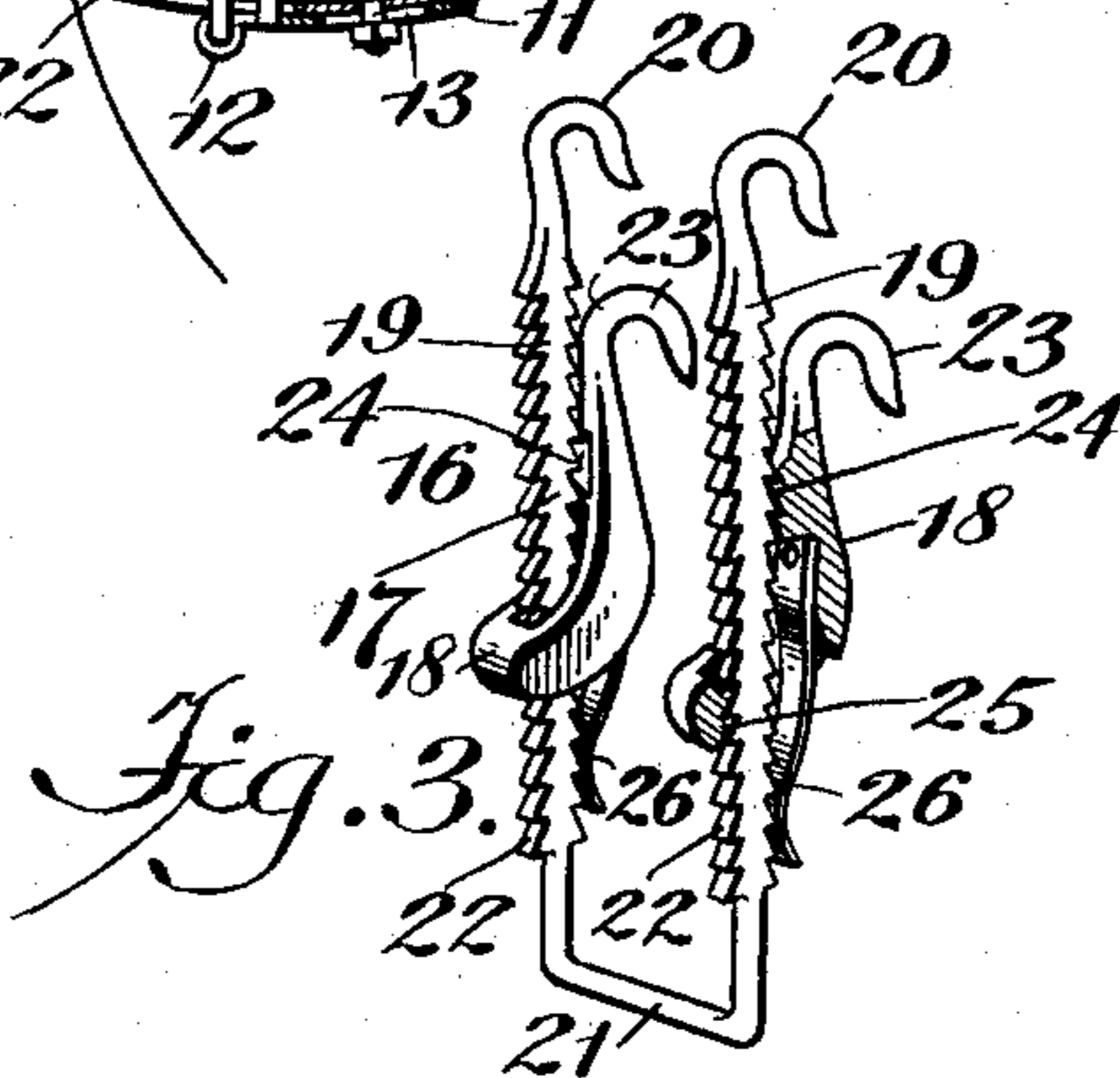
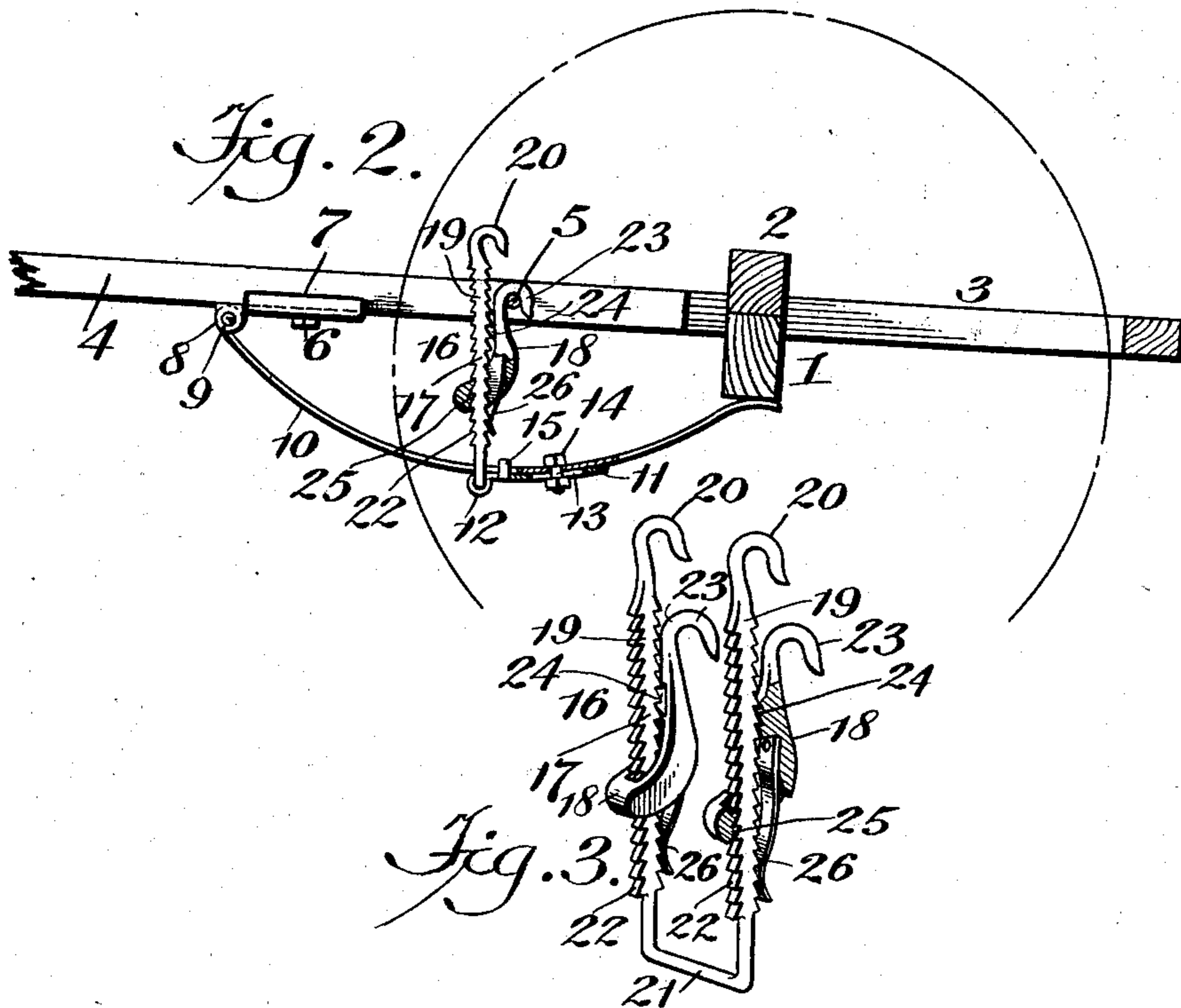
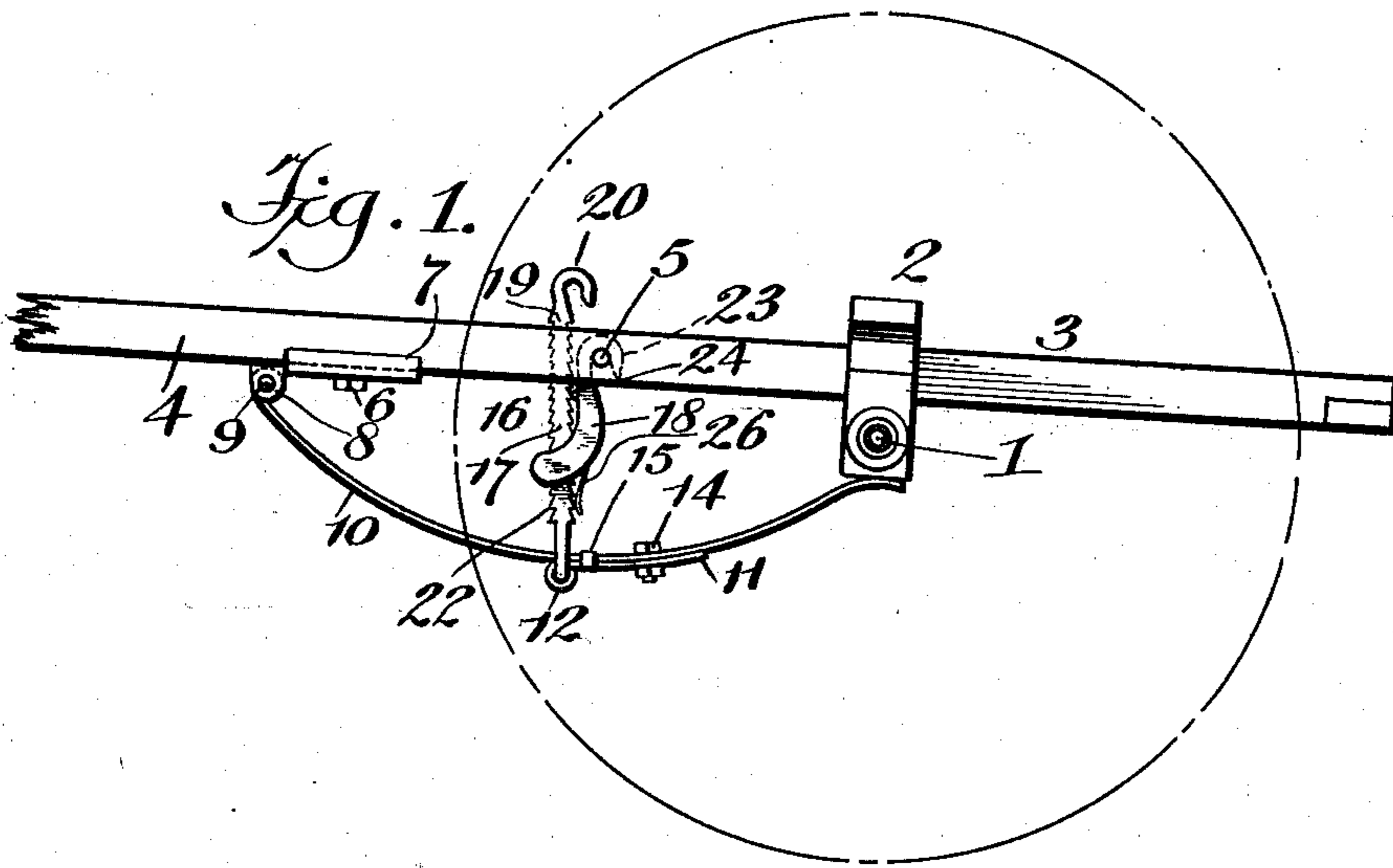


No. 746,367.

PATENTED DEC. 8, 1903.

B. H. OLDFIELD.
VEHICLE TONGUE SUPPORT.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 22, 1903.

NO MODEL.



Witnesses
E. J. Olmstead
J. J. Olmstead

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Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN HARRISON OLDFIELD, OF LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

VEHICLE-TONGUE SUPPORT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 746,367, dated December 8, 1903.

Application filed April 22, 1903. Serial No. 153,842. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN HARRISON OLDFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at South Broadway, Leavenworth, in the county of Leavenworth and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Vehicle-Tongue Supports, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to wagon-tongue supports, and has for its objects to produce a device of this character which will be simple of construction, efficient in operation, and one which may be readily adjusted for supporting the tongue at various elevations.

To these ends the invention comprises the novel details of construction and combination of parts more fully hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the forward portion of a vehicle running-gear having my improved device applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail perspective view on an enlarged scale.

Referring to the drawings, 1 indicates the front axle; 2, the bolster mounted above the same; 3, the hounds secured between the axle and bolster and projecting forwardly of the same a suitable distance, and 4 the tongue or pole pivoted at its rear end to the forward ends of the hounds by means of a transverse rod or bolt 5. These parts may all be of the usual or any suitable or desired construction and material, inasmuch as they constitute no part of my invention.

In accordance with my invention I bolt or otherwise secure to the lower face of the tongue a plate 6, provided with vertically upwardly extending side flanges 7, which engage the tongue at opposite sides thereof, and with depending perforated ears 8, between which is pivoted upon a bolt 9 the forward end of a leaf-spring 10, which is downwardly curved or arched from end to end, as shown.

This spring, which extends rearwardly parallel with the tongue, bears at its rear end loosely upon the under face of the axle 1 and has secured to its lower face adjacent to its longitudinal center an auxiliary spring or member 11, bent at its front end to form an eye 12. The auxiliary spring is provided with a central longitudinal slot 13, through which a

bolt 14 engages for attaching the member 11 to the main spring to permit of the ready adjustment of the former longitudinally of the latter for the purpose which will hereinafter appear. The auxiliary spring 11 is provided at its front end with upwardly-extending fingers 15, which engage at opposite sides of the main spring 10 to prevent lateral displacement of the auxiliary spring relative thereto.

For applying suitable tension to the spring 10 to cause the same to properly support the tongue I employ a tension member 16, which comprises a main body portion 17 and adjustable engaging members 18. The body portion 17 of the tension member is in the form of a U-shaped member having parallel spaced sides 19, provided at their upper ends with hooks 20 and connected at their lower ends by a crown portion 21, which is seated in the eye 12 of the auxiliary spring, the sides of the member between the crown portion and hooks being toothed, as at 22. This member or body portion normally occupies a substantially vertical position and has slidably mounted upon each of its sides 19 one of the adjustable engaging members 18. Each of these members is provided at its upper end with a hook 23 and on its inner edge adjacent to the arm 19 with teeth 24, which normally engage the adjacent teeth of the arm, and thence curves downwardly and forwardly and is slotted for the reception of the arm 19 of the body portion, the forward inner face of the slot being toothed, as at 25, for engagement with the teeth on the adjacent edge of the arm 19. The respective teeth of the adjustable member 18 are held normally in engagement with the teeth of the arm 19 by means of a suitable spring 26, preferably in the form of a leaf-spring, which is secured at its upper end to the inner face of the member and extends downward through the slot therein and bears at its lower end upon the edge of the arm 19.

In practice the hooks 23 of the respective engaging members 18 are engaged with the rod or bolt 5 at opposite sides of the tongue and serve to draw the crown portion 21 of the main body of the member upward against the mainspring 10, thus placing the same under tension and causing it to lift the tongue and yieldably sustain the same, and in this

connection it is to be noted that the members 18 may be readily adjusted in a vertical plane to vary the pressure upon the mainspring 10, thus varying the elevation of the tongue.

- 5 When it is desired to lower the tongue, the members 18 are disengaged from the rod 5 and the hooks 20 of the arms 19 are engaged therewith; or if in practice it is desired to support the tongue in a substantially vertical position the member may be entirely dis-
10 engaged from the rod 5 and the tongue turned upward and maintained in such position by engaging the free end of the spring 10 with the ground. By adjusting the auxiliary
15 spring 11 longitudinally of the mainspring a more direct pull of the tension member 16 upon the spring can be maintained.

From the foregoing it will be seen that I produce a device which is simple of construction,
20 one which may be readily and inexpensively applied, and one which in practice will efficiently perform its functions, and in attaining these ends it is to be understood that I do not limit or confine myself to the details
25 herein shown and described, inasmuch as minor changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim is—

- 30 1. In a device of the class described, the combination with a vehicle running-gear, of a tongue pivotally associated therewith, a bowed spring attached at one end to the tongue, and a tension member for the spring,
35 said member comprising the main body portion provided with teeth and with means for engaging the spring, and an adjustable member slidable on the body portion and provided with teeth for engaging the teeth of the body
40 portion and with means for engaging the tongue.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a vehicle running-gear, a tongue pivotally associated therewith, a bowed
45 spring attached at one end to the tongue and a tension member for the spring, said member comprising a main body portion provided

with teeth and with means for engaging the spring, an adjustable member slidable on the body portion and provided with teeth for en- 50
gaging the teeth of the body portion and with means for engaging the tongue, and a spring acting upon the said members to maintain their teeth normally in interengagement.

3. In a device of the class described, the 55
combination with a vehicle running-gear, of a tongue pivotally associated therewith, a bowed spring attached at one end to the tongue, and a tension member for the spring, said member comprising a U-shaped body 60
portion having spaced toothed sides or arms lying at opposite sides of the tongue and a crown portion engaged beneath the spring, a member slidable upon each arm of the body portion and provided with teeth for engaging 65
the teeth of the arm and with means for engaging the vehicle-tongue, and a spring for maintaining the teeth of the member in engagement with those of the arm.

4. In a device of the class described, the 70
combination with a vehicle running-gear, of a tongue pivotally associated therewith, a bowed spring attached at one end to the tongue, an auxiliary spring or member adjustably attached to the main spring and pro- 75
vided with an eye, a U-shaped member having its crown portion engaged in the eye of the auxiliary spring and its arms extended upward at opposite sides of the tongue and provided with teeth, an adjustable member 80
slidably mounted upon each arm of the U-shaped member and provided with means for engaging the tongue and with teeth for engaging the teeth of the arm, and a spring acting upon the members to maintain their 85
teeth normally in interengagement.

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

BENJAMIN HARRISON OLDFIELD.

Witnesses:

THOMAS J. BROWN,
ERNEST HUNNIUS.