

H. P. HANSEN.
ADJUSTABLE FUR STRETCHER.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 29, 1908.

912,311.

Patented Feb. 16, 1909

Fig. 1.

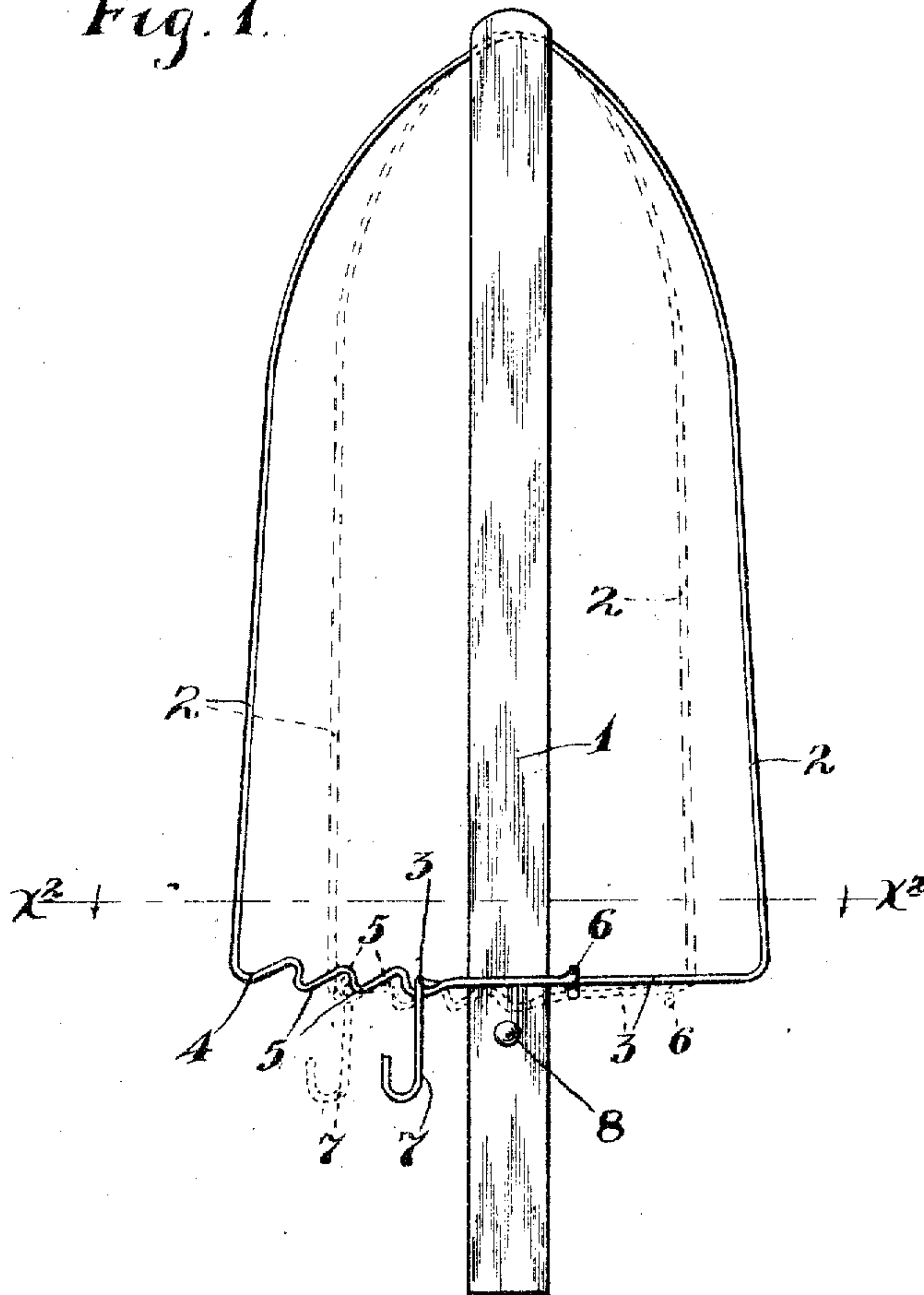
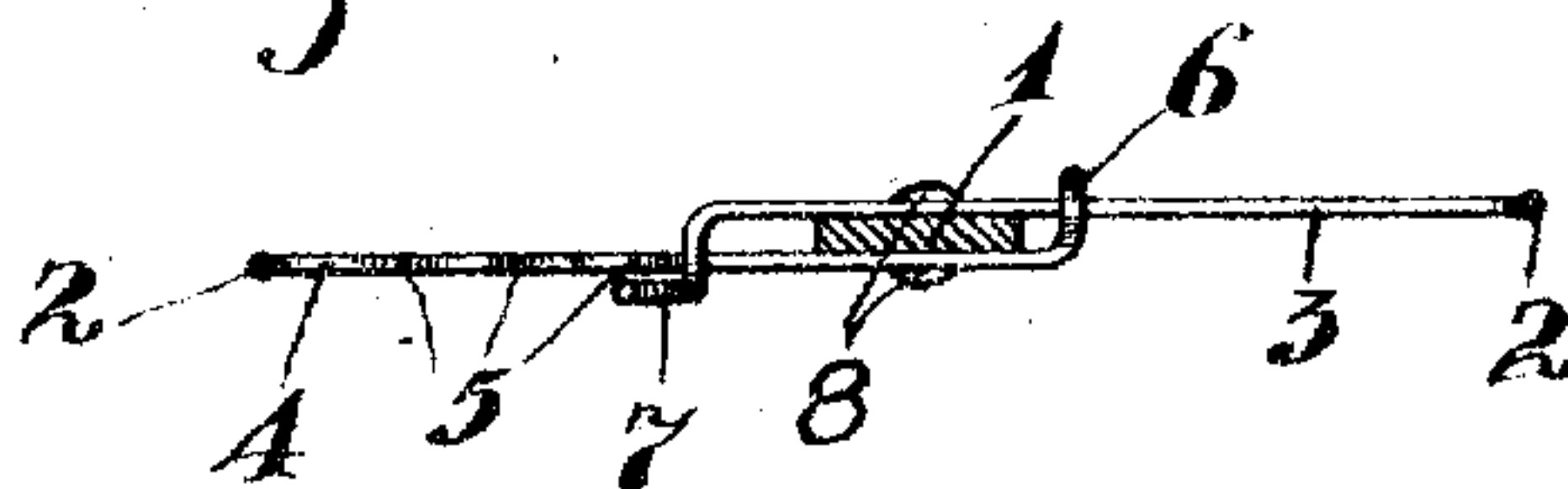


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY PETTER HANSEN, OF ALBERT LEA, MINNESOTA.

ADJUSTABLE FUR-STRETCHER.

No. 912,311.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY PETTER HANSEN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Albert Lea, in the county of Freeborn and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Adjustable Fur-Stretchers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

My invention has for its object to provide an improved fur stretching device especially adapted for use in the stretching and drying of small hides, such as those of the muskrat, beaver, and other small animals.

To the above ends, the invention consists of the novel devices and combinations of devices hereinafter described and defined in the claims.

In skinning muskrats, beavers, and a great many other small fur bearing animals, it is, as is well known, customary to pull off the hide without slitting the same, and it is then customary to stretch these hides by inserting therein stretching devices. My invention provides a simplified and improved stretching device for this purpose. The said device is illustrated in the accompanying drawings, wherein like characters indicate like parts throughout the several views:

Referring to the drawings: Figure 1 is a plan view of the improved device; and Fig. 2 is a section on the line $x^2 x^2$ of Fig. 1.

The improved device comprises a single bar 1, preferably of wood, and a stretching wire 2, preferably of spring tempered steel. This stretching wire, which constitutes the stretcher proper, is bent to form a complete loop, that is elongated and tapered at one end, and at its other end, has overlapping ends 3 and 4. The end 4 is formed with a multiplicity of teeth or lock-notches 5, and terminates in a guide eye 6, through which the end 3 is passed. This end 3 terminates in a laterally bent handle or finger piece 7, the base of which is arranged to interlock with the notches 5 of the end section 4. Furthermore, the spring tension of the wire 2 is such, that the overlapping ends thereof will normally be spring held in interlocked positions. The tapered end portion of the wire 2 is secured to one end of the wooden bar 1, and the other end of the said bar is passed between the overlapping ends 3 and 4 of the said wire, and hence, is held in proper align-

ment in respect to the outwardly extended sides of the said wire. The connected end portions of the said stretching wire 2 may be pulled apart, or outward, as far as they will go when inserted into the skin or hide to be stretched, and the teeth or notches 5 acting on the base of the handle 7, will lock the same in any position in which the stretcher may be set.

To release the stretcher so that it may be contracted, that is, so that the sides of the wire 2 may be moved closer together, it is necessary to force the handle 7 forward, so it will be disengaged from the shouldered ends of the notches 5.

When the stretcher is to be applied, it should first be closed to its smallest notch, and then the fur or skin is pulled over the same and fastened at its bottom, preferably by means of one or more thumb tacks 8, to the wooden bar 1. Then the sides of the wire 2 should be pulled apart and the fur or hide is put under the desired strain, or in other words, is stretched to the desired extent.

As a simple and efficient means for securing the looped wire 2 to the bar 1, it is passed through a perforation in one end of said bar, and is then bent so that it cannot slip in or through the said bar.

The improved stretching device above described, as is evident, is of very small cost, and, at the same time, may be very easily applied and removed. It is very light, and, at the same time, it is highly efficient for the purposes had in view. The wire is preferably galvanized or otherwise plated, so that it will not rust stain the fur.

What I claim is:

1. A stretcher of the kind described, comprising a bar and a looped spring member applied thereto, and provided with means independent of said bar for holding the same expanded to a greater or less extent.

2. A stretcher of the kind described, comprising a bar and a looped spring wire member secured to one end of said bar, and provided with interlocking overlapped ends, arranged to hold the same expanded more or less.

3. A stretcher of the kind described, comprising a bar and a looped spring wire, secured to one end of the said bar and provided with spring engaged overlapped interlocking ends that embrace or straddle the said bar.

4. A stretcher of the kind described, comprising a wooden bar 1, and a looped spring wire 2 passed through a perforation in one end of said bar, and provided with overlapped ends, the one having notches or teeth and a guide loop, and the other end being passed through said guide eye and having a laterally bent extremity cooperating with

said notches, and spring held in engagement therewith, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 10
in presence of two witnesses.

HENRY PETTER HANSEN.

Witnesses:

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