

No. 858,633.

PATENTED JULY 2, 1907.

A. B. SMITH.
ANIMAL HOPPLE.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 22, 1906.

Fig. 1.

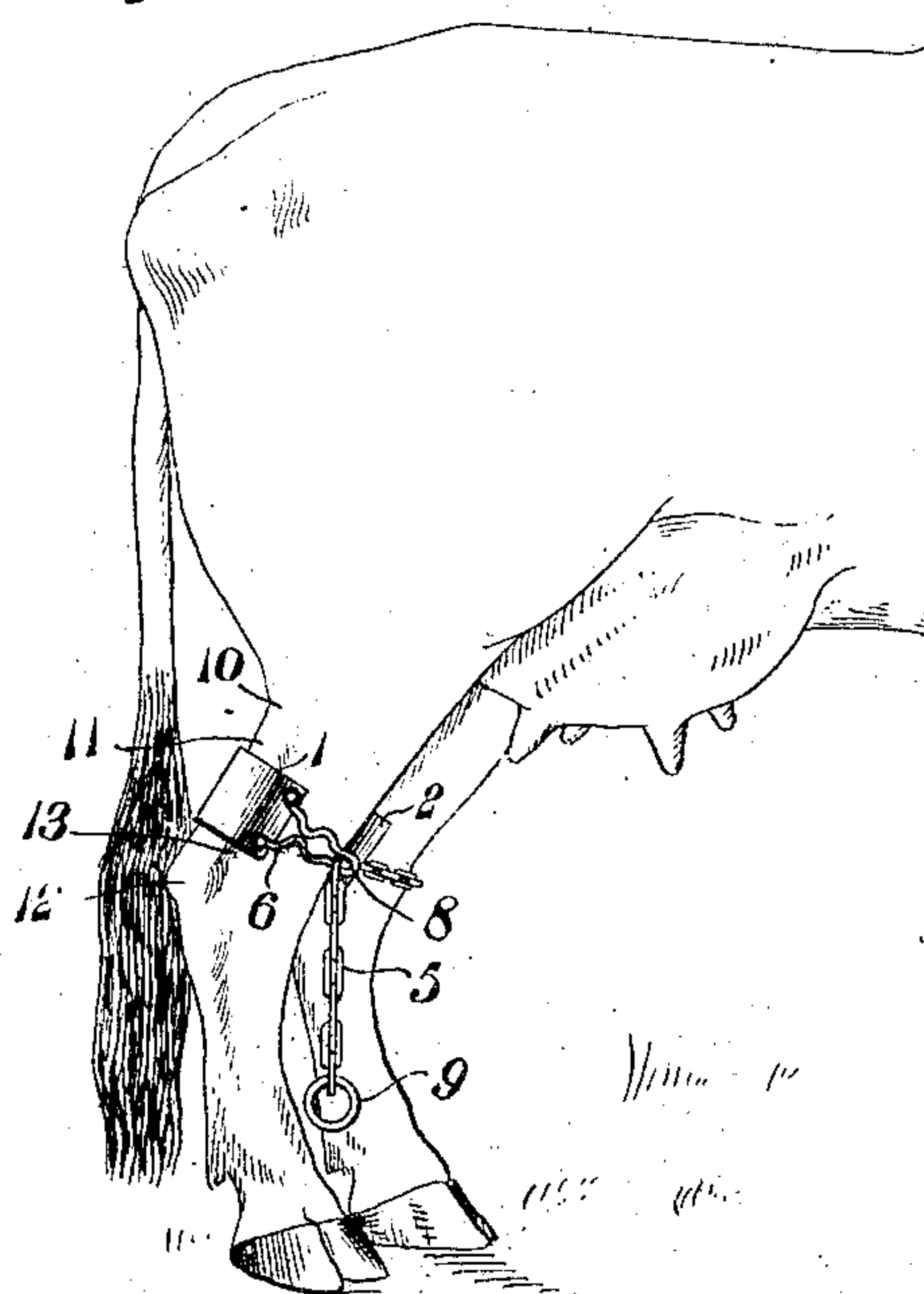


Fig. 2.

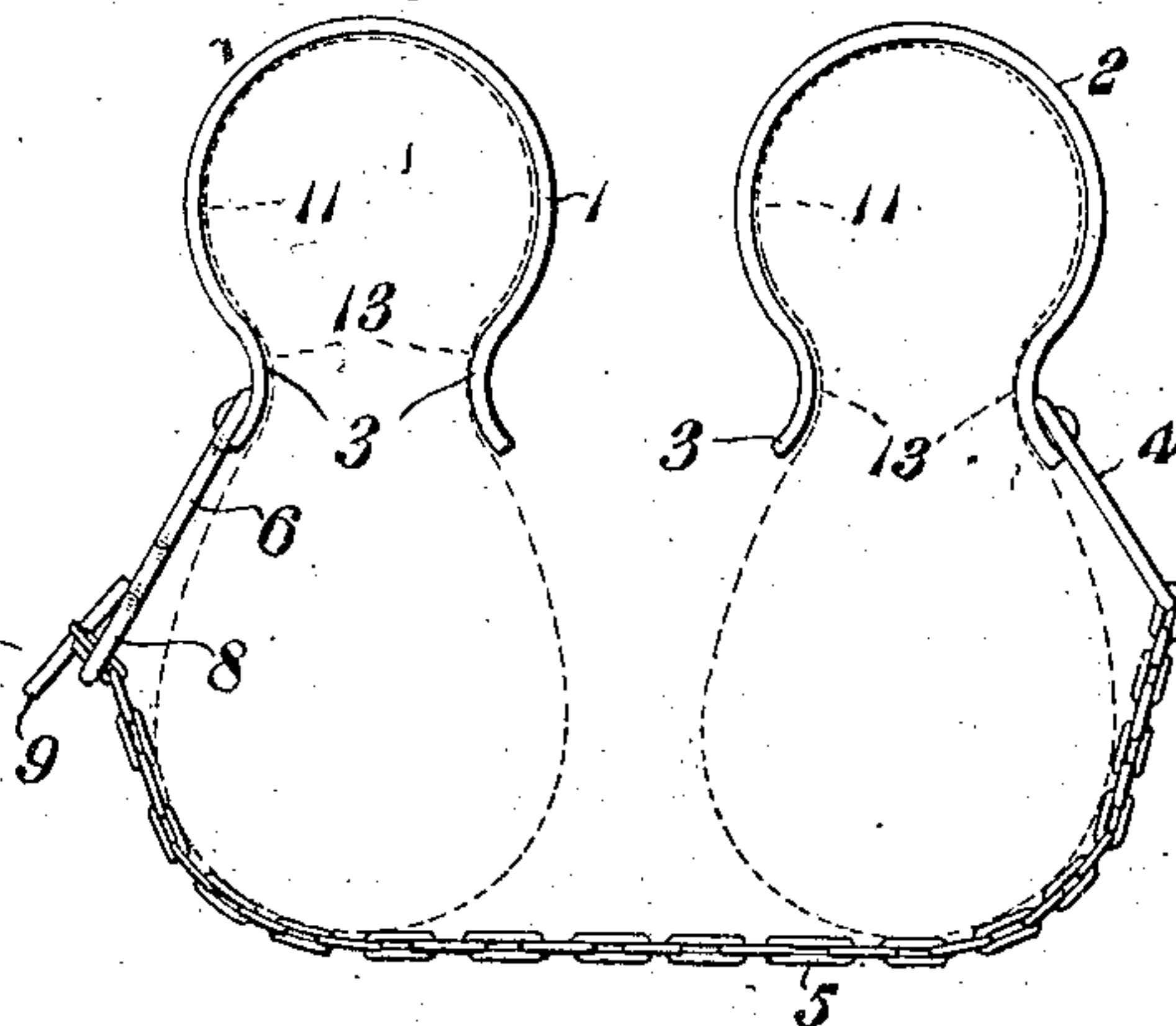
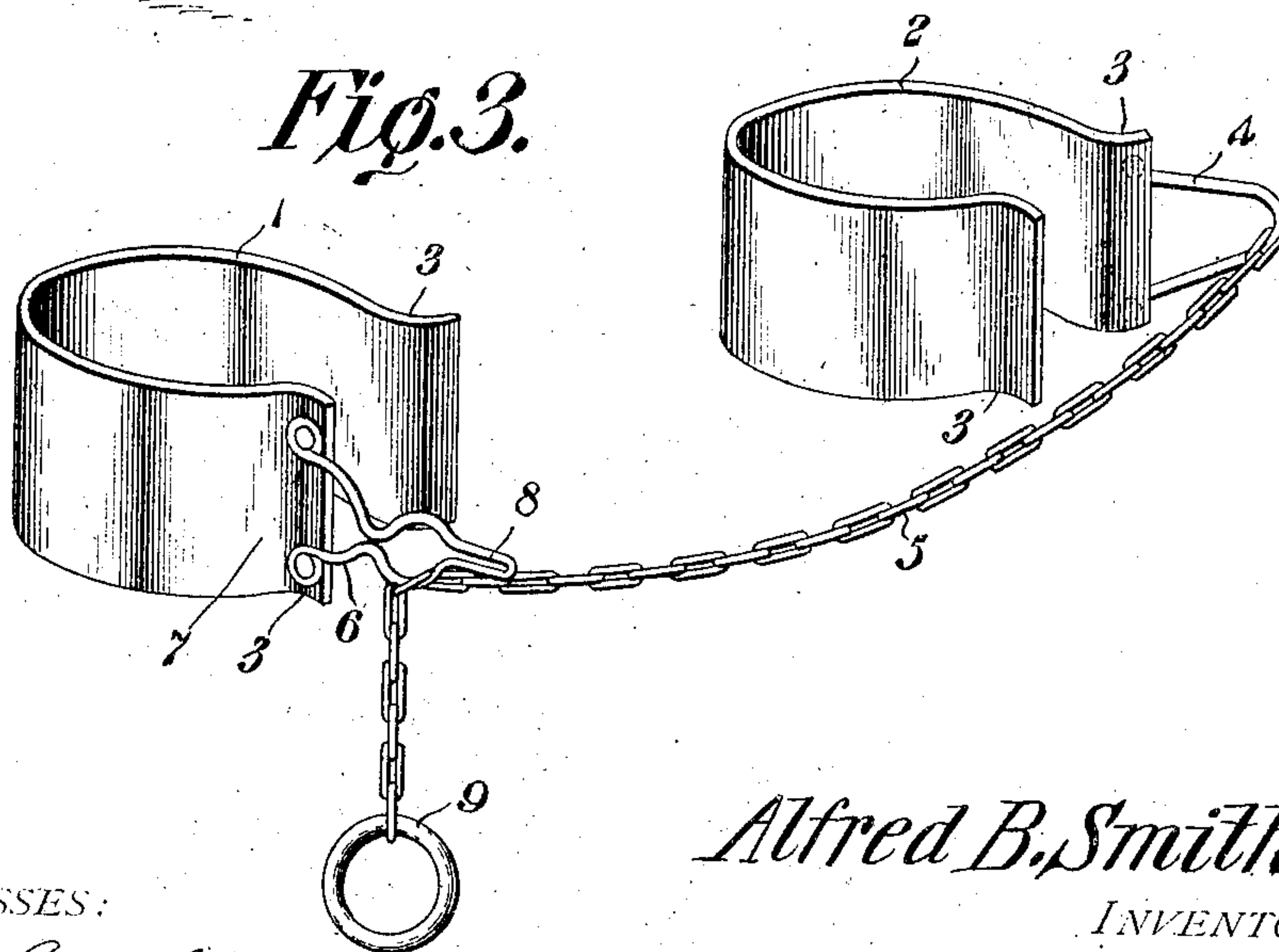


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES:

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ALFRED B. SMITH, OF TOPEKA, KANSAS.

ANIMAL-HOPPLE.

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Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ALFRED B. SMITH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Topeka, in the county of Shawnee and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Animal-Hopple, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an animal hopple intended for use on cows to prevent kicking and to hold them still during milking.

10 The invention has for certain of its objects to improve, simplify and cheapen the construction of devices of this class and to improve the operation of the same so as to be easy to apply and efficient in use.

With these objects in view, and others, as will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the invention comprises the various novel features of construction and arrangement of parts, which will be more fully described hereinafter and set forth with particularity in the claims appended hereto.

20 In the accompanying drawing, which illustrates one of the embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the hopple or anti-kicking device applied to the hind legs of a cow. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the device. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the hopple shown removed from the cow.

25 Corresponding parts in the several figures are indicated throughout by similar characters of reference.

Referring to the drawing, 1 and 2 designate, respectively, the right and left shackles of the device. 30 Each shackle comprises a strip of band iron, or the like, which is bent into an approximately circular form so as to conform to the hamstring or tendinous part of the leg above the hock joint. The ends of the shackle terminate at a point between the hamstring and the front fleshy part of the leg, and the said ends are curved outwardly at 3 so as to avoid pressing into the leg and causing pain. The left shackle 2 is provided with a loop 4 to which the drawing chain 5 is attached. The loop 4 is riveted, or otherwise rigidly secured, to that part of the shackle 2 that extends around the left side of the tendinous part of the leg. The free end of the chain passes through a loop 6 riveted, or otherwise rigidly secured, to the outside end 7 of the shackle 1. The loop 6 is provided with a contracted portion or narrow locking loop 8 into which any link of the chain 5 can be inserted in a flatwise position. When a link is inserted in the narrow portion 8 of the loop 6, the chain is held fast, so that the shackles are prevented from being moved away from each other. The extremity of the chain 50 is equipped with a ring 9 which is larger than the loop 6 so as to prevent the chain from pulling through the latter. The ring thus serves as a stop whereby the right shackle 1 is held on the chain, and in addition to this function the ring serves as a handhold whereby the chain can be gripped for drawing the legs of the cow to-

gether and locking the chain to the loop 6 and for unlocking it.

In operation, the shackle 2 is placed on the left leg and the chain 5 is passed forwardly around the front part of the leg and then across the front part of the right leg, so that the shackle 1 can be applied to the right leg. After the latter shackle is applied, the operator pulls toward the right on the free end of the chain while the said chain is in the large portion of the loop 6. When the legs are drawn to the proper position, the nearest link of the chain is inserted flatwise into the contracted portion 8 of the loop 6. While the chain will permit the cow to shift its legs to assume a comfortable position, it acts to restrain the movement of the cow so that kicking is prevented. To apply a shackle to the leg of a cow, the shackle is put on at the narrowest part of the hamstring, as, for instance, at the point 10, Fig. 1. The shackle is then pressed down bodily over the tendinous part 11 until it is brought to rest by the swelling of the hock joint 12. The ends 3 of the shackles will engage in the hollow portion 13, Figs. 1 and 2, between the hamstring and the larger front part of the leg, and the ends 3 prevent the shackle from dropping off. The shackles tightly grip over the hamstring so that it will prevent the tendons from swelling when the cow attempts to kick. Since the tendons cannot swell, the muscles of the leg are prevented from acting and, furthermore, the shackles cause pain when the cow moves its leg in an effort to kick. It will thus be seen that the shackles act on the tendons of the muscles that are brought into play in the act of kicking and the chain operates to prevent free movement of the legs so that the cow cannot step around with any considerable degree of freedom. To remove the hopple or anti-kicking device, the chain 5 is first disengaged from the narrow portion 8 of the loop 6, and then the shackles are taken off by moving them upwardly one at a time, and then withdrawing them over the narrow portion 10 of the hamstrings.

I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the apparatus which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, but I desire to have it understood that the apparatus shown is merely illustrative, and that various changes may be made, when desired, as are within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:—

1. In a device of the class described, the combination of a pair of shackles constructed of strip metal and shaped to tightly grip and be held in place by the hamstrings of the animal, a wire loop on one shackle, a flexible element connected with the loop, and a wire structure on the other shackle for receiving the flexible element and having a portion shaped to grip said element.

2. In a device of the class described, the combination of a pair of shackles made of metal strips bent to conform to the hamstrings of an animal and each having their ends shaped to engage in the hollow portions be-

tween the hamstrings and fore parts of the leg, forwardly extending loops on the outer ends of the shackles, and a chain attached at one end to one of the loops and passing at its opposite end through the other loop, the latter
5 loop having means for adjustably holding the free end of the chain.

3. In a device of the class described, the combination of a pair of shackles, each comprising a strip bent centrally on itself, a chain attached to one of the shackles, a
10 loop on the other shackle through which the free end of the chain extends and provided with means for locking any one of the links of the chain to the loop, and a device on the end of the chain serving as a handhold and as a stop for preventing the chain from disengaging from
15 the loop.

4. In a device of the class described, the combination

of a pair of shackles each comprising a strip bent centrally on itself, a wire loop rigidly secured to one end of one of the shackles, a chain attached at one end to the loop, a wire loop on the other shackle having an enlarged
20 portion through which the chain freely passes and having a contracted portion into which a link of the chain is adapted to interlock, and a ring on the end of the chain which prevents the latter from drawing out of the enlarged portion of the loop.

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

ALFRED B. SMITH.

Witnesses:

MABEL HOLMES,
EVA ELSTON.