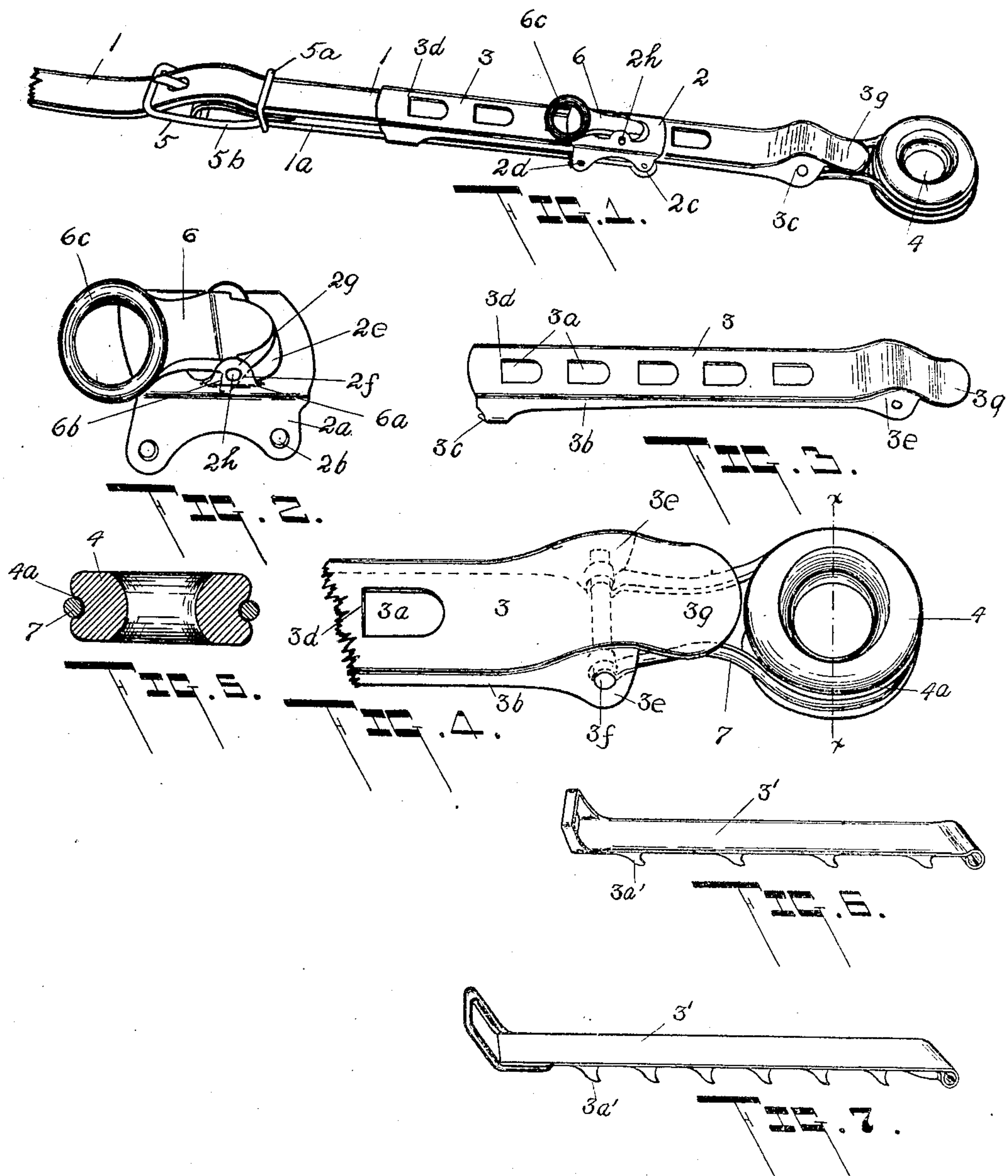


No. 808,961.

PATENTED JAN. 2, 1906.

W. WILLIAMSON.  
CHECKREIN.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 9, 1904.



WITNESSES:

W. A. Cathcart.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

## CHECKREIN.

No. 808,961.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Jan. 2, 1906.

Application filed May 9, 1904. Serial No. 207,106.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM WILLIAMSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Saginaw, in the county of Saginaw and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Checkreins; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention is an improvement in checkreins; and it relates particularly to improvements whereby the length of the checkrein may be easily and quickly changed, so that the horse's head may be either checked up, as in driving, or released by lengthening the checkrein when the horse is standing, permitting the horse's head to assume a more comfortable position, yet preventing the horse from getting its head low enough to reach the ground.

A further object is to prevent loosening the checkrein from the harness-hook and also to permit the rein to be tightened by simply pushing the upper and lower parts together and to automatically lock them.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a checkrein embodying my improvements, the upper end of the checkrein being broken away. Fig. 2 is a perspective detail of the metal rider and catch by which the ring is locked in a more or less extended position. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the sliding tongue. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail of the end of the sliding tongue, showing the application thereto of the ring that engages the checkrein-hook. Fig. 5 is a cross-section taken on the line *xx* of Fig. 4. Figs. 6 and 7 are modified forms of the sliding tongue.

As is clearly shown in the drawings, my invention consists in the checkrein 1, which is of the usual construction, secured at its upper end to the crown of the bridle and carrying at its lower end a slotted bracket or rider 2, through which slidably passes a metal tongue 3, having means for engaging the rider at various points along the length of the tongue. To the lower end of the tongue is pivotally secured a ring 4, that engages the checkrein-hook of the harness in the usual manner. For the sake of clearness in the drawings the bridle and checkrein-hook are not illustrated, as they may be of any suitable or usual construction.

The rider 2 consists in a plate having down-

wardly-extending wings 2<sup>a</sup> at each side. The lower ends of these wings are provided with holes 2<sup>b</sup>, through which is passed a transverse pin 2<sup>c</sup>. The checkrein 1 passes back underneath the plate 2, around the pin 2<sup>c</sup>, and thence forward to the pin in front of the tongue 3, where it is secured by means of a suitable buckle 5. The pin 2<sup>c</sup> is thus held in the looped end of the checkrein 1. To prevent the rider tilting up at the front end, I provide holes at the upper or front end of the wings 2<sup>a</sup> and pass a pin 2<sup>d</sup> through them. This pin passes underneath the lower part 1<sup>a</sup> of the loop formed in the strap 1.

The sliding tongue 3 consists in a long strip of sheet metal having a series of openings 3<sup>a</sup> and provided with downwardly-extending side flanges 3<sup>b</sup> to guide the tongue along the side of the strap 1<sup>a</sup>. At the forward end of the tongue 3 the flanges 3<sup>b</sup> are made somewhat deeper, their lower ends 3<sup>c</sup> being bent inward to form flanges that pass under the strap 1<sup>a</sup> and serve to hold the forward end of the tongue 3 in close contact with the strap 1.

To lock the rider 2 in any desired position along the tongue 3, I provide the catch illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2. An opening 2<sup>e</sup> is formed in the top of the catch, and upwardly-projecting ears 2<sup>f</sup> are formed at the sides thereof. Through openings 2<sup>g</sup> in these ears is passed a pin 2<sup>h</sup>, upon which the catch 6 is mounted. At the rear end of the catch below the pivot is a rearwardly and downwardly beveled projection, the front face 6<sup>b</sup> of which is vertical to engage the flat ends 3<sup>d</sup> of the slots 3<sup>a</sup> in the tongue. At the forward end of the catch 6 is provided a ring 6<sup>c</sup>, by which the rider 2 and the strap 1, to which it is attached, may be slid back and forth along the tongue 3 to shorten or lengthen the checkrein. When the ring 6<sup>c</sup> is raised, the beveled face 6<sup>a</sup> of the catch 6 is raised horizontally and out of contact with the tongue 3; but as soon as the ring is released it drops down, permitting the catch to engage the opening 3<sup>a</sup>.

The checkrein may be shortened by simply pushing the checkrein 1 back, for the catch 6 does not engage the openings 3<sup>a</sup> when being moved back; but any forward pull on the checkrein 1 will cause the catch to engage in the openings 3<sup>a</sup>, holding the rein firmly in that position.

To prevent the lower end of the checkrein becoming accidentally detached from the checkrein-hook, I provide at the lower or



rear end of the tongue 3 a pair of flanges 3<sup>e</sup>,  
to which is secured a transverse pin 3<sup>f</sup>. Piv-  
otally mounted on this pin is a rearwardly-  
projecting loop 7, preferably formed of wire  
5 or similar material. In the outer end of this  
loop is secured an annular ring of vulcanized  
rubber or other suitable material 4, by which  
the checkrein is fastened to the checkrein-  
hook of the harness. A circular groove 4<sup>a</sup> is  
10 formed in the periphery of the ring 4 to re-  
ceive the loop 7. To prevent the accidental  
unhooking of the checkrein by movement of  
the horse's head, a rearwardly - projecting  
flange 3<sup>g</sup> is formed on the rear end of the  
15 tongue 3 to serve as a stop to keep the ring 4  
from rising on the checkrein-hook.

The construction of the buckle 5 is illus-  
trated in Fig. 1. This buckle consists in a  
loop of metal 5<sup>a</sup>, which takes the place of the  
20 ordinary leather loop commonly used on  
checkreins to hold the folded portions of the  
strap together. A leather loop, however, is  
liable to slide back and forth along the strap,  
especially when the strap and loop are wet,  
25 and in that case the leather loop is apt to in-  
terfere with the back-and-forth sliding move-  
ment of the tongue 3. To avoid this diffi-  
culty, I form the sliding loop 5<sup>a</sup> integral with  
the buckle 5 by extending the sides 5<sup>b</sup> of the  
30 buckle back and brazing or otherwise secur-  
ing their ends to the loop 5<sup>a</sup>. By this means  
the loop and buckle are made integral and all  
sliding of the loop is prevented.

By the means above described I have pro-  
35 duced a simple and efficient device for quickly  
increasing or decreasing the length of a check-  
rein. It is simple in construction, neat in ap-  
pearance, and is not conspicuous, because all  
of its parts when in use are flat down upon  
40 the checkrein-strap.

While I have described a preferable form  
of tongue 3, yet I do not desire to limit my-  
self to this specific form of tongue and rider,

as other suitable means may be adopted for  
locking the strap 1 at predetermined inter- 45  
vals along the tongue. Slightly-modified  
forms of tongues are illustrated in Figs. 6 and  
7, where 3<sup>a'</sup> are hooks to engage the rider at  
various intervals along the tongue.

What I claim as my invention, and desire 50  
to secure by Letters Patent, is as follows:

1. The combination of a checkrein; a  
rider having a pin at its rear end engaging a  
loop formed in the checkrein by folding the  
end of the checkrein back upon itself; a 55  
catch carried by said rider; a tongue carry-  
ing a ring at its rear end and having openings  
in its upper surface, said tongue being slid-  
ably mounted between said rider and the  
looped end of the checkrein, substantially as 60  
described.

2. In combination with a checkrein hav-  
ing a rider at its lower end; a catch pivot-  
ally mounted on said rider, said catch being  
formed with one end upwardly beveled; a 65  
tongue slidably mounted beneath said catch,  
and having openings to engage therewith,  
substantially as described.

3. The combination of a checkrein; a  
rider having a pin at its rear end engaging a 70  
loop formed in the checkrein by folding the  
end of the checkrein back upon itself; a  
catch carried by said rider; a tongue carry-  
ing a ring at its rear end and having openings  
in its upper surface, said tongue being slidably 75  
mounted between said rider and the looped  
end of the checkrein; together with a buckle  
having a sliding loop formed integral there-  
with, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 80  
in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON.

Witnesses:

A. A. EASTERLY,  
W. I. CATHCART.