

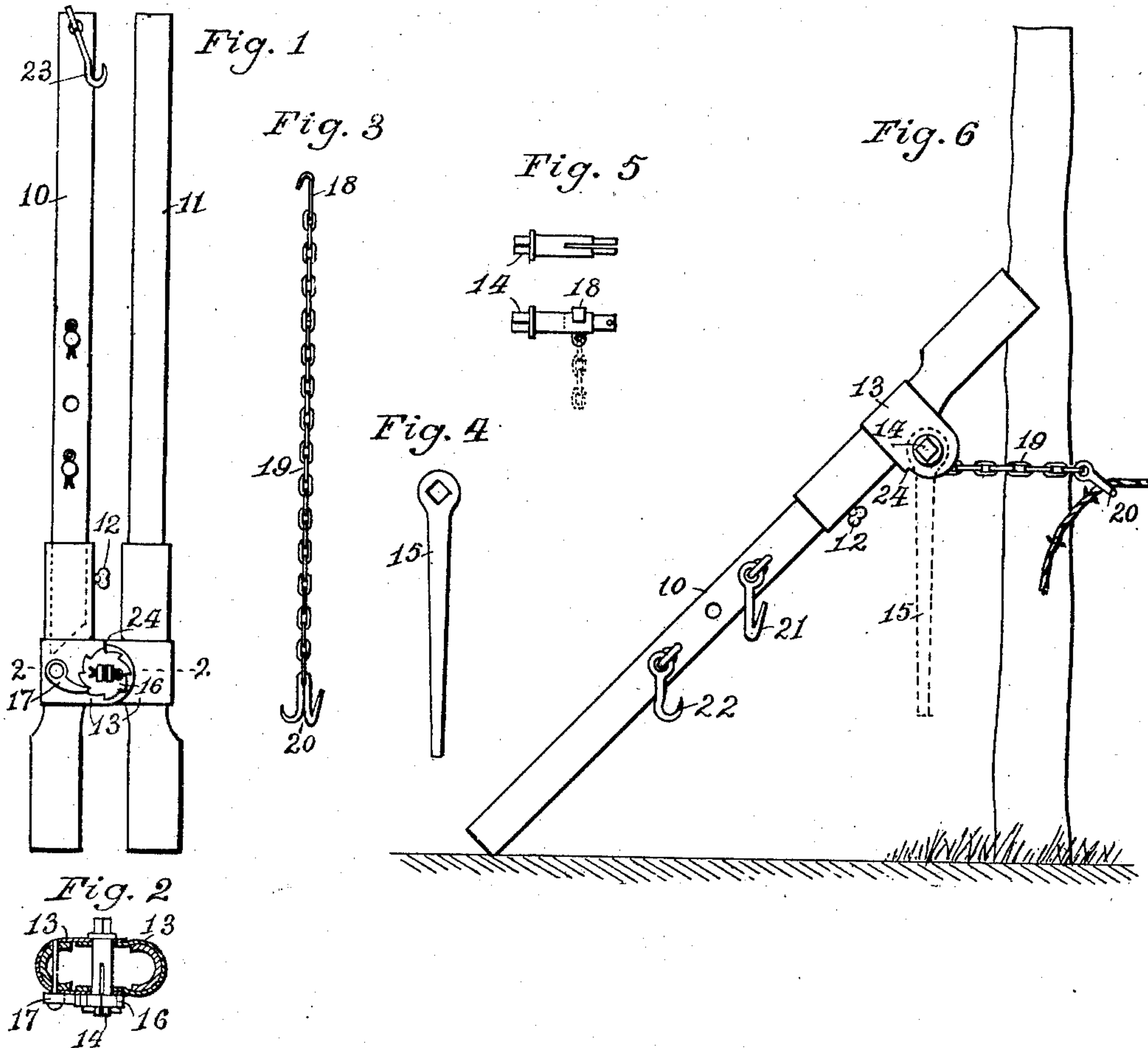
No. 868,558.

PATENTED OCT. 15, 1907.

J. H. HAYNES.

COMBINED POST HOLE DIGGER AND WIRE STRETCHER;

APPLICATION FILED JULY 27, 1906.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. HAYNES, OF DE LEON, TEXAS.

## COMBINED POST-HOLE DIGGER AND WIRE-STRETCHER.

No. 868,558.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Oct. 15, 1907.

Application filed July 27, 1906. Serial No. 328,023.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES H. HAYNES, a citizen of the United States, residing at De Leon, in the county of Comanche and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in a Combined Post-Hole Digger and Wire-Stretcher, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to the combination with the principal parts, of a well-known form of post-hole digger, of certain additional parts by which an efficient, handy and simple wire stretcher is produced and without detriment to the post-hole digger.

The invention therefore consists in the construction and association of parts substantially as and in the manner hereinafter described and claimed:

In the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, Figure 1 represents in elevation a post-hole digger having the general features of a well-known form of such implement; parts thereof being modified and certain additions being made thereto in accordance with this invention; Fig. 2 is a horizontal section through the digger taken on line 2—2; Fig. 3 represents a chain having special hooks at its ends and constituting an essential element of the wire stretcher; Fig. 4 represents the crank of the wire stretcher; Fig. 5 represents two views of the pin which serves as the pivot of the post-hole digger and as the barrel of the winch in the wire stretcher; Fig. 6 represents the improved combination implement in its adaptation as a wire stretcher.

The scoops or blades of the post-hole digger have hollow shanks forming sockets for the handles 10 and 11. The handle 10 is removable and is retained in its socket by thumb-screw 12. To or upon the shanks of the blades are attached, or formed in any suitable manner, projections or ears which overlap and through which passes the pivot by which the blades of the digger are hinged together. For the purposes of this invention these ears 13 are spaced apart as seen in Fig. 2 and the pivot 14 is provided with polygonal ends, one to receive a crank 15 and the other to receive a ratchet wheel 16; a detent 17 being pivoted at one side for engagement with wheel 16. A suitable key is passed

through the end of the pivot to hold it and the ratchet wheel removably in place. The pivot 14 is preferably split for a ways and in the slit may be slid a flat hook such as seen at 18, on one end of chain 19, whereby said chain is readily attached to said pivot when it is to serve as the barrel of the winch of the wire stretcher. The opposite end of the chain is preferably provided with a dual hook 20, one part of which is preferably a grab hook and the other a chain hook. A hook as 23 may be attached to the end of handle 10 by which to hang up the implement.

When the digger is to be converted into a wire stretcher, the pivot 14 is removed and the blades separated, then the chain 19 is attached to the pivot 14 by sliding the shank of the flat hook 18 into the slit in the pivot as the latter is passing from one ear 13 to the other, then the ratchet wheel 16 is slipped over the end of said pivot and keyed in place, when by applying the crank 15 to the other end of the pivot a winch is formed. The handle 10 with its blade may then be propped against a fence post as seen in Fig. 6, the wire to be stretched placed in the grab hook and the winch turned till the wire is taut when it may be stapled to the post. In this form the stretcher is most powerful.

Shoulders or stops may be formed upon the upper edges of the ears 13, as at 24, to prevent the upper ends of the handles coming together and pinching the fingers in digging post-holes.

The invention claimed is:—

A compound tool for the purpose specified consisting of handle members detachably and pivotally connected together, one of said members being provided with a scoop and with perforated ears, a slitted pivot for the purpose specified journaled in the perforations of said ears and provided with polygonal ends, one thereof being for the reception of a crank, a ratchet wheel removably mounted upon the other polygonal end, and a pawl mounted on one of said ears for engagement with the ratchet wheel, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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

JAMES H. HAYNES.

Witnesses:

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