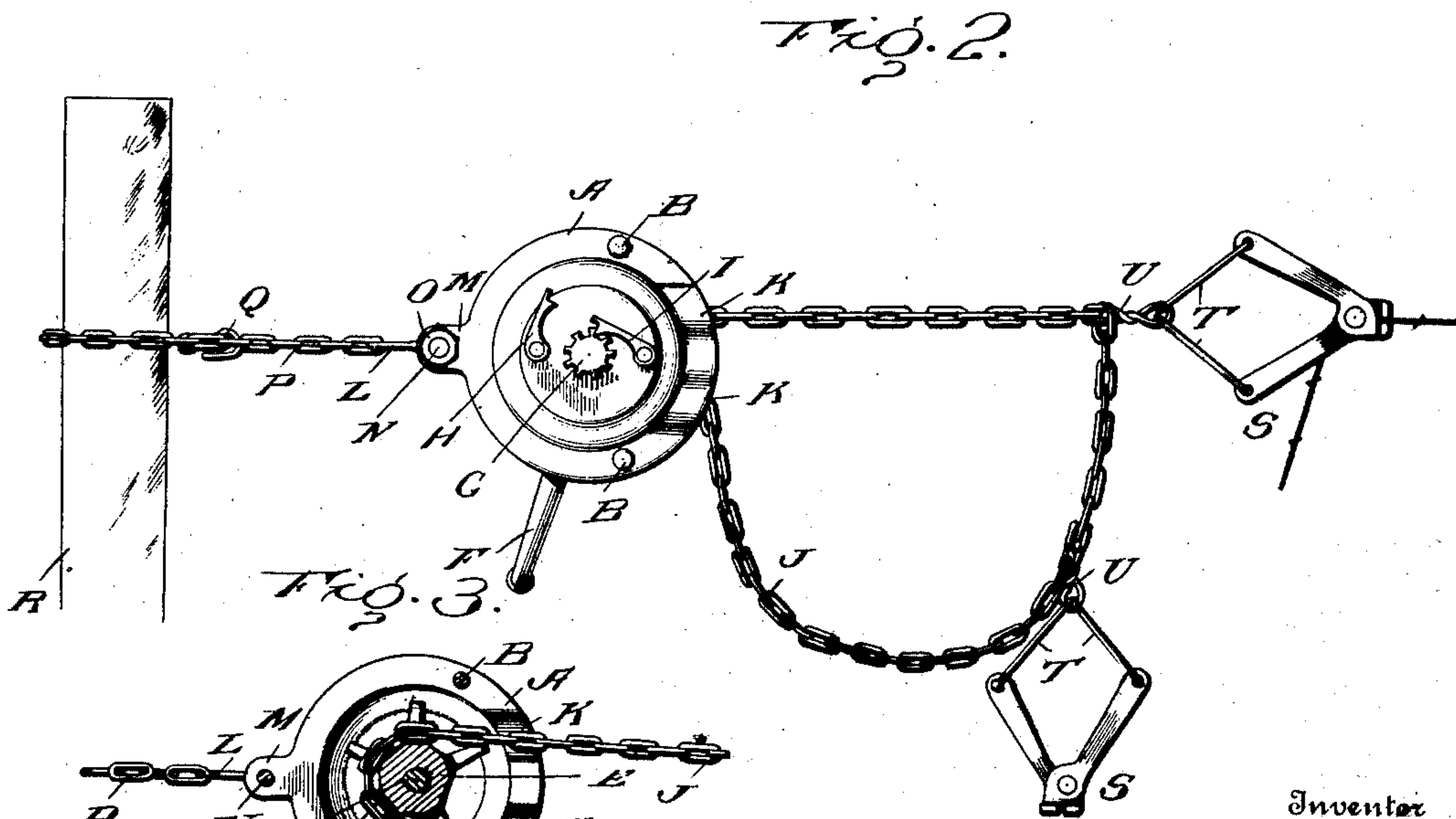
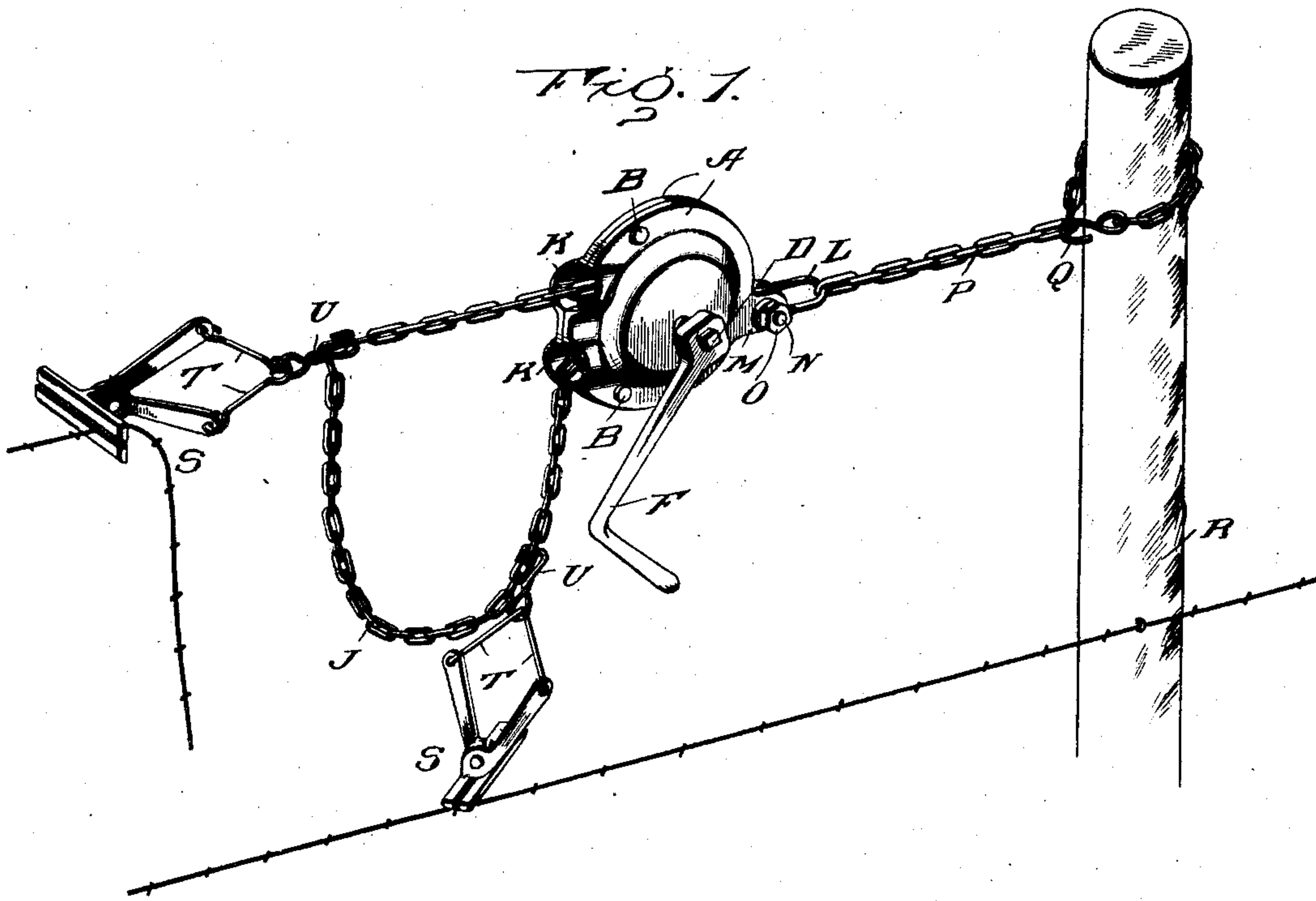
No. 737,846.

PATENTED SEPT. 1, 1903.

W. F. JENNINGS.  
WIRE STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED DEC. 19, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Inventor

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 737,846, dated September 1, 1903.

Application filed December 19, 1902. Serial No. 135,849. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM F. JENNINGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hope-  
dale, in the county of Tazewell and State of  
5 Illinois, have invented certain new and use-  
ful Improvements in Wire-Stretchers; and I  
do hereby declare the following to be a full,  
clear, and exact description of the invention,  
such as will enable others skilled in the art to  
10 which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention relates to certain new and use-  
ful improvements in wire-stretchers. It has  
for its object to produce a simple and inex-  
15 pensive device which shall be strong and du-  
rable in use and which may be operated from  
either direction and continuously without ad-  
justing or readjusting the pulling-chain.

With these ends in view my invention con-  
sists in the details of construction and arrange-  
20 ment hereinafter more fully described.

In order that those skilled in the art to which  
my invention appertains may know how to  
make and use my improved wire-stretcher, I  
will proceed to describe the same, referring  
25 by letters to the accompanying drawings, in  
which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my im-  
proved stretcher equipped with two wire-grips  
and in condition for use. Fig. 2 shows in  
30 elevation one side, with a ratchet-wheel on  
the power-shaft and two pawls adapted to  
clutch the ratchet-wheel when rotated in op-  
posite directions; and Fig. 3 is a plan or side  
view with one side of the case removed and  
35 exposing the interior sprocket-gear upon the  
shaft and the endless chain in operative re-  
lation with the sprocket-gear.

Similar letters of reference indicate like  
parts in the several figures of the drawings.

40 A A are dish-shaped plates provided with  
circumferential flanges, by means of which  
and suitable screw-bolts B and nuts C said  
plates are secured together.

D is a power-shaft mounted axially in the  
45 plates A A and having secured thereto a chain-  
sprocket E, adapted to rotate within and be-  
tween the dished or concave portions of the  
plates A A. One end of the shaft D is pro-  
vided with a crank F, and to the opposite end  
50 is secured a ratchet-gear G, and on opposite  
sides of said gear are pivotally connected to

one of the plates A two pawls H I, as clearly  
shown at Fig. 2.

J is an endless chain mounted upon the  
sprocket-gear G and traveling through two ad- 55  
jacent openings or gates K in the peripheries  
of the plates A A, as best shown at Fig. 1.

L is a clevis secured to radial lugs M on the  
plates A by means of a bolt N and nut O, and  
P is a chain connected at one end to the clevis 60  
L and provided at the free end with a hook  
Q, adapted to be attached to said clevis after  
the said chain has been passed around a fence-  
post R or other suitable anchor.

S S are two or more wire-grippers, the long 65  
arms of which are connected by links T with  
a hook U, adapted for connection with any  
one of the links of the endless chain J, so that  
the pull of said chain will cause the jaws of  
the grippers to firmly grasp or grip a fence- 70  
wire in an obvious manner.

From the construction described it will be  
readily understood that when the crank F is  
turned in one direction the sprocket-gear E  
will cause the endless chain J to travel con- 75  
tinuously in the same direction, and when  
the rearmost gripper has nearly approached  
the casing or plates A A the second gripper  
is caused to take hold of and bite the wire  
being stretched, whereupon the rearmost grip- 80  
per or clamp is free to be removed and placed  
upon the draft-chain in advance of the one  
pulling upon the chain, so that the wire to  
be stretched is under constant draft, and any  
amount of slack may be taken up without 85  
any readjustment of the casing or of the end-  
less chain J. When it is desirable or neces-  
sary to stretch a wire from the opposite di-  
rection, the stretcher may be rotated around  
the post or anchor, which will bring the op- 90  
erating-crank on the opposite side of the  
fence-line, and a strain may then be exerted  
upon the wire in the manner already de-  
scribed. In either case the crank may be 95  
turned to the right or the left, accordingly as  
to whether the gripping devices are hooked  
to the upper or lower stretch of the chain,  
and one or the other of the pawls H or I, as  
may be necessary, is thrown into engagement  
with the ratchet-gear G to prevent the shaft 100  
and sprocket-gear from releasing the strain  
upon the wire being stretched.



The plates A A, which constitute the case or housing for the power-shaft and chain-sprocket, may be made of cast iron or steel or they may be struck up in a drop-press and the several parts assembled and secured in operative position and relation, as already described.

Having described the construction and advantages of my improved wire-stretcher, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A wire-stretcher composed of two concave plates provided with flanges and secured together by bolts, and having two adjacent radial gateways, a power-shaft mounted axially in the dish-shaped plates and having a crank at one end and ratchet-gear at the other, and an intermediate chain-sprocket located between the dish-shaped plates, pivoted pawls on opposite sides of the ratchet-gear, an endless chain mounted upon the sprocket and located within the radial gateways and adapted to be connected with wire-gripping devices,

and an anchor-chain connected with the flanges of the plates diametrically opposite to the chain-gateways, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In a wire-stretcher such as described, in combination with the casing consisting of two dish-shaped plates provided with circumferential flanges and adjacent radial gateways, a revoluble shaft and chain-sprocket mounted in said plates, and an anchor-chain secured to the flanges of the plates, an endless chain located in the adjacent gateways of the casing and mounted upon the sprocket on the revoluble shaft, and gripping devices connected at their rear ends by links to hooks adapted for connection with the draft-chain, substantially as hereinbefore set forth.

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

WILLIAM F. JENNINGS.

Witnesses:

ADD. PETTY,  
D. F. COGGINS.