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WIRE FENCE STRETCHER.  
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913,384.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

Fig. 3

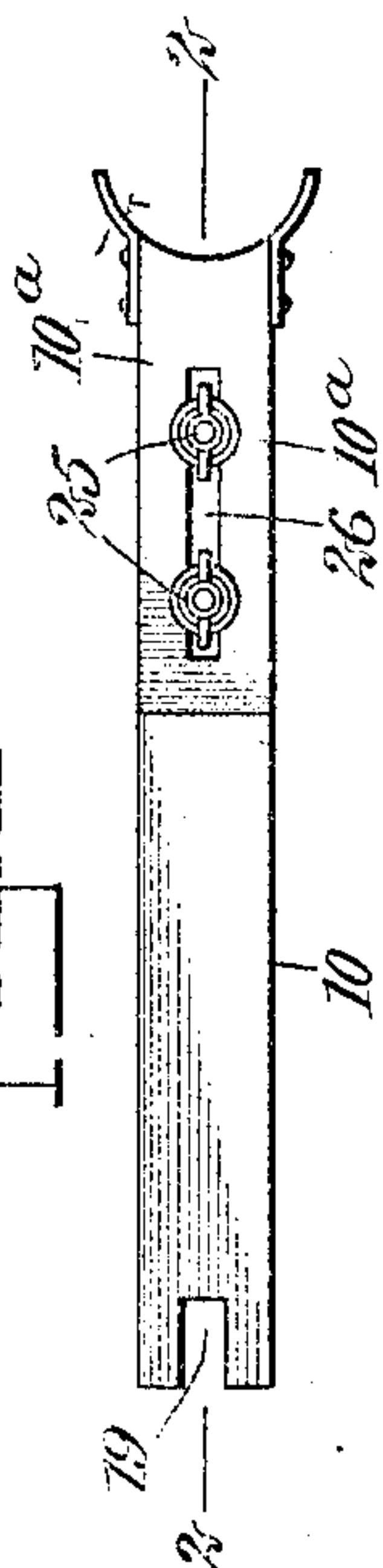


Fig. 2

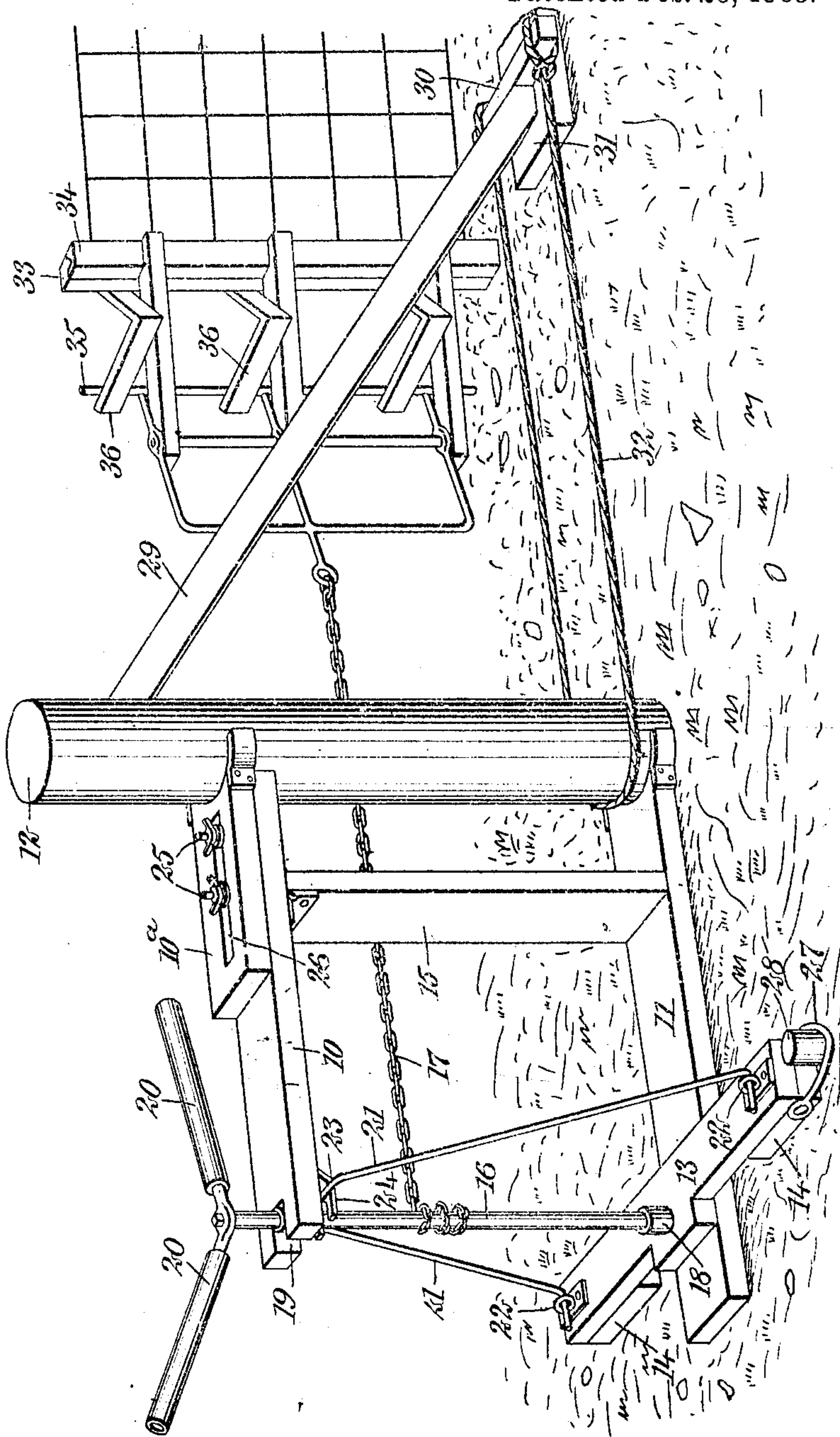
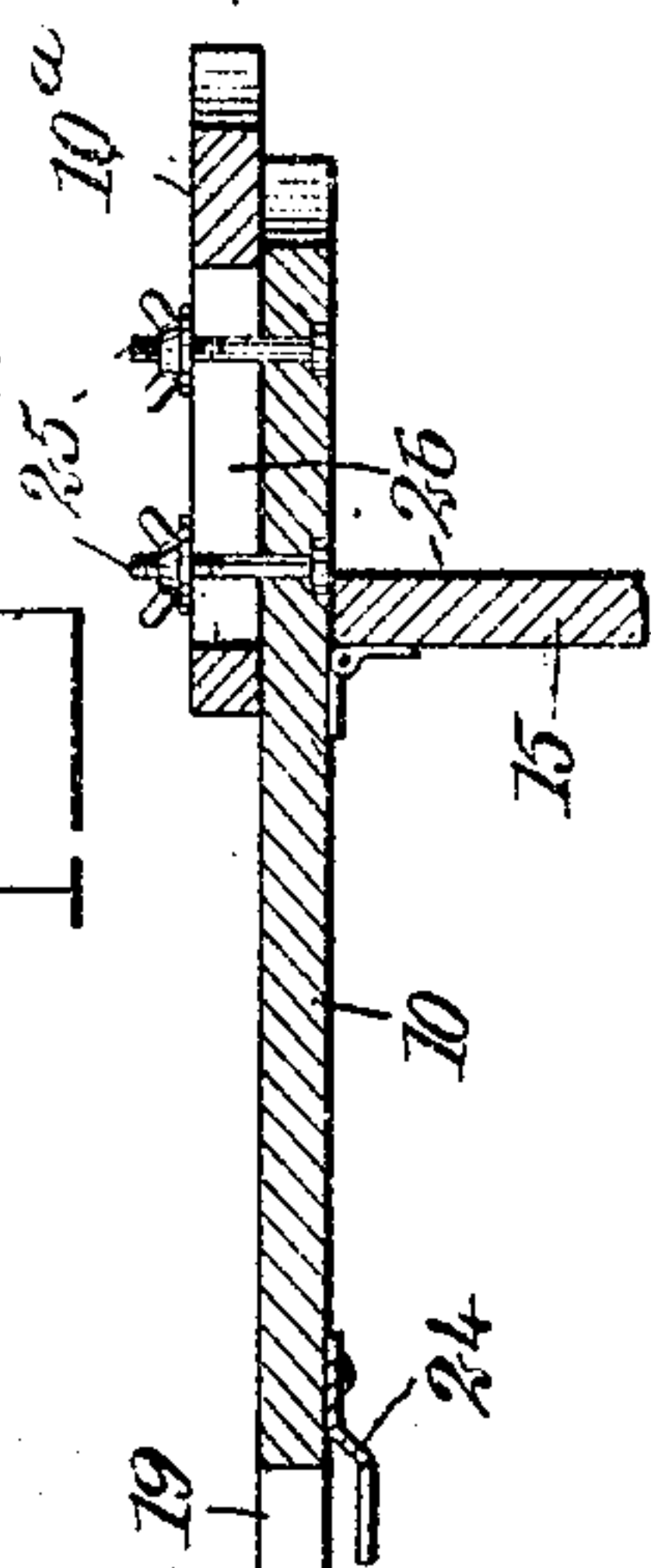


Fig. 1

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM HOPPER, OF JEFFERSON, IOWA.

## WIRE-FENCE STRETCHER.

No. 913,384.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 23, 1909.

Original application filed January 20, 1908, Serial No. 411,639. Divided and this application filed August 18, 1908.  
Serial No. 449,066.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM HOPPER, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Jefferson, in the county of Greene and State of Iowa, have invented a new and Improved Wire-Fence Stretcher, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

This invention relates to certain improvements in devices for stretching wire fencing while the latter is being secured to the fence posts, and relates more particularly to the mechanism for engaging with one of the posts and with a clamp secured to the fence for stretching the latter.

The object of the invention is to provide a reel-supporting mechanism, which will engage with any fence post and which may be folded and readily transported in a collapsed or knockdown form.

This application is a division of my former application, Serial Number 411,639, filed January 20, 1908, in which application the clamping mechanism is claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a construction embodying my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical section showing in detail the upper reel support, said section being taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 3; and Fig. 3 is a top plan view of the parts shown in Fig. 2.

In the specific construction of reel-supporting mechanism illustrated, I provide upper and lower substantially horizontal supports 10 and 11, each in the form of a board and each having one end thereof adapted to engage with a fence post 12. The lower support 11 is adapted to lie directly upon the ground and carries a transverse member 13 secured thereto at substantially right angles and also adapted to lie adjacent the ground. Beneath the ends of the transverse member 13, there may be provided blocks 14, of a thickness equal to the thickness of the support 11, so that the support 11 and the transverse member 13 may constitute a firm base. The upper horizontal support 10 is substantially parallel to the lower support 11 and is normally held at a predetermined distance therefrom by a vertical leg or post 15. This leg or post is

hinged at its upper end to the under side of the support 10 and at its lower end rests directly upon the support 11.

Adjacent the outer ends of the two supports 10 and 11, I mount a vertically-disposed shaft 16, constituting a reel upon which the chain, cord, or cable 17, leading from the clamp may be wound. The lower end of the shaft or reel fits within a socket 18 carried by the transverse member 13 intermediate its ends, and the upper end of the shaft fits within a socket or recess 19 in the end of the upper member 10. The shaft or reel may be provided with any suitable mechanism for rotating the same, as, for instance, oppositely-extending handles 20 at the upper end. For supporting the outer end of the upper section 10, I provide oppositely-disposed braces 21, preferably formed from a single rod, and each having its lower end bent at an angle to constitute a hook and inserted through a corresponding eye or loop 22 carried by the transverse member 13 adjacent its ends. The rod at its central portion 23 which constitutes the upper ends for both braces, is pivoted to the under surface of the support 10. Any suitable pivoting means may be employed, but I have illustrated a forked cleat 24, adapted to receive the central portion 23 of the rod between said cleat and the under surface of the support 10, and so disposed that the rod will be held in position by the shaft 16.

In case the post 12 does not extend at right angles to the plane of the surface of the ground, I may provide means whereby the upper support 10 is rendered extensible, so that both supports may engage with the post. As shown, the upper support 10 is provided with a slidable section 10<sup>a</sup>, which may be rigidly secured to the main body of the member by bolts 25 extending through a slot 26. By loosening the bolts, the total length of the complete upper member may be increased or decreased. For preventing lateral movement of the outer end of the support 11 and the transverse member 13, any suitable fastening means may be provided, as, for instance, a pivoted loop 27, adapted to engage around a peg or stake 28. In connection with this means for applying tension to the chain, cord or cable 17, I may provide a brace comprising mechanism which includes a diagonal bar 29, having its upper end adapted to engage with the post



adjacent the top thereof and having its lower end adapted to engage with a cleat 30 on a base-board 31. In applying the bracing means, the base-board 31 is placed in position at a short distance from the post, and the brace 29 placed with one end against the cleat 30 and the other end against the post. A rope, chain or cable 32 is then secured to one end of the cleat 30, passed around the base of the post and secured to the opposite end of said cleat. The inclined bar or brace 29 may be pressed down at its upper end until the cable is as taut as possible.

Any suitable clamping means may be employed for engaging with the end of the wire fencing and adapted to be moved to stretch the fencing by the tightening of the cable 17. The particular clamping mechanism shown is that illustrated and described in detail in the previous application referred to above, and a detail description in this application is therefore thought to be unnecessary. It may be briefly stated that the clamping mechanism includes two clamping members 33 and 34, which are forced into engagement with each other by the lateral movement of a bar 35 against lever arms 36. The vertical bar 35 is moved laterally by the tightening of the cable 17.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent:

1. A tension-applying means for fence stretchers, including a horizontal support having one end adapted to engage with the base of a fence post, and a transverse member extending at substantially right angles thereto, an upper support substantially parallel to the plane of said base and having one end adapted to engage with a fence post, a post pivotally secured to the under

side of the upper support and adapted to engage with said first-mentioned support, and a vertically-disposed reel or shaft carried by said supports.

2. A tension-applying means for fence stretchers, including a horizontal support having one end adapted to engage with the base of a fence post, an upper support substantially parallel to said first-mentioned support and having one end adapted to engage with the fence post, a post pivotally secured to the under side of the upper support and adapted to engage with the first-mentioned support, a vertically-disposed reel or shaft carried by said supports, and means carried by the upper support for varying the distance between the upper end of said reel and said fence post.

3. A tension-applying means for fence stretchers, including a horizontal lower support having one end adapted to engage with the base of a fence post, a transverse member extending at right angles thereto, an upper support substantially parallel to said lower support and having one end adapted to engage with the fence post, braces pivotally secured to said upper support adjacent its outer end and detachably secured to the outer ends of said transverse member, means intermediate said supports adjacent the fence post for spacing them apart, and a vertically-disposed reel or shaft adjacent the outer ends of said supports.

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

WILLIAM HOPPER.

Witnesses:

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P. M. JACKSON.