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D. F. McCARTHY.
GUARD RAIL AND LANTERN HOLDER.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 8, 1905.

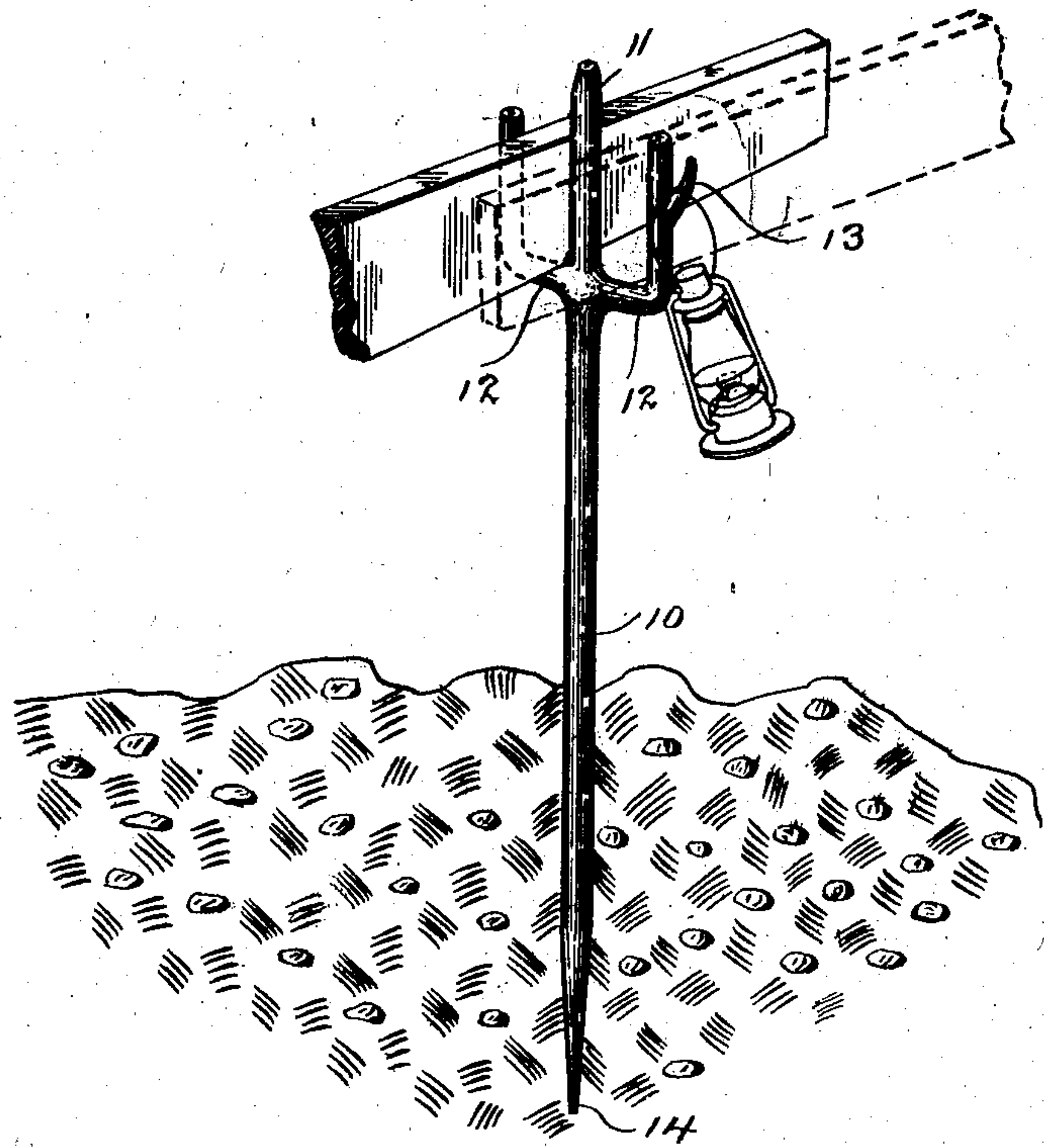


Fig. 1.

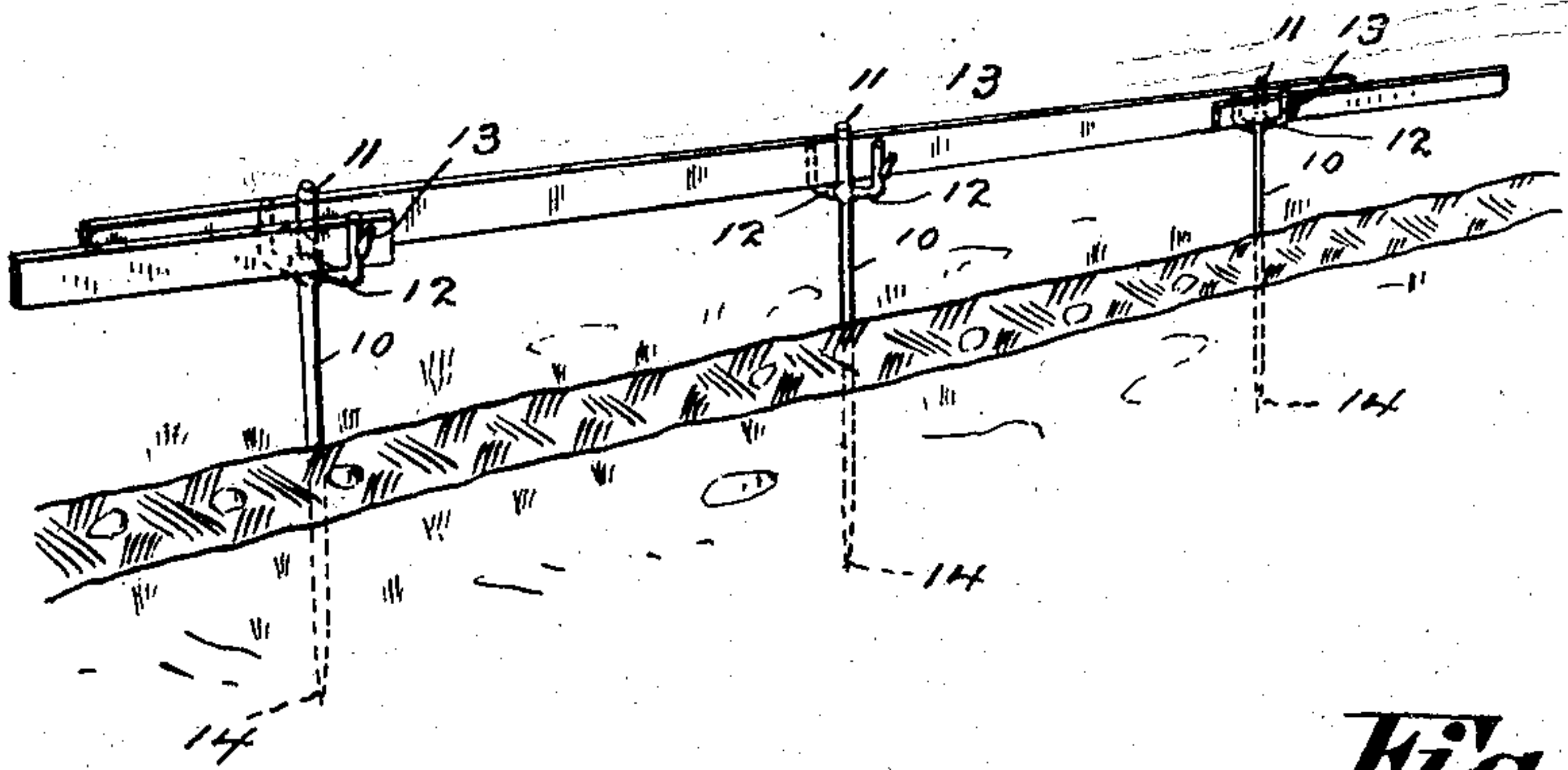


Fig. 2.

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GUARD-RAIL AND LANTERN HOLDER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 791,713, dated June 6, 1905.

Application filed April 8, 1905. Serial No. 254,489.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DANIEL F. McCARTHY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Waterbury, county of New Haven, State of Connecticut, have invented a new and useful Guard-Rail and Lantern Holder, of which the following is a specification.

My invention has for its object to provide a simple, effective, serviceable, and relatively inexpensive device for supporting guard-rails and lanterns wherever required, as around excavations, along the sides of ditches and trenches, and upon piles of dirt and rubbish—in brief, wherever there are holes or excavations in a roadway or around buildings that require protection or wherever a pile of dirt, stones, or refuse requires to be guarded.

It is of course well understood that the common way of guarding excavations and piles of refuse is to place planks upon the tops of barrels, anchor the planks and barrels by means of heavy stones, and place lanterns upon the planks or barrels or hang them upon nails driven therein. This time-honored mode of guarding excavations and dirt piles is cumbersome, inconvenient, and expensive. It is frequently inconvenient to provide the barrels at the places required and to anchor them in place and likewise difficult to fix the lanterns so that they are not liable to be blown over.

My present invention enables me to provide holders for "guard-rails," so called—ordinarily two-and-one-half-inch narrow planks—which may be conveniently supported by being driven into the ground, will support the guard-rails edgewise—that is, vertically—will hold them securely in place, so that they cannot be blown away in a heavy gale, and will also provide convenient means for supporting lanterns, holding them suspended in such a way that they cannot be blown away.

With these and other objects in view I have devised the novel guard-rail and lantern holder which I will now describe, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, and using reference characters to indicate the several parts.

Figure 1 is a perspective illustrating one of my novel guard-rail and lantern holders in

use supporting the ends of two planks and also supporting a lantern; and Fig. 2 is a view, on a reduced scale, illustrating a plurality of my novel guard-rail and lantern holders as in use.

My novel holder comprises a shank, (indicated by 10,) a head, (indicated by 11,) and two oppositely-placed rail-holders, (indicated by 12,) one or both of which may be provided with a lantern-holder 13.

It is wholly immaterial so far as the invention is concerned how the article is made—that is, whether it is forged or cast in a single piece or made of two or more pieces welded, bolted, or otherwise rigidly secured together. The exact shape likewise is immaterial—that is, it makes no difference so far as the principle of the invention is concerned whether the shank, head, rail-holders, and lantern-holder are round, angular, or otherwise shaped in cross-section. The shank is sharpened at its lower end, as at 14. As it is frequently required that the shank be driven into frozen ground or a macadam or other hard roadway or through a pavement or between stones, I preferably either roll or forge the shank from steel.

In the drawings I have shown the head, shank, rail-holder, and lantern-holder as made integral, although this, as already stated, is wholly unimportant so far as the principle of the invention is concerned. The head and shank would ordinarily be made in one piece anyway, as the head should be made of good material, it being required to stand heavy blows of sledges in driving the shank to place in frozen ground or in a hard roadway. The rail-holders extend outward laterally and then upward from the shank or from the intersection of the shank and the head. They are so shaped as to support the edge of a rail and retain it against the possibility of being blown away. In practice I make the upright portions of the rail-holders to stand three inches, more or less, from the opposite sides of the head, so that the rails may be easily put in place and removed. The rail-holders require to be made of good metal and heavy enough and strong enough to stand rough usage, but need not necessarily be made as heavy or of

as high-grade metal as the shank and the head. The lantern-holders 13 are simply prongs that extend outward and upward from the rail-holders. They are so shaped that a lantern
5 may be readily suspended therefrom and as easily removed, but will be in no danger of being blown away by a heavy wind. They require to be made heavy enough and stiff enough so that they will not break off when
10 the holders are thrown about or otherwise subjected to rough usage.

Having thus described my invention, I claim—

1. A guard-rail and lantern holder comprising
15 a shank sharpened at its lower end, a head adapted to receive blows, a rail-holder extending upward and outward from the intersec-

tion of the shank and the head, and a lantern-holder extending from the rail-holder, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.
20

2. A guard-rail and lantern holder, for the purpose set forth, comprising a shank adapted to be driven into hard ground, a head adapted to receive heavy blows, rail-holders adapted
25 to receive and support rails and a lantern-holder extending from one of the rail-holders.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

DANIEL F. McCARTHY.

Witnesses:

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WM. H. LOWE.