

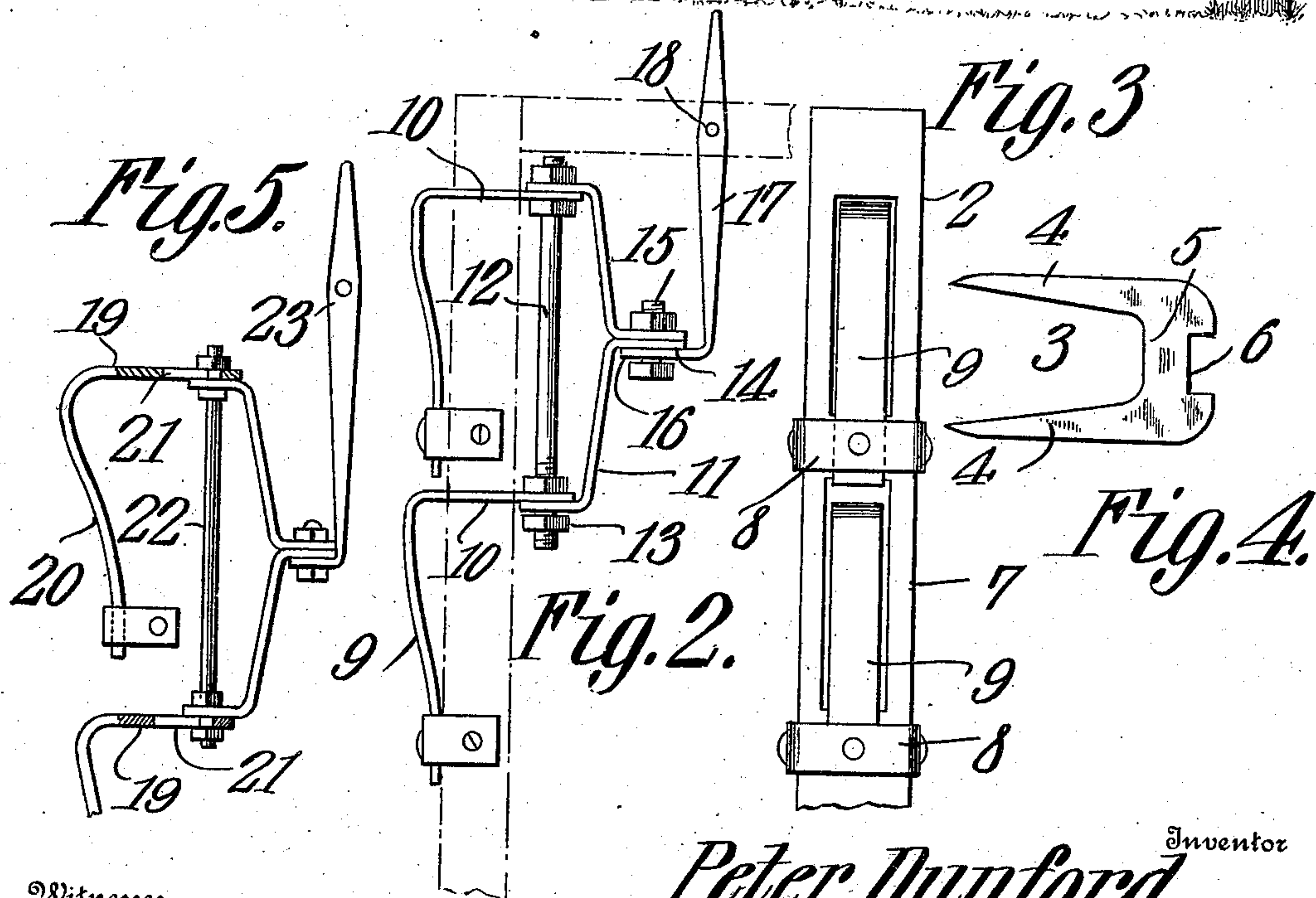
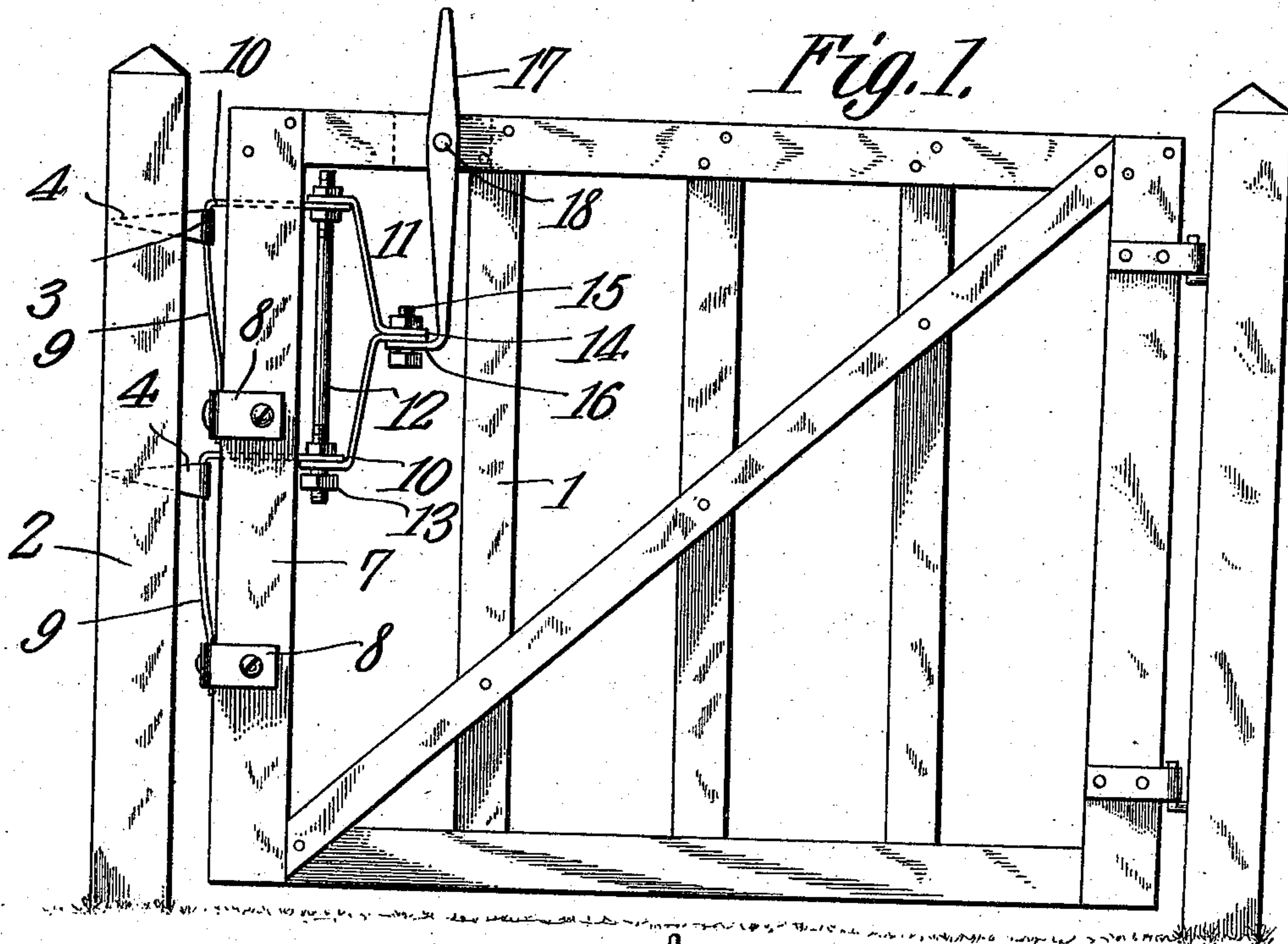
No. 881,670.

PATENTED MAR. 10, 1908.

P. DUNFORD.

LATCH.

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Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

PETER DUNFORD, OF SUMMIT, GEORGIA.

LATCH.

No. 881,670.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 10, 1908.

Application filed December 11, 1907. Serial No. 406,062.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, PETER DUNFORD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Summit, in the county of Emanuel and State

of Georgia, have invented a new and useful Latch, of which the following is a specification. This invention relates to latches particularly designed for use upon farm gates and the like, and its object is to provide a simple

form of latch which can not be opened by live stock and which is designed to simultaneously engage a plurality of keepers so that the locking of the gate is doubly insured.

Another object is to provide a latch which can be conveniently attached to a gate of the usual form and which is provided with means whereby it can be simultaneously released from engagement with all of the keepers.

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 side elevation of a gate having the improved latch connected thereto. Fig. 2 is an enlarged detail view of the latch. Fig. 3 is an end view thereof. Fig. 4 is a detail view of one of the keepers. Fig. 5 is a view partly in elevation and partly in section of a modified form of latch.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference, 1 designates a swinging gate of the usual or any preferred construction, and 2 designates a gate post having preferably two keepers 3 connected thereto. Each of these keepers is preferably in the form of a staple having pointed members 4 designed to be driven into the post while the crown 5 of the keeper has an angular recess 6 in its outer face designed to receive the latch and hold the gate against movement in either direction. Straddling and secured to the end bar 7 of the gate are superposed yokes 8 preferably formed of strips of sheet metal bolted or otherwise fastened in position and riveted or otherwise secured to, or formed with the intermediate portion of each yoke, is an up-standing spring catch 9 formed of a strip of metal which normally projects beyond the bar 7 and has an arm 10 at its upper end extending loosely through the bar 7. The inner ends of the two arms 10 are connected to an angular frame 11 by means of a bolt 12

which extends through the lapping ends of the frame and arms and has nuts 13 mounted upon it for binding said ends together. Frame 11 is preferably formed of two similar angular metal strips having out-turned ears 14 held together by a bolt 15. Loosely engaging this bolt is an ear 16 located at the lower end of a lever 17 which is pivoted as at 18 to the upper portion of the gate.

The parts are so disposed that when the gate is swung into closed position the two spring catches 9 will strike the rounded corners of the keepers 3 and be pressed inwardly thereby until they assume positions opposite the recesses 6 whereupon the two catches will simultaneously spring into the recesses and lock the gate against movement. To unlock the gate the lever 17 is actuated manually so as to pull on frame 11 and arms 10.

It will be seen that by means of the bolt 12 the catches can be adjusted to any desired distance apart so as to properly engage the keepers 3 after which said catches can be secured to the gate in the manner described. By providing this form of latch it is practically impossible for live stock to unlock the gate for the reason that as the latch is made entirely of spring metal strips the retraction of one of the catches from engagement with the keeper will not result in the corresponding movement of the other catch because of the fact that the frame 11 will bend close to the ears 14 under these conditions.

Instead of depending upon the resiliency of the parts to prevent the simultaneous withdrawal of the catches other than by the lever 17 the latch can be constructed as shown in Fig. 5 by providing the arms 19 of the spring catches 20 with longitudinal slots 21 through which the bolt 22 loosely extends. It will thus be seen that should either of the catches be pressed backward out of the keeper engaged thereby its arm 19 will be free to move longitudinally upon the bolt 22 without causing a corresponding movement of the other catch. By operating the lever 23 however, both of the catches can be simultaneously withdrawn in the manner heretofore described.

What is claimed is:

1. The combination with a post and superposed keepers connected thereto; of a gate and a latch connected to the gate and comprising superposed resilient catches, a frame

connected to and supported by the catches, and means upon the gate for actuating the frame.

2. The combination with a post and
5 keepers connected thereto; of a gate, and a latch upon the gate comprising superposed spring catches disposed to engage the respective keepers, arms extending from the catches, connecting means movably con-
10 nected to the arms, and actuating means upon the gate and connected to the frame for actuating said connecting means to simultaneously withdraw the catches from the keepers, said catches being capable of
15 independent movement from their keepers.

3. A latch comprising similar superposed spring catches having integral arms, a resili-

ent frame, an adjustable connection between the frame and arms, and means for actuating the frame to simultaneously move the 20 catches in one direction.

4. The combination with superposed simultaneously actuated catches; of a keeper for each catch and comprising a staple-like member disposed to be driven into a support, 25 said member having a recessed crown for the reception of a catch.

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

PETER DUNFORD.

Witnesses:

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