

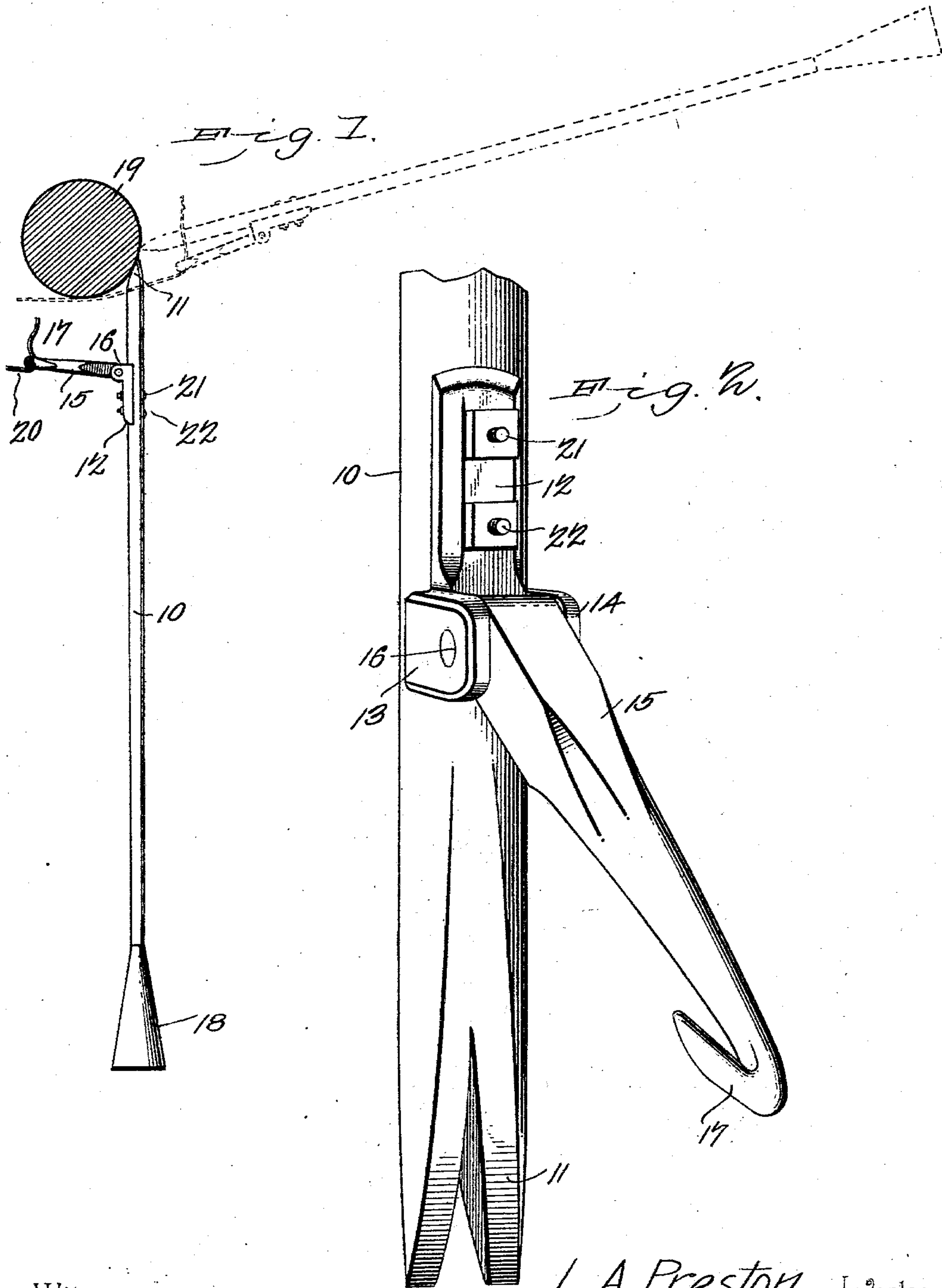
No. 745,662.

PATENTED DEC. 1, 1903.

L. A. PRESTON.
WIRE STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 8, 1902.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses
E. J. Stewart
C. H. Woodward

L. A. Preston, Inventor.
by *C. A. Snowles*
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEONIDAS A. PRESTON, OF CHEAPSIDE, TEXAS.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 745,662, dated December 1, 1903.

Application filed September 8, 1902. Serial No. 122,629. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEONIDAS A. PRESTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Cheap-
side, in the county of Gonzales and State of
5 Texas, have invented a new and useful Wire-
Stretcher, of which the following is a specifi-
cation.

This invention relates to implements em-
ployed in connection with the building of
10 fences, more particularly with the stretching
of the strand-wires, but which may be em-
ployed in connection with various other parts
of the work, and has for its object the con-
struction of a simple easily-operated device
15 which may be employed for various purposes
in connection with the building of fences
and which may be operated by one man in
performing the various steps necessary in
stretching and securing the wire or withdraw-
20 ing the staples when repairing or removing
fences and which may also be employed to as-
sist in setting the posts; and the invention
consists in certain novel features of construc-
tion, as hereinafter shown and described, and
25 specified in the claim.

In the drawings illustrative of the inven-
tion, Figure 1 is a plan view of the device ap-
plied to illustrate its construction and mode
of operation. Fig. 2 is a perspective view,
30 enlarged, of the operative end of the imple-
ment to illustrate more fully its construction.

The improved implement consists in a stock
or shank 10 of any suitable length and size,
preferably formed of a steel bar, but which
35 may be made of iron tipped with steel at one
end, this end preferably having a pair of its
opposite sides flattened and beveled to form
a sharpened engaging end, which is bifurcated
to form a claw 11.

40 Attached to one side of the handle member
10, spaced from the claw end, is a hanger 12,
having ears 13 14, between which a short le-
ver 15 is pivoted by one end, as shown, to
overlie one of the flattened faces of the shank
45 and to swing toward and from the same in a
direct central line, the pivot 16 of the lever
passing through the ears and transversely
through the lever. The free end of the lever
15 is formed with a backwardly-turned wire-
50 engaging hook 17, the interior of the hook be-
ing V-shaped and adapted to engage and sup-
port a wire by friction alone. The opposite

end of the shank 10 is adapted to be employed
as a tamp, and may be enlarged, as indicated
at 18, to increase its effectiveness when thus 55
employed.

The shank 10 will ordinarily be about three
feet long and about one inch in diameter, with
the lever 15 about five inches long and located
about six inches from the sharpened end of 60
the bar; but these dimensions may be varied
and the implement increased or decreased
in size and length, as required, to adapt it
to larger or smaller fences, and I do not, there-
fore, wish to be limited in any manner to any 65
proportions or specific sizes of the parts, as
they may be varied at will without departing
from the principle of the invention.

In using the instrument the wire is engaged
with the hook 17, which opens in alinement 70
with the post-engaging face of the lever 10,
and the claw end 11 placed against the post
on the opposite side from the direction from
which the wire is to be drawn, as indi-
cated in full lines in Fig. 1. The operator 75
then carries the handle member 10 around
horizontally into the position indicated by
the dotted lines in Fig. 1, the post (indicated
at 19) becoming a fulcrum to the handle mem-
ber, and the strain exerted on the wire is in 80
a direct line with the fulcrum-point of the le-
ver 10. This action draws the wire (indicated
at 20) across the post and slightly bends it
thereover in proper position to be secured in
the usual manner by staples or other suitable 85
means. In operating the device the operator
will preferably stand in front of the imple-
ment, so that when turned to the position
shown by dotted lines in Fig. 1 he can hold it
in its operated position by his body, thus leav- 90
ing both hands free to be employed in secur-
ing the wire by the staples. This is an im-
portant feature of the invention and greatly
increases its convenience and efficiency.

The sharpened end is an important feature of 95
the invention, as it serves to form for itself a
cavity in the soft wood of the post, which pre-
vents its slipping when operated. Then, again,
the sharpened end serves an important pur-
pose in providing for the use of the imple- 100
ment in loosening the earth when digging the
holes for the fence-posts, and the claw feature
renders the implement very convenient as a
staple-drawer when repairing or removing

fences. The opposite end of the shank 10 is adapted to be employed for tamping the earth around the fence-posts when setting them and to this end may be slightly enlarged at 18, as before mentioned. The implement thus becomes a very useful one, capable of being employed for many purposes in building fences and in performing similar work.

The hanger 12 is shown secured to the stock 10 by two bolts 21 22, but may be riveted or otherwise secured to the stock instead of being bolted, if preferred.

The hook member 17 will be formed with a slightly-rounded interior configuration, so that it will grip the wire without abrading it, thus obviating liability of the wire breaking when bent.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

20 A wire-stretcher comprising a shank hav-

ing a pair of its opposite sides at one end flattened and beveled to form a sharpened end for engagement with a fence-post, said end being bifurcated to form a claw, a hanger removably attached to the shank coincident 25 with one of the flattened faces and having a pair of spaced ears, and a lever pivoted between said ears to overlie and swing toward and from the adjacent flattened face in a direct central line, said lever having its free 30 end bent laterally and backward to form a wire-engaging hook disposed in line with the axial center of the shank.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in 35 the presence of two witnesses.

LEONIDAS A. PRESTON.

Witnesses:

B. SCHIWETZ,

PAUL DORN CLUTA.