

No. 843,870.

PATENTED FEB. 12, 1907.

J. CRAWFORD.
GATE LATCH.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 9, 1906.

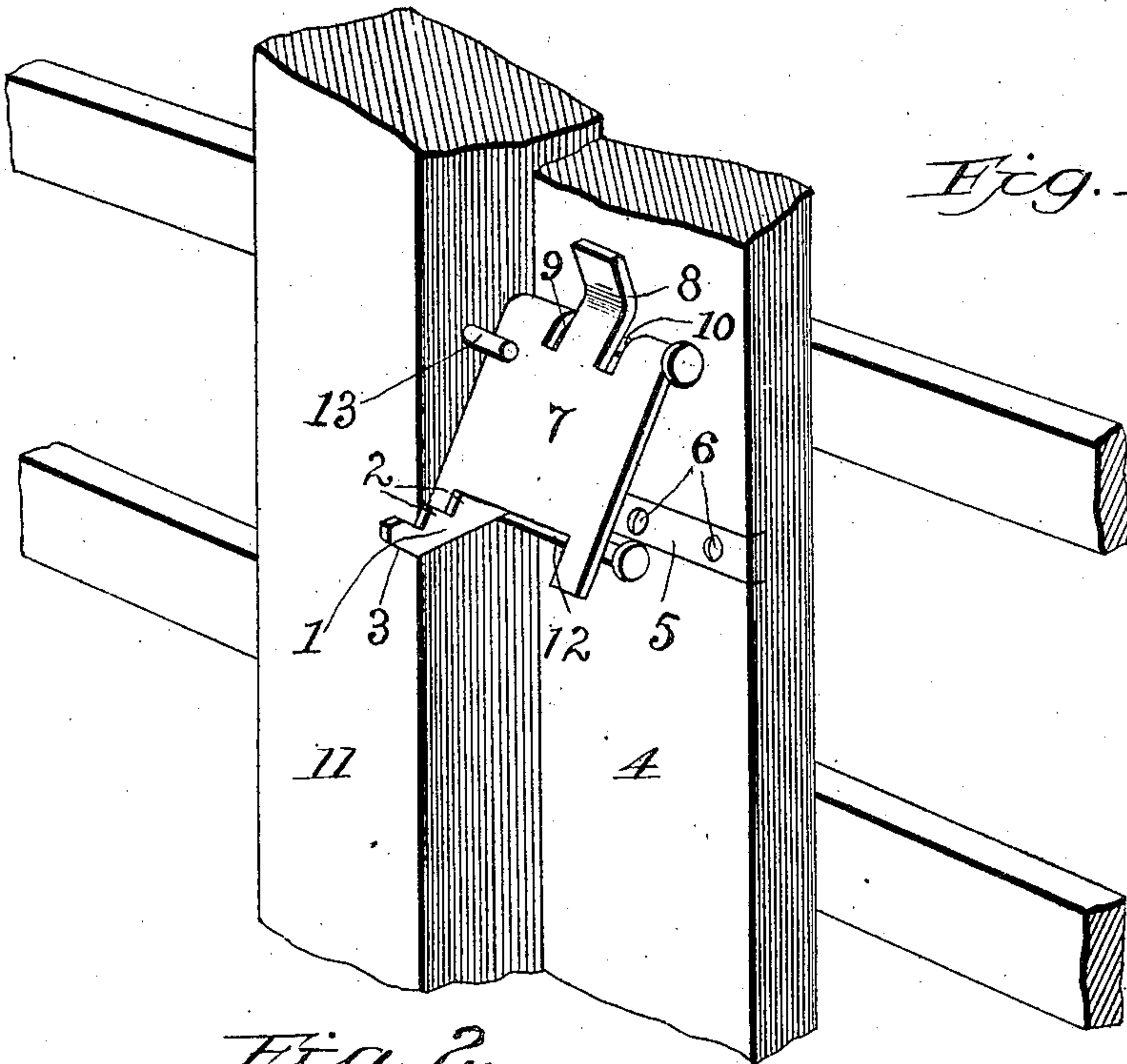


Fig. 1.

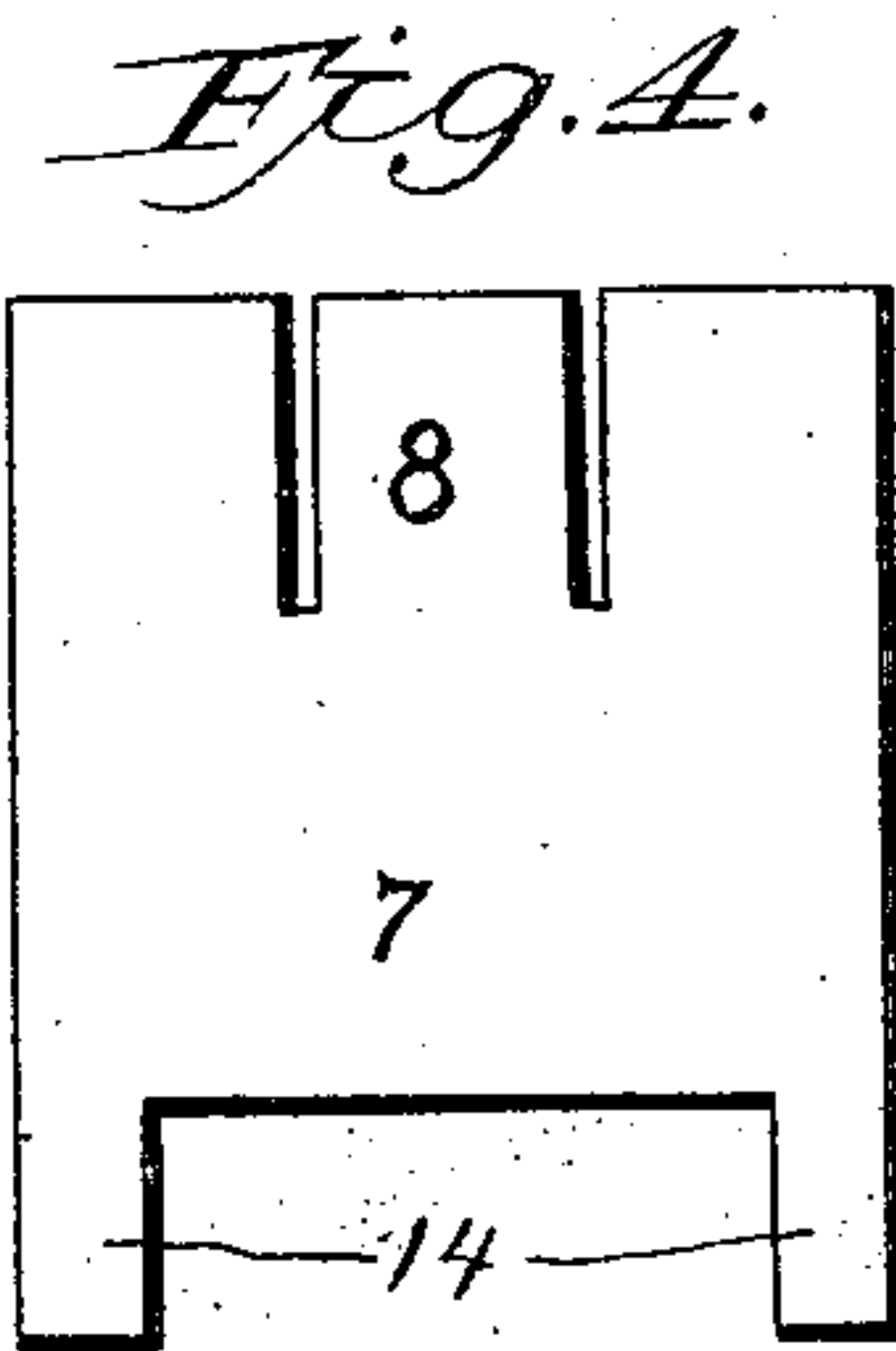


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

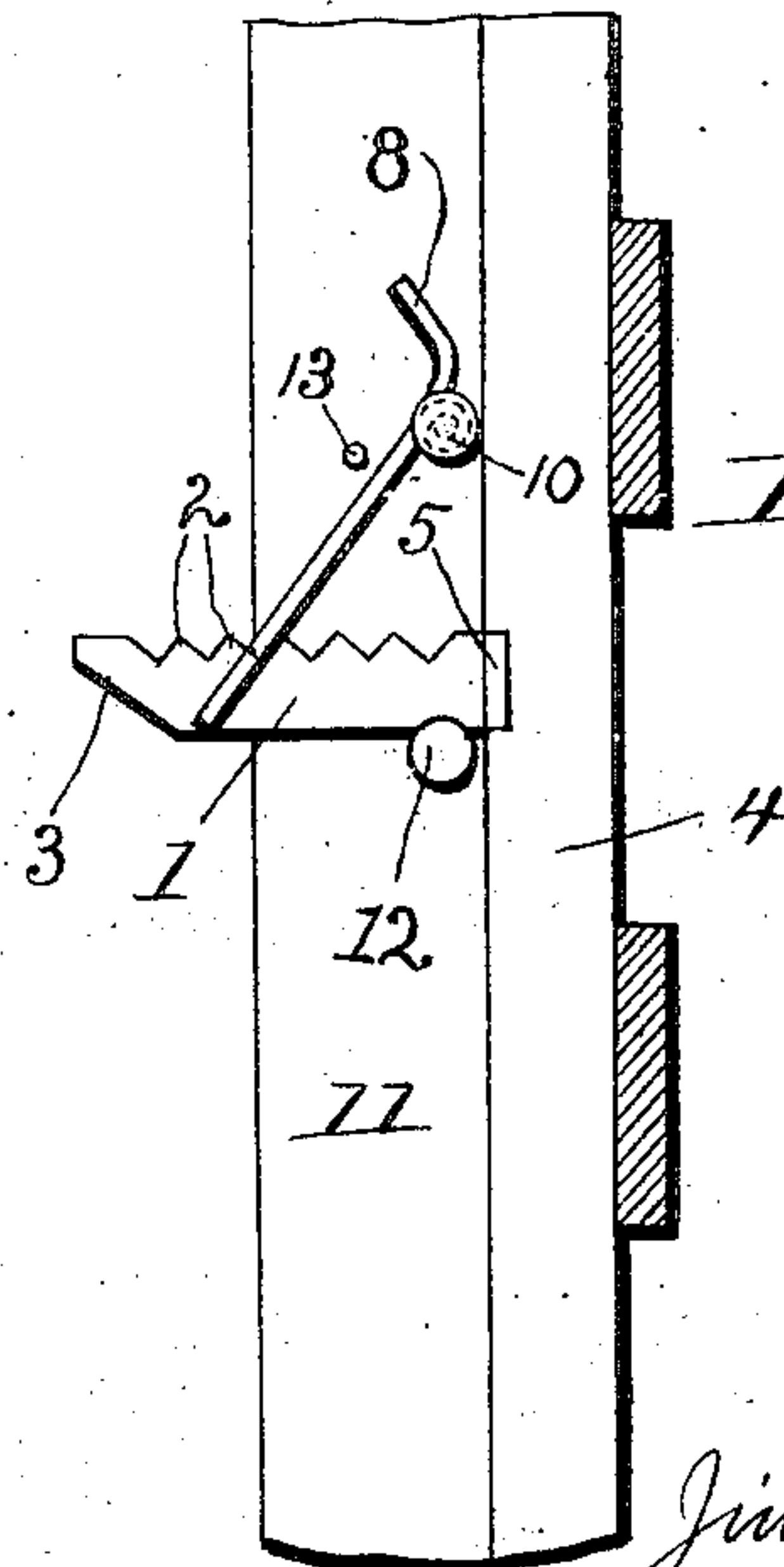
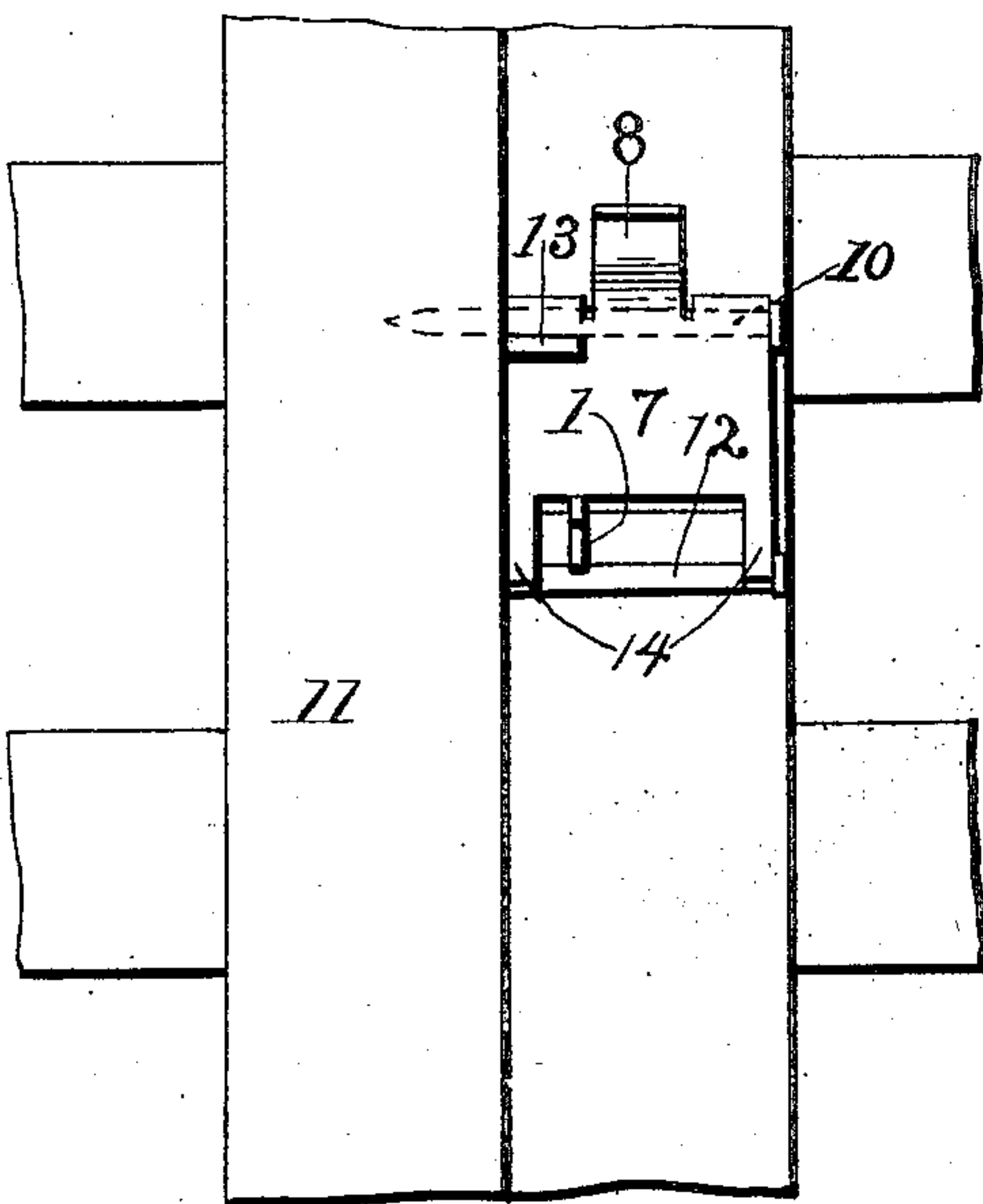


Fig. 3.

Witnesses

C. M. Walker
J. F. Walker.

By

Inventor
J. Crawford.
R. A. Shepard & Co.
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JIM CRAWFORD, OF PADEN, INDIAN TERRITORY.

GATE-LATCH.

No. 843,870.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 12, 1907.

Application filed August 9, 1906. Serial No. 329,809.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that JIM CRAWFORD, a married man, citizen of the United States, residing at Padon, Indian Territory, Creek Nation, Indian Territory, has invented certain new and useful Improvements in Gate-Latches, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to gate-latches, and primarily designed to improve the construction shown in my prior patent, No. 780,481, issued January 17, 1905.

It is furthermore designed to construct the latch so as to be applicable to either the right-hand or left-hand side of the gate without requiring any alterations in the latch.

Another object of the invention is to prevent the latch from sinking sidewise from the swinging detent when the gate swells or shrinks.

With these and other objects in view the present invention consists in the combination and arrangement of parts, as will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims, it being understood that changes in the form, proportion, size, and minor details may be made within the scope of the claims without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device of the present invention shown in readiness to be latched. Fig. 2 is a front elevation of the device latched. Fig. 3 is a side elevation thereof. Fig. 4 is a detail view of the blank from which the swinging detent is formed.

Like characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the several figures of the drawings.

The present device includes a latch-bar or member 1, which has its upper edge toothed or notched, as at 2, and its front extremity beveled downwardly and rearwardly, as at 3. For attaching this member to the gate-bar at the front end of the gate, such as shown at 4, it may be found convenient to provide the latch-bar with a lateral extension 5, having suitable openings for the reception of fastenings 6 to secure the latch to the gate in a substantially horizontal position projecting at right angles to the gate.

Coöperating with the latch-bar is a detent 7, consisting of a flat metal plate having its upper end provided with a pair of longitu-

dinal clefts forming a central portion 8, which is formed into a finger-piece, the other portions of the plate at the opposite sides of the finger-piece being bent to form aligned eyes 9, through which is passed a suitable fastening 10, driven into the gate-post 11.

The swinging movement of the detent is limited by a stop member 12, preferably a nail or the like driven into the gate-post beneath and in vertical alinement with the pin 10. To limit the swinging movement of the detent in the other direction, a relatively short pin 13 is driven into the gate-post in front of the detent. The lower free end of the detent is cut away or terminated short of the stop member 12 and is provided at opposite edges with depending projections 14 to engage the stop and limit the swinging movement of the detent in one direction.

When the gate is swung at closed position, the latch-bar 1 strikes the detent and wipes past its lower edge until the gate-bar strikes the members 10 and 12, whereupon the gate will be latched, for the reason that the free edge of the detent engages the notched or toothed upper edge of the latch and prevents the latter from being withdrawn from the detent. The latch may be released by pressing upon the finger-piece 8, so as to lift the detent out of engagement with the latch, whereupon the gate may be opened. It will now be understood that the stop 13 is intended to prevent overturning of the detent when the latter is released from the latch.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that the present latch is very simple and inexpensive and at the same time efficient for the purpose designed. By locating the finger-piece substantially midway between the opposite edges of the detent the latter may be applied to the right-hand side and also the left-hand side of the gate without requiring any alteration of the latch, thereby avoiding the necessity of manufacturing the latch in rights and lefts.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

1. A gate-latch comprising a latch member having means for connection with a gate, a swinging detent provided with a pair of incisions intersecting its upper edge and dividing the same into tongues, the terminal tongues being bent into eyes and the intermediate tongue constituting a finger-piece, a fastening passing through the eyes and upon which the detent is adapted to swing, and a

stop for limiting the swinging movement of the latch.

2. A gate-latch comprising a latch-bar having means for connection with the gate, a
5 swinging detent having a finger-piece rising from its upper edge substantially midway between its operating edges, there being bearing-eyes at opposite sides of the finger-piece, a bearing element upon which the eyes are
10 mounted, the lower free end of the detent being provided with a pair of spaced depending projections, a stop alined vertically below

the bearing and in the path of the projections; another stop in front of the detent and adjacent the bearing, the latch being adapted 15 to engage the lower free edge of the detent between the projections thereof.

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

JIM CRAWFORD.

Witnesses:

G. B. ALDRIDGE,
F. J. PURCELL.