

No. 865,385.

PATENTED SEPT. 10, 1907.

H. F. HARFST.  
GATE LATCH.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1907.

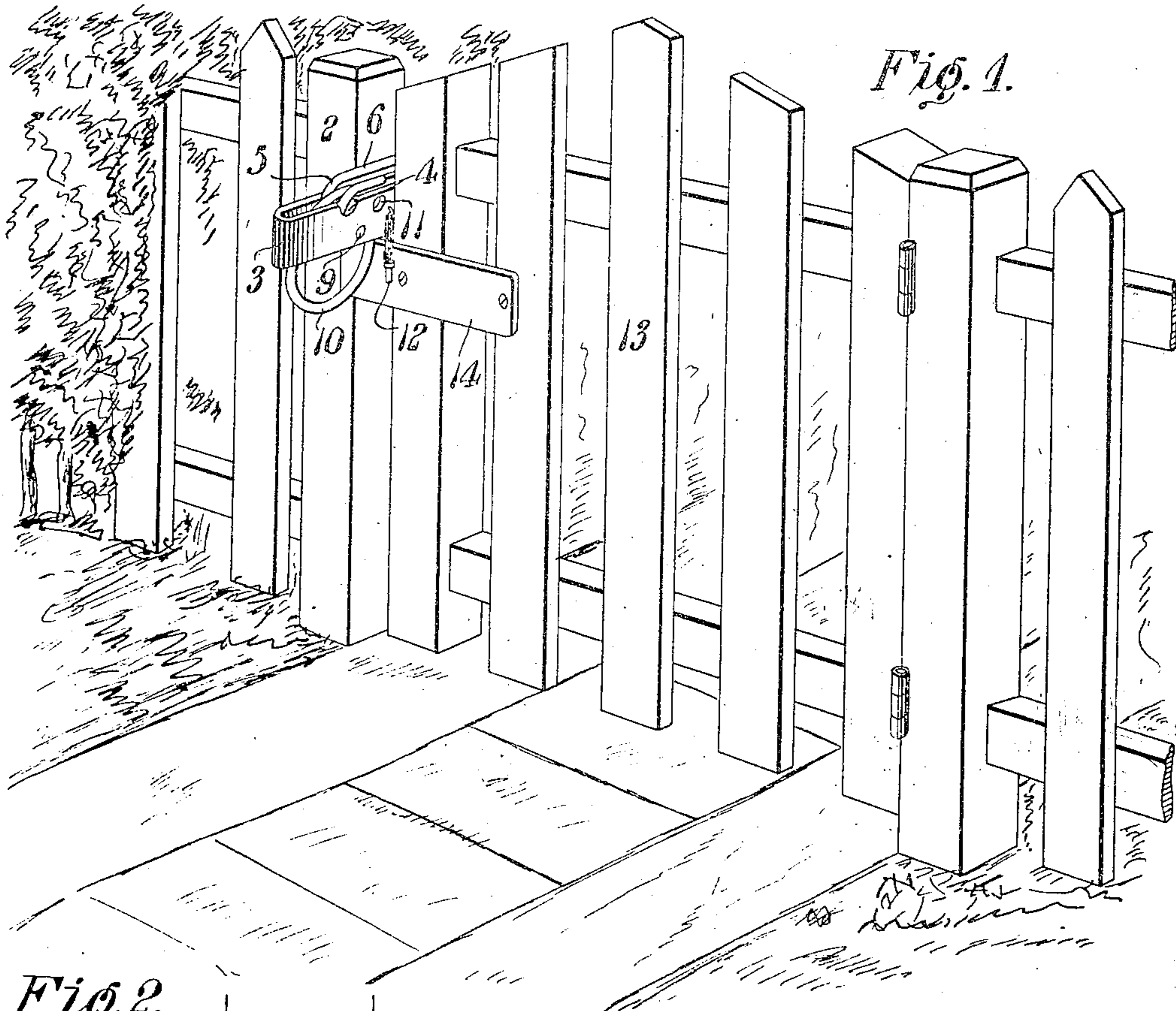


Fig. 2.

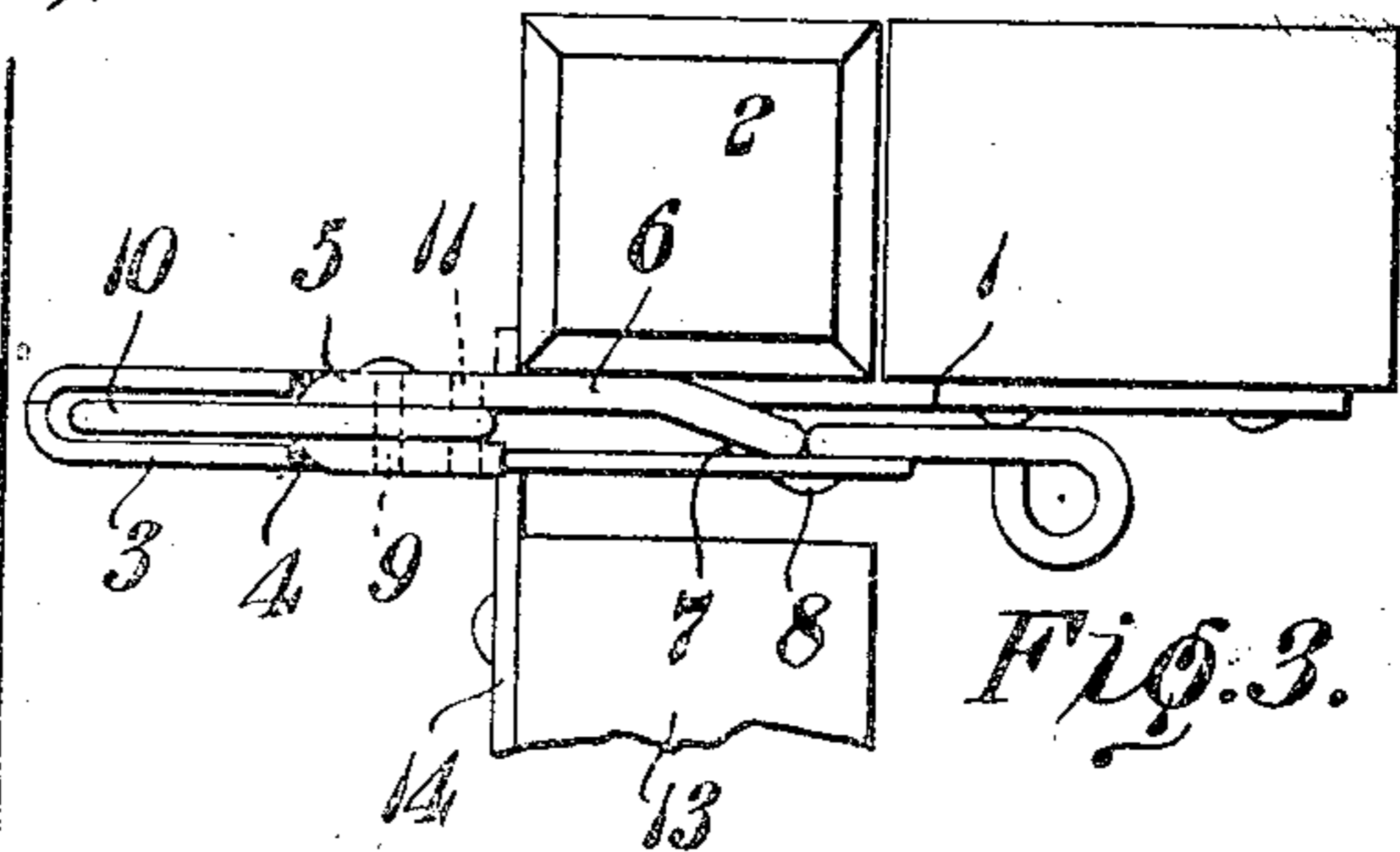
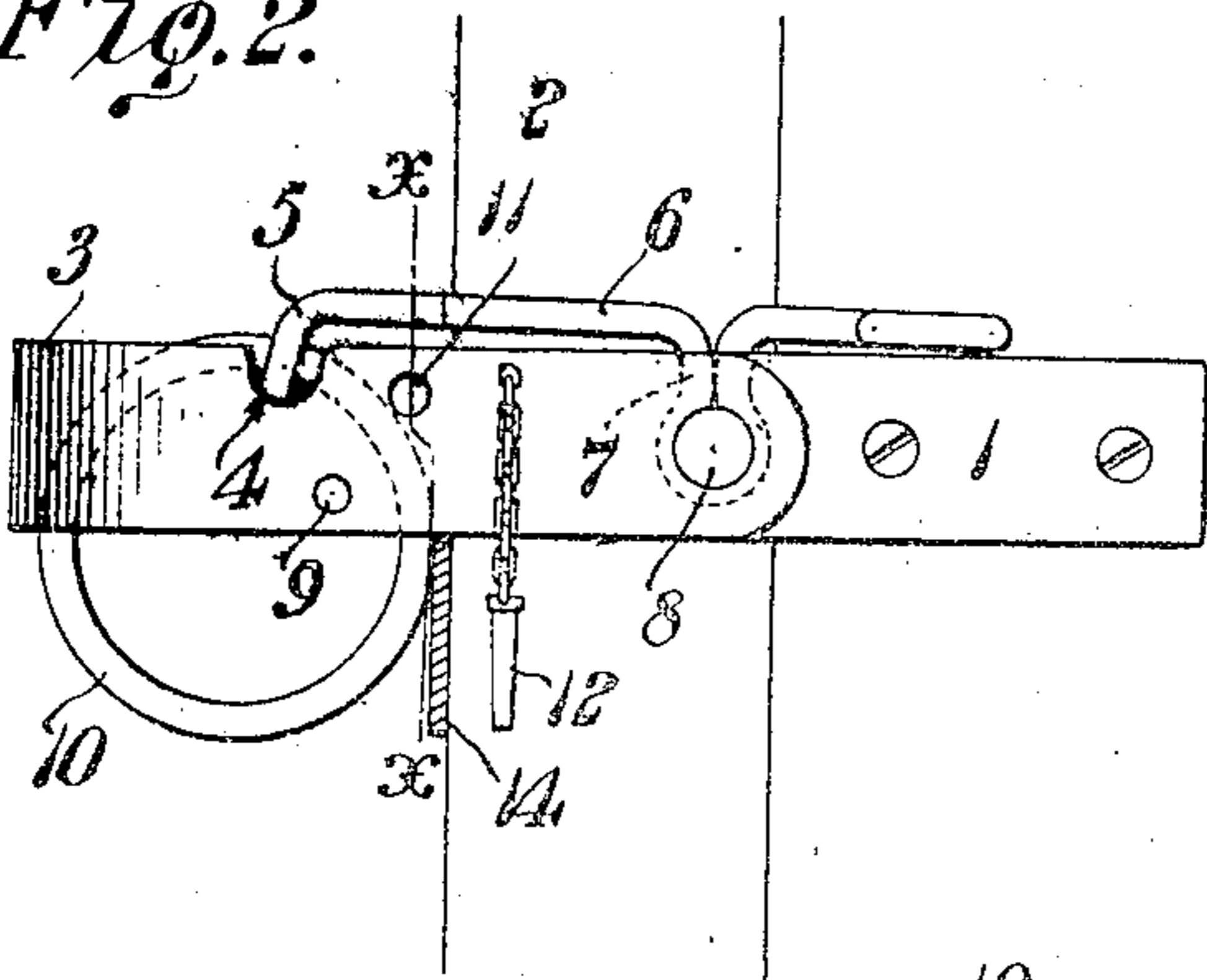


Fig. 3.

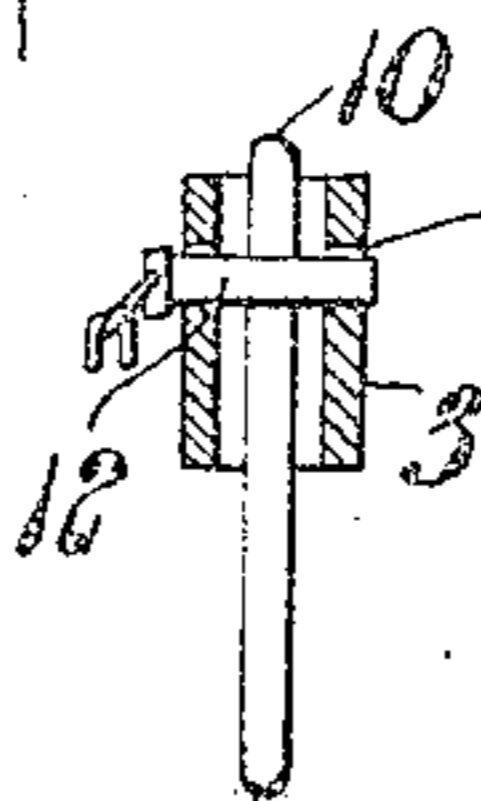


Fig. 4.

WITNESSES:

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY F. HARFST, OF META, MISSOURI.

## GATE-LATCH.

No. 865,385.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 10, 1907.

Application filed February 18, 1907. Serial No. 357,984

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY F. HARFST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Meta, in the county of Osage and State of Missouri, have invented a new and useful Gate-Latch, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to gate latches although it is also designed for use wherever a latch is desired.

The latch is of that type in which a loose ring is employed as a keeper for holding against movement a tongue or plate extending from the gate or other element to be fastened.

The prime object of the invention is to provide a latch of this character with means whereby the ring can be securely locked in the path of the tongue so as to prevent the gate from being opened.

Another object is to provide a latch of simple, compact and durable construction, which is attractive in appearance and which can be readily fastened in position.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts which will be hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings is shown the preferred form of the invention.

In said drawings: Figure 1 is a perspective view showing the latch in position to hold a gate closed; Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the latch, the tongue of the gate being shown in section and engaged thereby; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the latch and a portion of a gate; and Fig. 4 is a section on line x—x, Fig. 2 and showing a locking device within the latch.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 1 is an elongated metal strap secured in any preferred manner to a post 2 or other supporting structure. The strap extends beyond the post 2 and is folded upon itself to form a guide loop 3. The upper edges of this loop have notches 4 therein to receive the downwardly bent looped end 5 of a lifting lever 6. This lever is preferably formed with stiff wire bent at an intermediate point to form a depending arm 7 which projects into the loop at one end thereof and is mounted to rock on a pin 8 which serves to hold opposite portions of the loop together. A holding pin 9 extends transversely of the projecting portion of loop 3 and is designed to prevent displacement of a ring 10 constituting the keeper of the latch. This keeper is supported by

the looped end 5 of the lever 6 and the pin 9 serves to limit the upward movement of the ring. Formed within the walls of the loop 3 are alining openings 11, and the distance from these openings to the outer end of the loop is less than the diameter of the ring 10. These openings are designed to receive a locking pin 12 or if preferred a padlock or any other suitable holding device may be secured within the openings.

In the drawings the latch has been shown in connection with a gate 13 from which extends a tongue 14 in the form of a metal plate. When the gate is closed this tongue will strike the lower portion of the ring and force it upward into the loop 3 and after the tongue passes under the ring the same will drop by gravity into the path of the tongue and hold it against movement. When the ring is in this position its periphery rests immediately beneath the openings 11 and by inserting a pin 12 through the openings it will be impossible to lift the ring and release the tongue. When, however, a pin or other locking means is not positioned within the openings 11 the ring can be easily raised by pushing downward on the opposite end of lever 6 so that the looped end 5 of the lever will pull upward on the ring.

Importance is attached to the provision of the openings 11 for the reception of securing means inasmuch as the latch can therefore be used to securely lock a gate or other structure in closed position.

What is claimed is:

A latch comprising a metal strip looped or folded to form a guide, said loop having reduced openings in the sides thereof for the reception of locking means, a holding pin disposed transversely within the loop, a ring loosely mounted within the loop and surrounding the pin, the diameter of the ring being greater than the distance from the openings to the end of the loop, a pivot pin within and connecting the sides of the loop, a lever formed of a single length of wire bent at an intermediate point to form an eye mounted upon the last mentioned pin, said lever terminating at one end in a depending loop and detachably engaging the ring, there being a laterally extending loop at the other end of the lever and constituting a finger piece, the walls of the guide loop being notched to receive the depending portion of the lever when in normal position.

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

HENRY F. HARFST.

Witnesses:

PAUL SCHULZ,  
W. D. BURD.