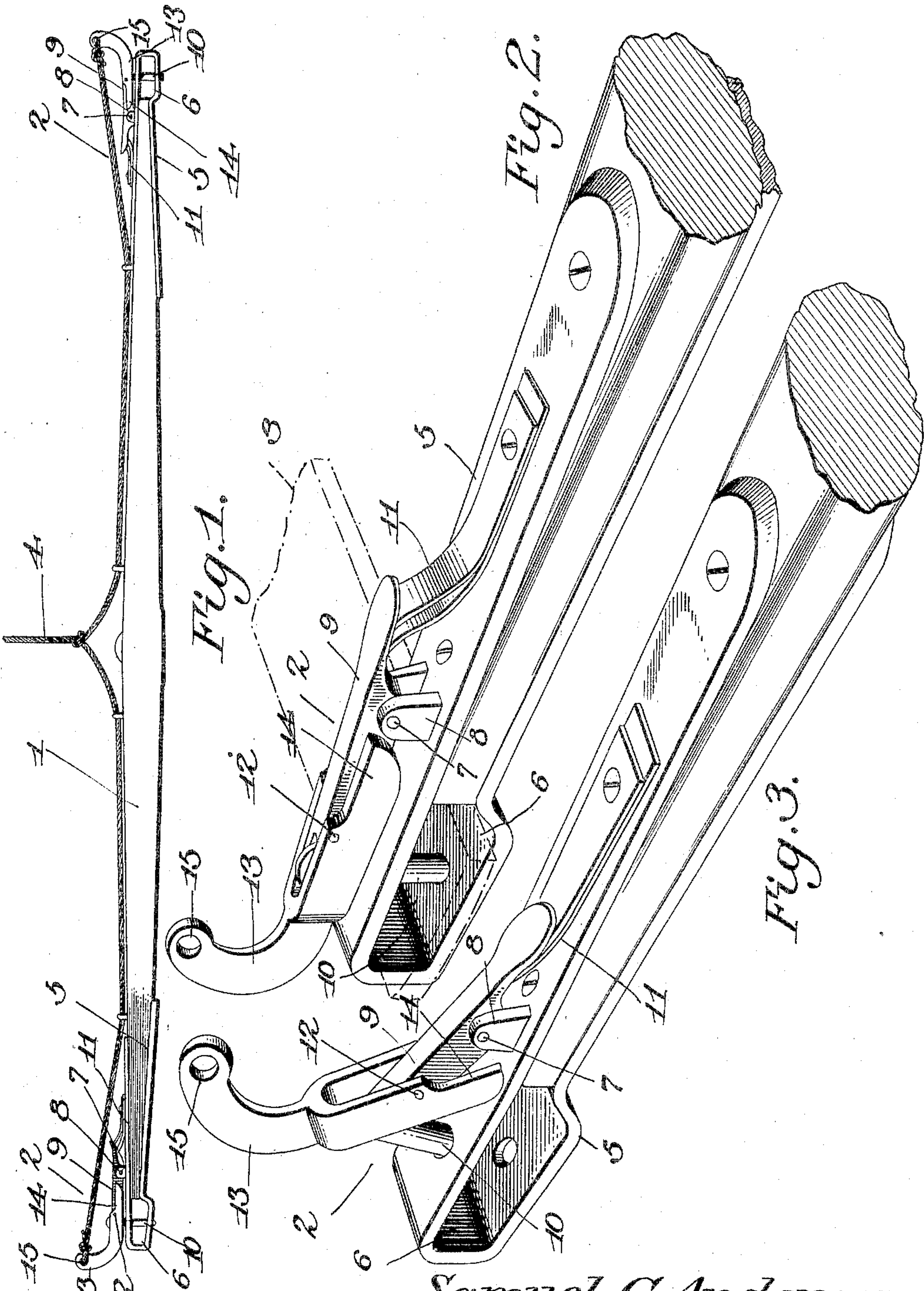


No. 780,256.

PATENTED JAN. 17, 1905.

S. C. ANDERSON.  
HORSE DETACHER.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 14, 1904.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL C. ANDERSON, OF WHITEWRIGHT, TEXAS.

## HORSE-DETACHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 780,256, dated January 17, 1905.

Application filed May 14, 1904. Serial No. 207,982.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, SAMUEL C. ANDERSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Whitewright, in the county of Grayson and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Horse-Detacher, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to the class of devices known as "horse-detachers," which are applied to the swingletrees of vehicles for holding the traces and are readily operable for releasing the latter in the event of a runaway or the like, and has for its objects to produce a comparatively simple inexpensive device of this character which will positively and effectually release the traces and obviate liability of the latter becoming accidentally hung.

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

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a view in elevation of a swingletree having my improved detacher applied thereto. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view, on a larger scale, of one of the devices, showing the same in engaging position. Fig. 3 is a similar view showing the parts in releasing position.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a swingletree of the usual or any appropriate construction having applied to its ends my improved detachers 2, designed for holding the traces 3 and operable by a traction cord or element 4 for simultaneously releasing the traces, as more fully hereinafter explained.

The trace-holding devices are identical in construction and operation, and I will therefore describe but one in detail, in which 5 designates an end member composed, preferably, of strap metal folded back upon itself to produce a pair of arms which lie, respectively, on the upper and lower sides of the swingletree and produce at the end of the latter a trace-receiving socket or recess 6, the member 5 being securely riveted or otherwise attached to the swingletree.

Pivoted at 7 between a pair of spaced ears 8, arising from the upper face of the member 5, is a retaining member or lever 9, which carries at its outer or forward end a locking member or pin 10, pivotally connected at its

upper end to the retaining-lever and designed to extend vertically downward through and centrally of the socket 6 for engagement with the trace 3, the walls of the member 5 being provided with alined perforations, through which the locking member passes and by which it is held against lateral displacement.

Attached to the upper face of the member 5 and swingletree in rear of the lever 9 is a leaf-spring 11, designed to engage beneath the adjacent rearwardly-projecting end of the lever for maintaining the latter normally in trace-locking position, the lever being adapted to be moved against the action of the spring for raising the locking member out of engagement with and releasing the trace.

Pivoted to the lever 9 at 12 is an operating-lever 13, bifurcated, as shown, to receive the forward portion of the lever 9 between it and having rearwardly-projecting bearing portions or arms 14, which extend upon opposite sides of the lever 9 in rear of the pivot 12, the forward or outer portion of the lever 13 being curved outwardly and upwardly, as shown, and perforated at its upper end, as at 15, to permit attachment of the traction element 4.

In practice the locking member 10 will normally engage the trace and be maintained in such engagement by means of the spring 11, as heretofore explained. When, however, it is desired to release the trace, traction upon the element 4 will swing the operating-lever 13 on its pivot, and, owing to its engaging portion or arms 14 bearing upon the adjacent face of the member 5, will raise the forward end of the lever 9 against the action of the spring, thereby lifting the locking member out of engagement with the trace and releasing the latter. Upon relaxation of the element 4 the spring will serve to automatically return the parts to normal trace-engaging position. It is to be particularly noted that the cord 4, which works through suitable guides 16, provided on the swingletree, has its ends connected, respectively, with the pair of operating-levers 12 and when actuated will operate the latter for simultaneously releasing both traces. Furthermore, it is to be observed that, owing to the members which hold



the traces being positively movable out of engagement with the latter, there is no possibility of the traces becoming caught, and thus defeating their immediate and proper releasal.

5 From the foregoing it is apparent that I produce a simple inexpensive device admirably adapted for the attainment of the ends in view, it being understood that minor changes in the details herein set forth may be resorted to without departing from the spirit of the invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. In a device of the class described, the  
15 combination with a draft-bar provided with a socket, of a retaining-lever pivotally connected with the bar, a locking member carried by the retaining-lever and adapted to extend through the socket for engagement with a  
20 trace, a spring acting on the retaining-lever to maintain the member normally in locking position, an operating-lever pivotally connected with the retaining-lever and adapted for actuating the latter to move the locking

member to releasing position, and a traction 25 element connected with the operating-lever.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination with a draft-bar provided with a socket, of a retaining-lever pivotally connected with the bar, a locking member carried by 30 the retaining-lever and adapted to extend through the socket for engagement with a trace, a spring for maintaining the locking member normally in locking position, a pivoted operating-lever having bearing portions 35 on which the said lever rides when rocked on its pivot, the operating-lever being adapted to actuate the retaining-lever for moving the locking member to releasing position, and a traction element connected with the operat- 40 ing-lever.

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

SAMUEL C. ANDERSON.

Witnesses:

GUY HAMILTON,  
W. O. WONSACK.