

No. 762,327.

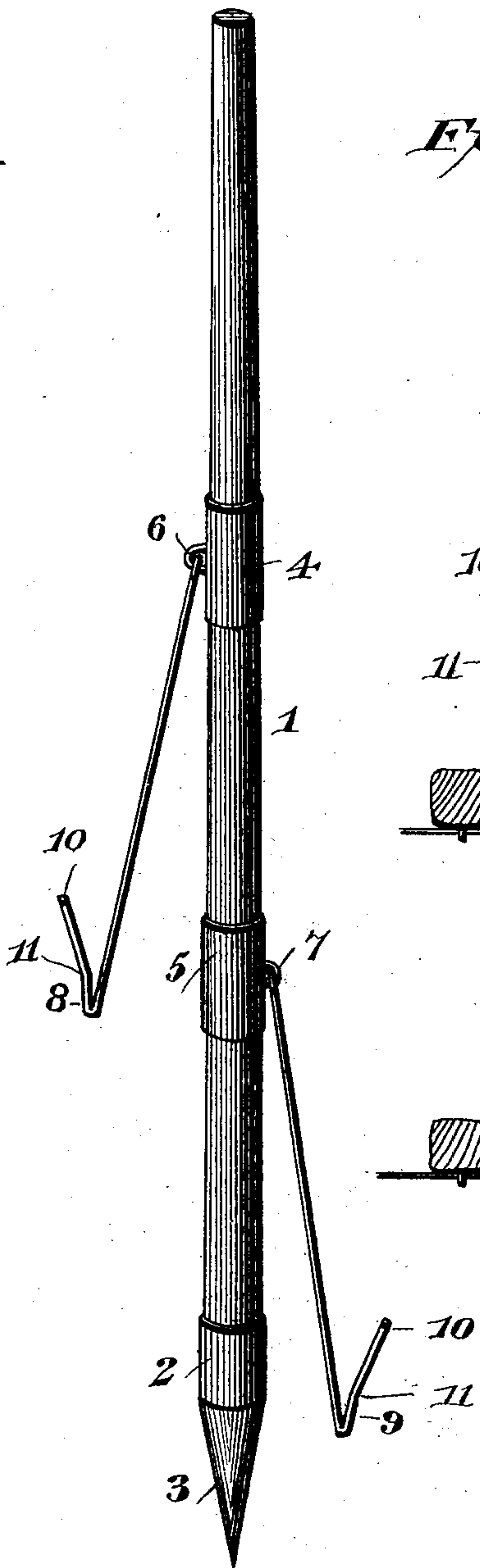
PATENTED JUNE 14, 1904.

W. R. LOTT.  
WIRE STRETCHER.

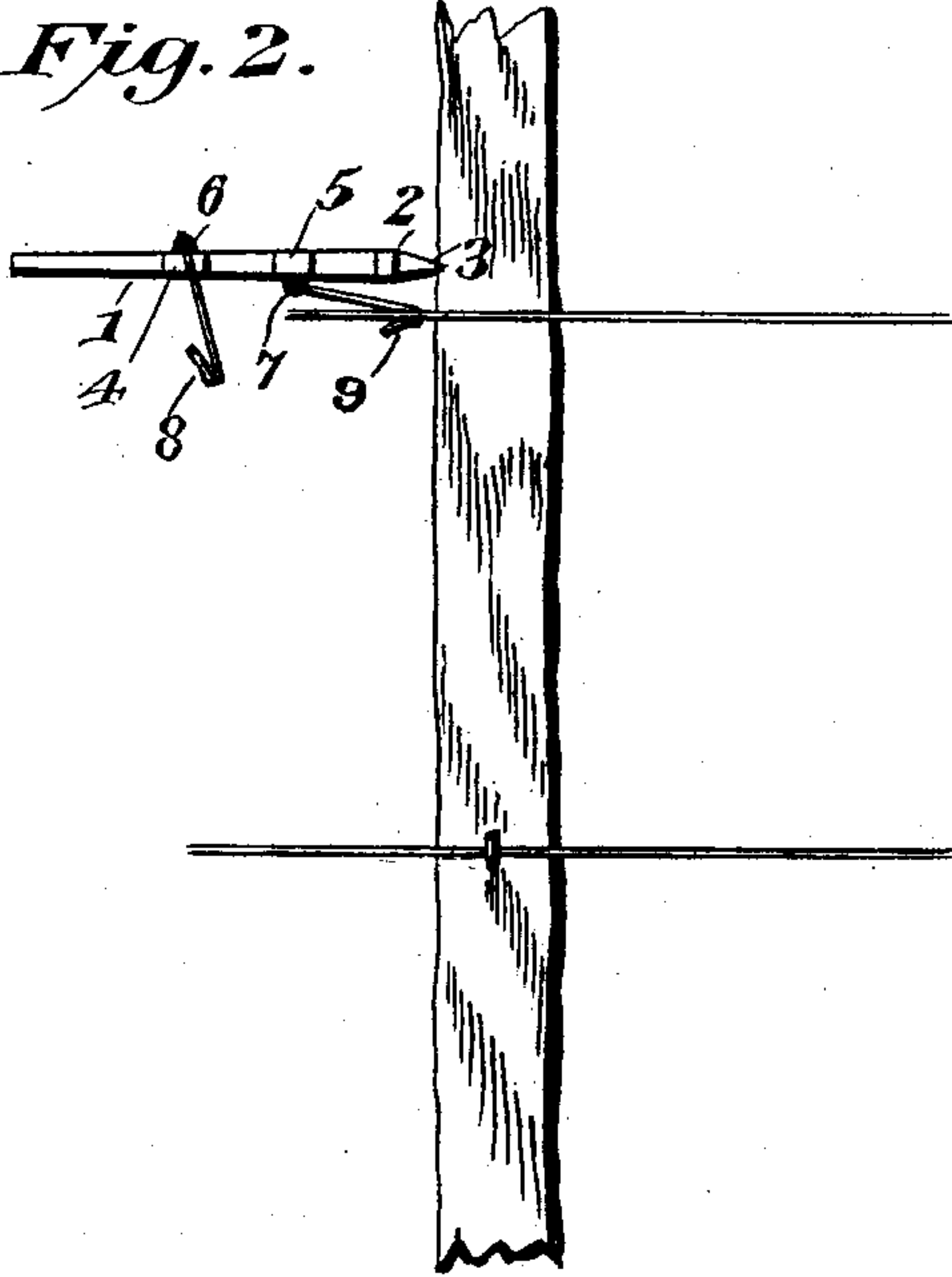
APPLICATION FILED APR. 16, 1903.

NO MODEL.

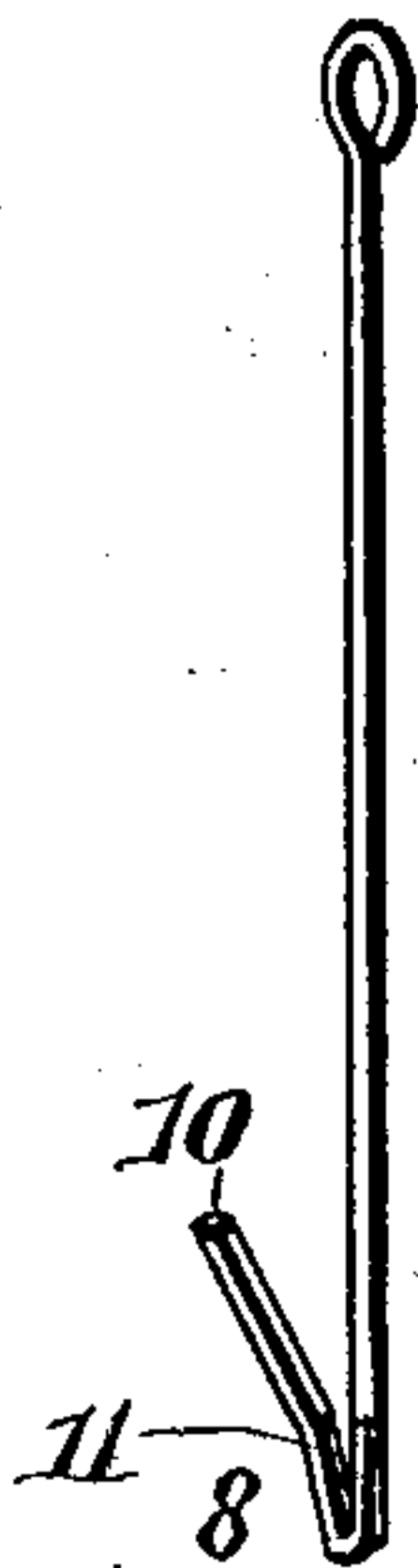
*Fig. 1.*



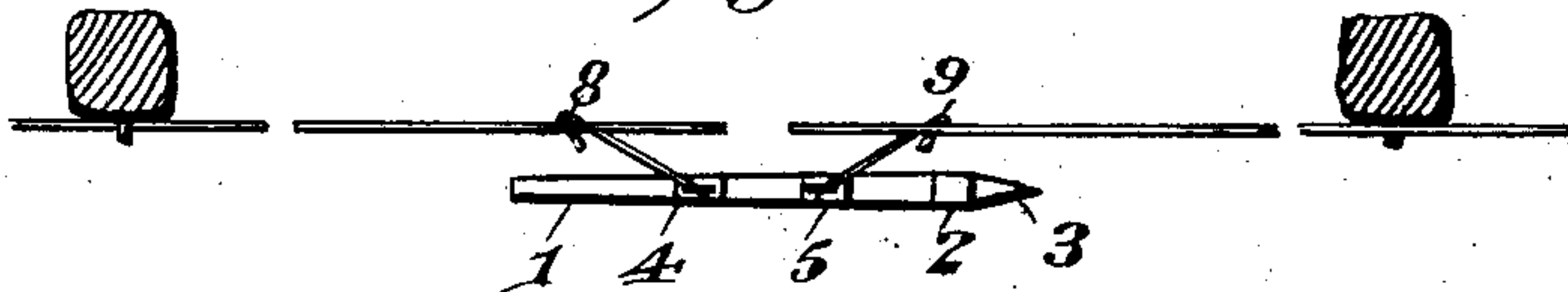
*Fig. 2.*



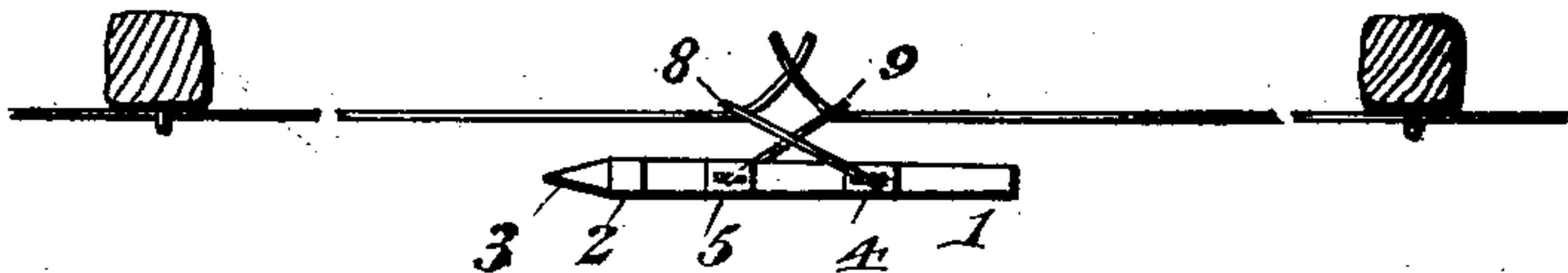
*Fig. 5.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 4.*



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM ROYAL LOTT, OF NAVASOTA, TEXAS.

## WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 762,327, dated June 14, 1904.

Application filed April 15, 1903. Serial No. 152,779. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM ROYAL LOTT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Navasota, in the county of Grimes and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Wire-Stretcher, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in wire-stretchers.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of wire-stretchers and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient one of great strength and durability designed for stretching fence-wires, both in the construction of fences and in the repair thereof, and capable of being readily fulcrumed on a post or other support and of exerting great power for stretching and holding the wire for stapling or otherwise securing the same to a post.

A further object of the invention is to provide a wire-stretcher of this character capable of ready operation to draw the ends of a broken wire together for splicing the same.

Also the invention has for its object to provide a wire-stretcher capable of exerting great force in extracting a staple without liability of twisting or breaking the same.

Another object of the invention is to provide a wire-stretcher having an operating-lever adapted to be fulcrumed on a post at any point and capable of positively engaging the same without liability of accidentally slipping and loosening the wire.

Furthermore, it is the object of the present invention to provide a wire-stretcher adapted especially for handling barbed wire and capable of enabling the same to be picked up from the ground and stretched across a post without the hands of the operator coming in contact with the wire and without liability of the operator being injured by the same.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended, it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details of construction within

the scope of the claims may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a wire-stretcher constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of a portion of a fence, illustrating the manner of stretching a fence-wire across a post. Figs. 3 and 4 are plan views illustrating the manner of stretching the ends of a broken fence-wire for splicing and showing the position of the parts before and after stretching. Fig. 5 is a detail view of one of the hooks.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 designates an operating-lever, preferably consisting of a rounded rod or bar, as shown in Fig. 1, and slightly tapered toward its inner end and provided at its outer end with a metallic cap 2. The metallic cap 2, which is provided with an inner cylindrical portion to form a ferrule or band for the outer end of the rod or bar, has a tapered outer portion 3 to provide a pointed engaging end for the lever, whereby the latter is adapted to engage a fence-post at any point throughout the length of the same without liability of slipping. The outer end of the rod or bar forms a shoulder, against which the metal cap abuts, and the cylindrical portion of the latter may be secured to the rod or bar in any desired manner. The rod or bar is preferably constructed of wood; but it may be made of any desired material, as will be readily understood.

The lever is provided at points approximately equidistant of its ends with bands 4 and 5 tapered to conform to the configuration of the lever and provided at diametrically opposite points on the same with eyes 6 and 7 for the reception of corresponding eyes of inner and outer hooks 8 and 9. The hooks 8 and 9 are provided with elongated shanks or rods, the shank or rod of the inner hook 8 being preferably of a length equal to the distance between the bands, so that when the lever is in an upright position, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, the upper hook will be arranged approximately opposite the band



for the lower or outer hook, and the lower or outer hook extends from the outer band to the metal cap. The shank of the lower or outer hook is of a length slightly less than the distance between its point of attachment to the lever and the outer pointed or engaging end thereof. Each hook is provided with a bill or outer portion 10, arranged at an acute angle to the shank and bent between its ends at 11 to provide a flaring mouth for picking up the wire and a reduced or contracted inner portion for clamping the wire. The engaging portions of the hook are provided with flat faces to avoid cutting the wires; but any form of wire-engaging face may be provided. The shanks of the hooks are of a length to permit them to be readily grasped by the operator and to enable the latter to pick up a barbed or other wire without handling the same, whereby the hands of the operator are effectually prevented from being scratched or otherwise injured by the barbs.

In Fig. 2 of the drawings is illustrated the manner of stretching a fence-wire across a post. The lower or outer hook is engaged with the wire, and the pointed end of the lever is fulcrumed on the post adjacent to the point where the wire is to be stapled, and by oscillating the lever great power may be brought to bear on the wire, and the latter may be readily stretched to the desired tension.

In drawing the ends of a broken wire together for splicing them the lever is arranged parallel with the wire, as shown in Fig. 3, with its hooks extended outward and engaging the ends of the wire. The lever is then rotated one-half of a revolution to turn it end for end and to cross the hooks, as shown in Fig. 3, whereby the broken ends of the wire are drawn together and overlapped. The ends of the wire may then be readily spliced, and the wire-stretcher will hold them in proper position until this operation is effected.

The wire-stretcher is also adapted for extracting staples, and this is effected by engaging the outer hook with the wire adjacent to the staple and then fulcruming the pointed end of the lever on the post. The lever is then oscillated to draw the staple out of the post. By withdrawing staples in this manner they are not broken or twisted, as is the case when they are pried out of a post by an instrument having a sharp edge. Also there is no liability of cutting the fence-wire. The wire can be nailed or otherwise secured to the post on which the stretcher is fulcrumed, and it is not necessary to employ a separate post or support to form a fulcrum for the wire-stretcher.

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

1. A wire-stretcher, comprising a lever provided at its outer end with a cap having an approximately cylindrical inner portion and provided with a tapered engaging outer portion, eyes mounted on the lever at diametrically opposite sides thereof, and hooks having elongated shanks hinged to the eyes, substantially as described.

2. A wire-stretcher comprising a lever provided at its outer end with a cap having an approximately cylindrical inner portion and provided with a tapered engaging outer portion, bands arranged on the lever and provided at diametrically opposite sides with eyes, and hooks having elongated shanks hinged to the said eyes, substantially as described.

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

WILLIAM ROYAL LOTT.

Witnesses:

W. T. TALIAFERRO,  
S. H. FLAKE.