

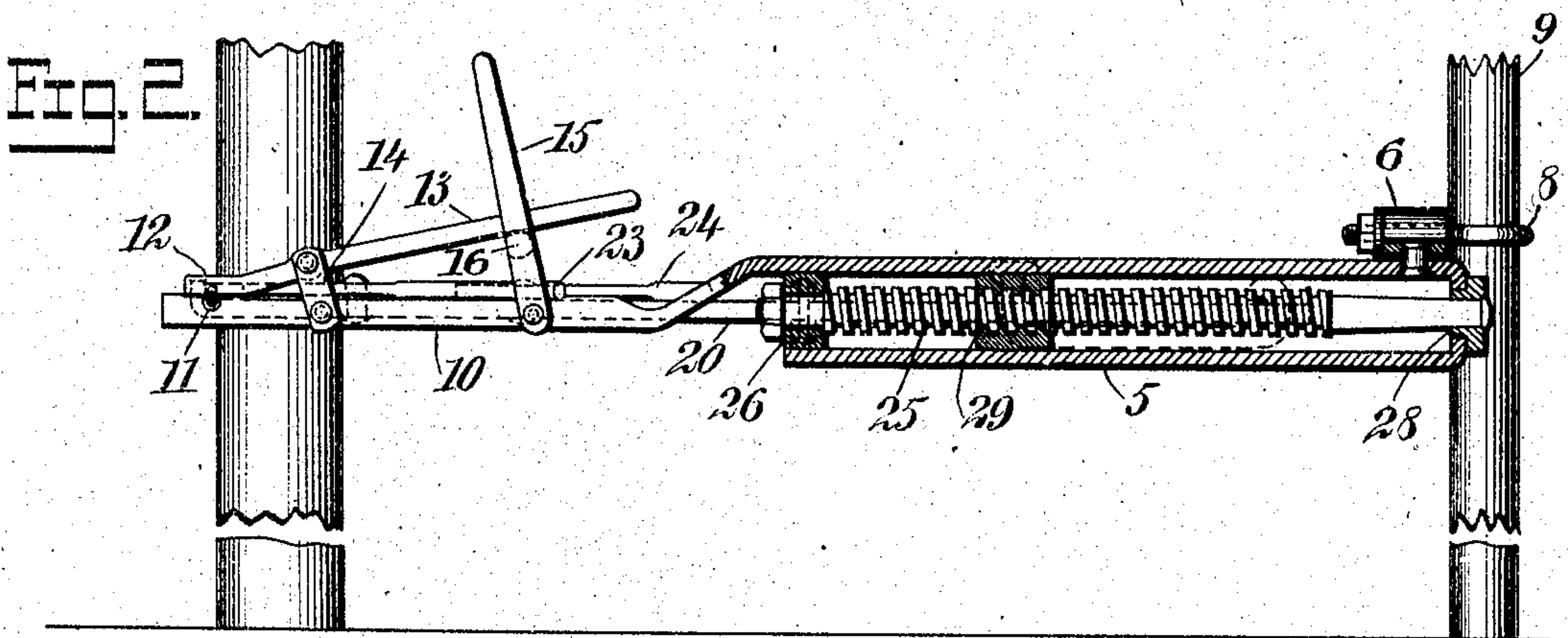
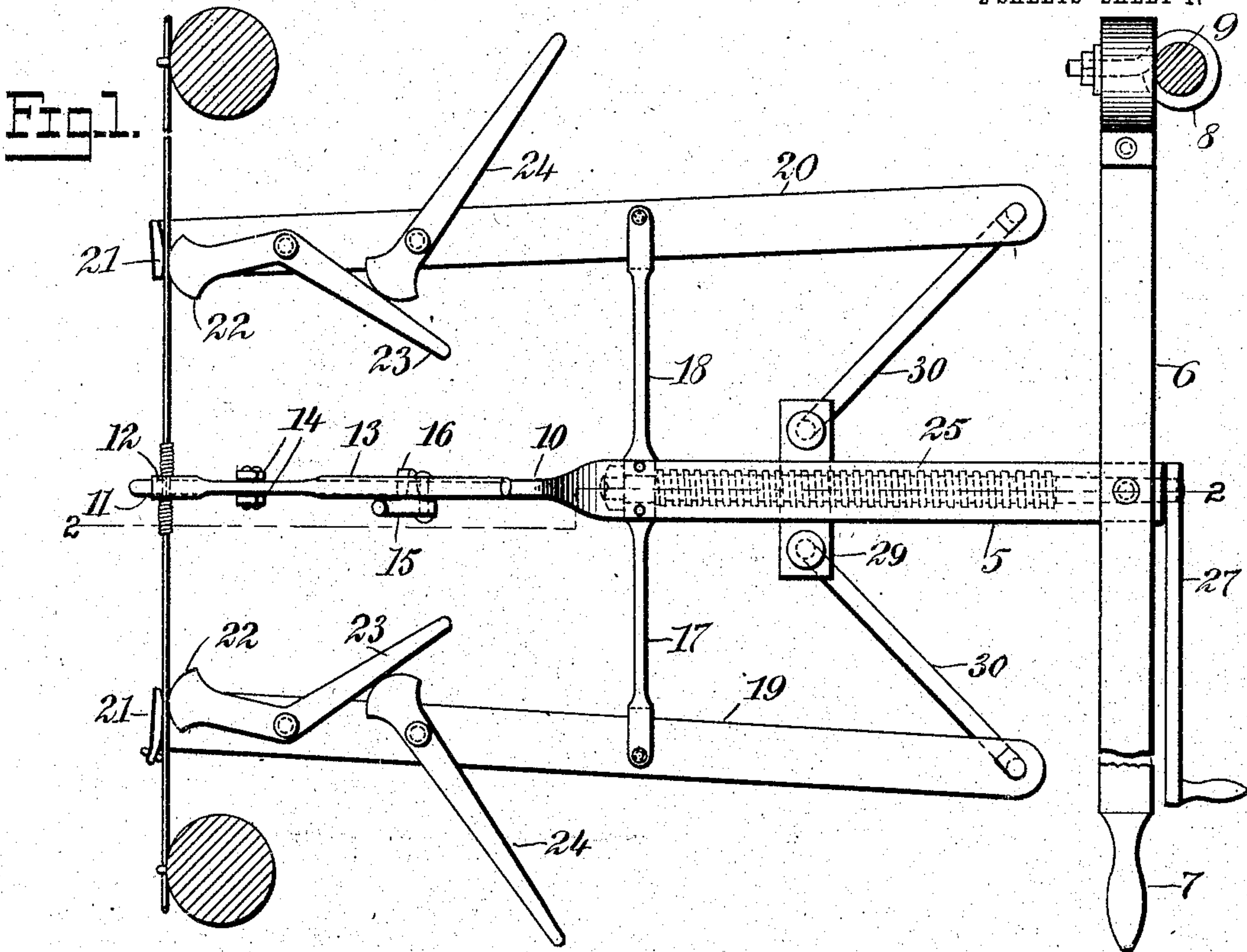
No. 786,765.

PATENTED APR. 4, 1905.

C. F. HOFELDT.  
WIRE STRETCHER.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 10, 1904.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



WITNESSES:

*L. Almquist.*  
*E. R. Ferguson*

INVENTOR

*Charles F. Hofeldt*

BY

*Mumford*  
ATTORNEYS

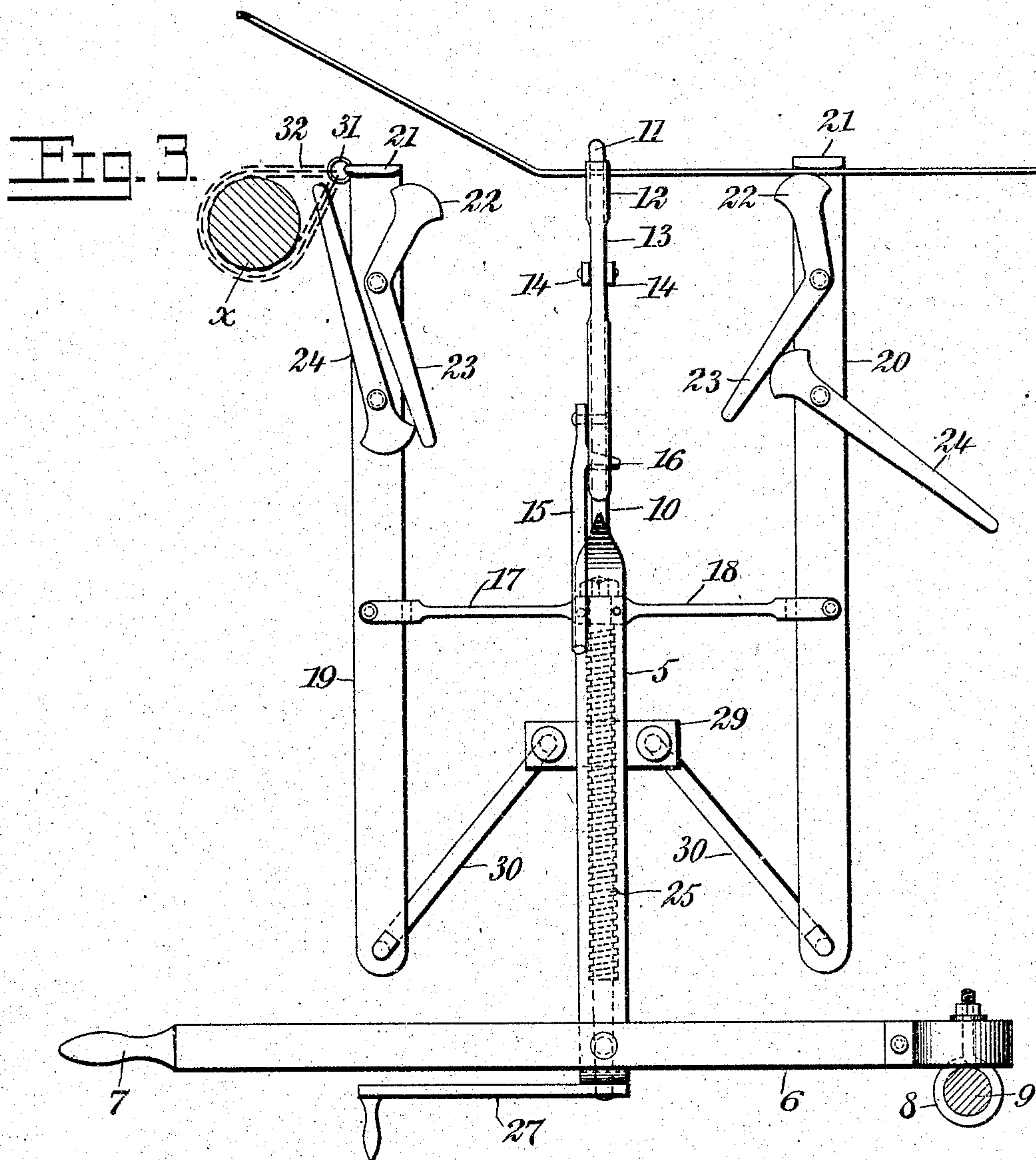
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*S. Almquist.*  
*E. R. Ferguson*

INVENTOR

*Charles F. Hofeldt*

BY

*Munn & Co.*  
ATTORNEYS



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES F. HOFELDT, OF LLOYD, MONTANA.

## WIRE-STRETCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 786,765, dated April 4, 1905.

Application filed June 10, 1904. Serial No. 211,966.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, CHARLES F. HOFELDT, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Lloyd, in the county of Chouteau and State of Montana, have invented a new and Improved Wire-Stretcher, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to improvements in devices for stretching and repairing wires of wire fences, the object being to provide a wire-stretcher of simple and novel construction and by means of which a wire may be tightly drawn with comparatively little manual exertion.

I will describe a wire-stretcher embodying my invention and then point out the novel features in the appended claims.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a plan view of a wire-stretcher embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a section on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1, and Fig. 3 is a plan view showing the device as employed for stretching a length of wire between posts.

Referring to the drawings, 5 designates a frame, on the outer end of which is a cross-bar 6, having a handpiece 7 at one end and at the other end a collar 8 for engaging around a stake-post 9, which may be driven into the ground. The collar will be of such size as to move readily up and down on the stake-post. The frame 5 has a forward extension 10, provided with a clamping or jaw member 11, coacting with a jaw member 12 on a lever 13, having link connections 14 with the said extension 10. The jaw 12 is held in clamping connection with the wire by means of a lever 15, mounted to swing on the extension 10 and having a projection 16 for engaging underneath the lever 13, as clearly indicated in Fig. 2.

Extended outward in opposite directions from the frame 5 are arms 17 18, to which clamp-carrying levers 19 20 are pivoted. At the forward end of each lever is an upwardly-extended jaw member 21, coacting with jaw members 22, mounted to swing on the levers. These jaws 22 are rounded at the end, and

they have rearwardly-extended lever portions 23, which are arranged at an incline, thus forming cam-surfaces designed to be engaged by the rounded ends of locking-levers 24, pivoted to the clamp-carrying levers. By manipulating the levers 24 it is obvious that the jaws 22 will be caused to clamp the wire tightly between said jaws and the jaws 21.

Operating in the frame 5 is a screw-shaft 25, which at its forward end has a bearing in the front wall 26 of the frame, and at its other end it is connected to a crank-handle 27, which is provided with a stud or sleeve 28 on its inner side, and this stud or sleeve has a bearing in the outer end wall of the frame.

Arranged to move along the screw is a cross-head 29, which of course has a tapped opening in which the screw operates, and from the outer ends of the cross-head, which extend laterally of the frame, links 30 extend to pivotal connections with the outer ends of the clamp-carrying levers.

In the operation when it is desired to splice or connect the ends of a broken wire between posts the clamping devices carried by the clamp-carrying levers are tightly engaged with the wires extended from opposite posts, and while the collar 8 is in connection with the stake 9 the screw-shaft is to be rotated in a direction to move the cross-head 29 toward the cross-bar 6. The links 30 will then force the outer ends of the levers 19 and 20 from each other, moving the jaw portions of the two levers which are engaged with the wires toward each other, and then after lapping the meeting ends of the wires the clamp comprising the jaws 11 and 12 is to be engaged with these lapped ends, after which the ends may be twisted around the wires, as indicated in Fig. 1.

When the device is used for building a fence or stretching a continuous wire from one post to another, only one clamping device is to be employed, and the clamping end of the other clamp-carrying lever will be anchored to the next post from the one to which the wire is to be immediately secured by staples. For this purpose I show on the inner end of the lever 19 a ring 31, from which a chain 32 passes around the post *x*. The device is to be op-



erated in the manner above described, excepting that the jaws 11 and 12 are not to be engaged with the wire. The only jaws engaging with the wire are those carried by the clamp-carrying levers adjacent to the post through which the wire is to be secured. After securing the wire or wires to this post the device is to be carried and connected to the post next to the post  $x$  and the wire or wires secured to said post  $x$ . It is obvious that by means of the screw and the crank-handle 27 a great stretching power may be had by a comparatively little manual exertion on the part of the operator.

If on the first stretching the wire is not sufficiently tight, the wire may be clamped in the middle clamp or with the clamp attached to the post and the frame again opened and operated as before.

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

1. A wire-stretcher comprising a frame, a center clamp carried by the frame, clamp-carrying levers mounted to swing on opposite sides of the frame, means for swinging the levers, and an anchoring attachment on the inner end of one of the levers.

2. A wire-stretcher comprising a frame, means for anchoring the frame, clamp-carrying levers at opposite sides of the frame and having swinging relation thereto, a screw for operating in the frame, a cross-head actuated by said screw, and link connections between said cross-head and the clamp-carrying levers.

3. A wire-stretcher comprising a frame, a cross-bar on the frame, a device carried by said cross-bar for engaging with a stake, arms extended outward from the frame, clamp-car-

rying levers mounted to swing on said arms, a screw for operating in the frame, a cross-head movable by said screw, and link connections between said cross-head and said levers.

4. In a wire-stretching device, a frame, means for anchoring the frame, a screw-shaft for operating in the frame, a cross-head movable along said screw-shaft, a clamp-carrying lever having swinging connection with the frame, a link connection between the lever and cross-head, a jaw member on the forward end of said lever, a jaw member mounted to swing on the lever, the said swinging jaw member having an inclined lever portion, and a locking-lever mounted to swing on the first-named lever for engaging with the inclined lever.

5. A wire-stretcher comprising a frame, a forward extension on said frame having a jaw member, a jaw mounted to swing on said forward extension, a locking-lever mounted to swing on the extension and having engagement with the jaw-lever to hold it in clamping position, arms extended outward from the frame, clamp-carrying levers mounted to swing on said arms, a screw-shaft for operating in the frame, a cross-head moved by said screw-shaft, link connections between the cross-head and clamp-carrying levers, and means for anchoring the device.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES F. HOFELDT.

Witnesses:

WELLINGTON S. TOWNER,  
HENRY RUSCH.