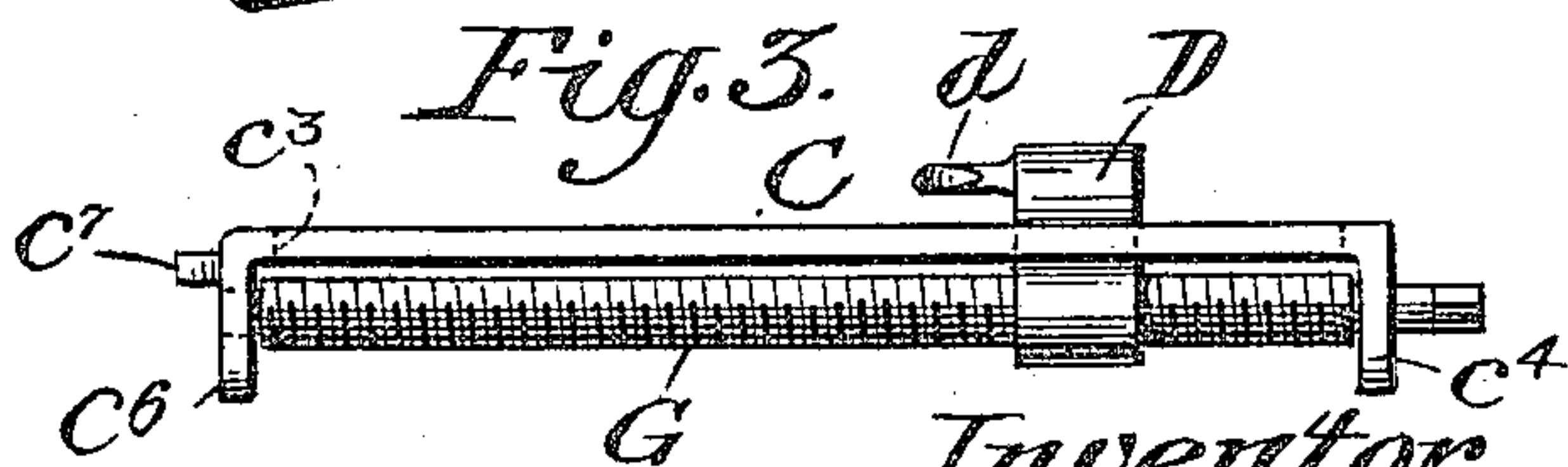
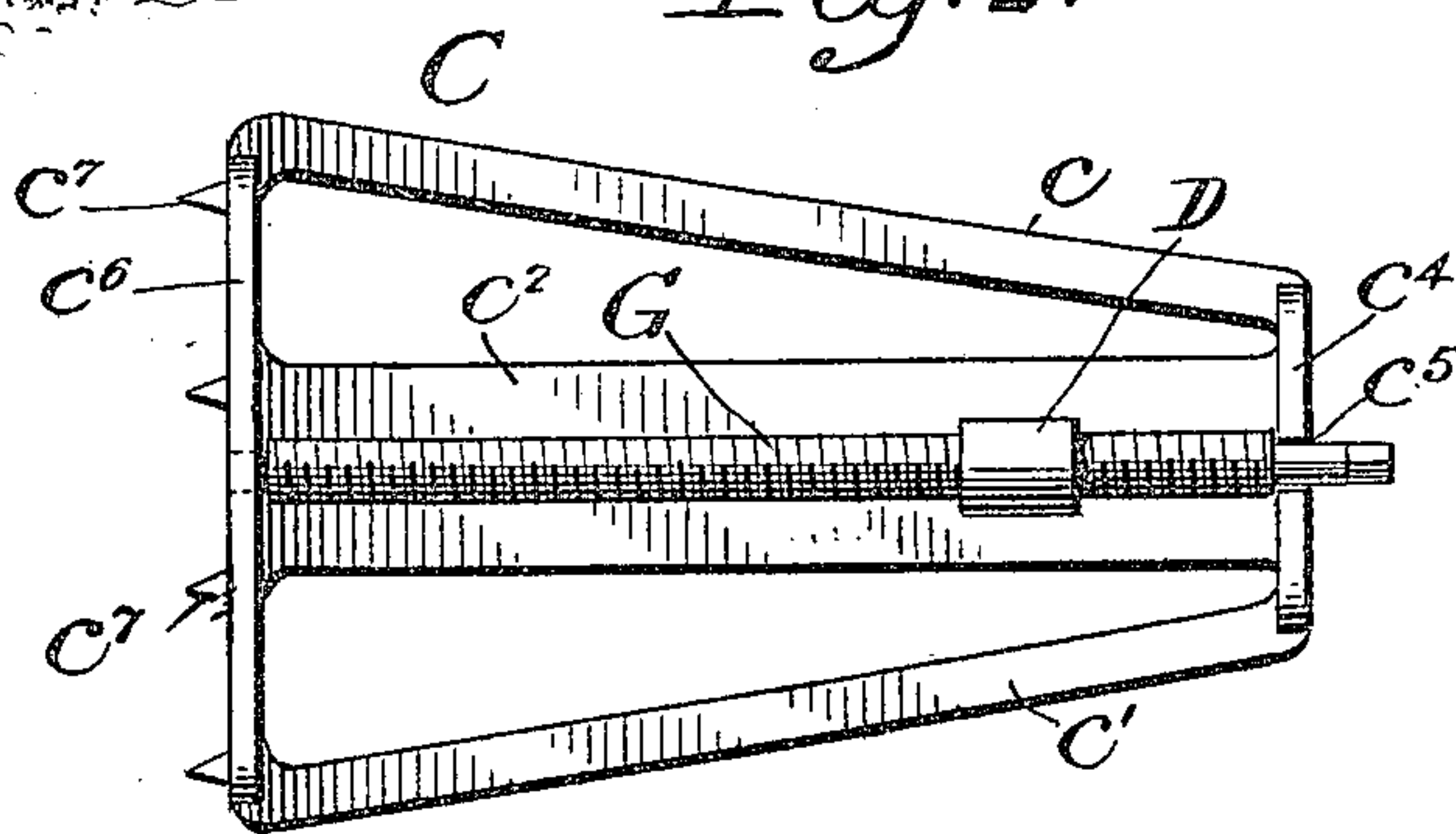


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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JESSE WRIGHT, OF WAPELLA, ILLINOIS.

WIRE-STRETCHER.

949,458.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JESSE WRIGHT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wapella, county of Dewitt, and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Wire-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.

This invention relates to wire stretchers and more particularly to devices which are used to stretch all of the wires of a wire fence at the same time, preparatory to stapling said wires to the posts.

The invention consists in certain novel features and combinations of parts to be hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing, in which one embodiment of the improved wire stretcher is shown, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device showing the same as used in connection with a wire fence, Fig. 2 is a detail elevation of the thrust or spacing frame which is interposed between the standard and fence post and which guides the tightening block, and Fig. 3 is a top plan view of Fig. 2.

In the drawing, an upright standard A is shown as spaced laterally at some distance from a fence post B upon which the wires of the fence are to be stapled, and said standard carries at one side a laterally extending spacing or thrust frame C in which the tightening block D is movable lengthwise and horizontally. Said block is connected by means of a chain E with an upright strip F clamped over the wires of the fence, and is adjustable in a horizontal direction by a screw spindle G rotatable in the thrust frame C by means of a hand crank H.

The standard A is preferably formed with a U-shaped base a having pointed feet a^1 which are driven into the ground in order to hold the standard upright. Extending upward from the base portion a are two upright bars a^2 arranged parallel to each other and provided with longitudinally extending series of perforations a^3 . At the top of the standard the bars a^2 carry hooks a^4 that are adapted for the attachment of chains a^5 that are connected to pegs driven into the ground or anchor the standard in any other suitable way.

The thrust frame C is preferably formed of a single casting made up of upper and lower bars c , c^1 respectively, and an intermediate horizontal bar c^2 provided with a longitudinal slot c^3 . The bars c , c^1 are inclined and the end of the frame which is attached to the upright standard A is of less width than the end which abuts against the fence post B. The smaller end enters between the upright bars a^2 of the standard and is provided with an enlargement c^4 in the form of a flange which fits between the bars a^2 , as shown in Fig. 1. Said flange has at one side a notch c^5 in which the forward end of the screw spindle G is set prior to the placing of the thrust frame within the standard. After this has taken place, a U-shaped clip g is placed over the end of the spindle G and supported in the desired vertical adjustment by means of a pin or bolt g^1 passing through alining openings a^3 of the standard, the clip g resting upon the top of said pin or bolt, as shown. The crank H is then placed upon the extremity of the screw spindle in close proximity to the clip g , as shown in Fig. 1.

The tightening block D which is threaded on the screw spindle is guided longitudinally and prevented from rotation by means of the slot c^3 , from which it protrudes, as shown in Fig. 3. Said block has a hook d formed integral therewith to secure the chain E.

The larger end of the thrust frame C is provided with a lateral flange c^6 having a perforation in which the corresponding end of the screw spindle is freely set, as shown in Fig. 2. The flange c^6 is also provided with a series of teeth c^7 which are adapted to be driven into the fence post in order to firmly hold the thrust frame in position.

In the operation of the device, it is only necessary to set up the standard A in the manner previously indicated, with the thrust frame C bearing against the fence post. The chain E connected with the clamping strip F is then caught over the hook d of the tightening block, after which the screw spindle G is turned in proper direction, by means of the crank H, to cause the pulling forward of the clamping strip and the wires of the fence, so that said wires will be tightened. It is obvious that when the wires have been tightened to a certain extent it is an easy matter to staple them to the fence post while they are under tension, after which the tightening device is removed.

In order to hold the fence wires under tension while the tightening block D is moved toward the clamping strip for a further tightening operation, the clip *g* is provided
 5 at its opposite ends with hooks *g*², (of which only one is shown) upon which the chain E may be secured.

Although I have described the improved device as particularly adapted for use in
 10 constructing wire fences, it is obvious that the device is adapted for numerous other applications where a flexible member or members are to be put under tension for any purpose.

15 Without limiting myself to the precise construction shown, I claim:—

1. In a wire stretcher, a standard embodying upright parallel bars, a spacing or thrust frame fitted at one end directly between said
 20 bars, a screw spindle journaled in said frame, a tightening block threaded on the spindle, and a clip supported on the bars of the standard and through which the spindle passes.

25 2. In a wire stretcher, a standard embodying upright bars with a space therebetween, a spacing or thrust frame fitting at one end into said space, a screw spindle journaled in said frame, a tightening block threaded on said spindle, a clip embracing the bars of the
 30 standard and in which said screw spindle is rotatable, and means for supporting said clip on the standard at a number of different elevations.

3. In a wire stretcher, the combination of 35 a standard, a thrust frame extending laterally therefrom and comprising a single casting having upper and lower bars and a slotted intermediate bar, a screw spindle journaled in the thrust frame, and a tightening block threaded on said spindle and
 40 guided in the slot of the intermediate bar.

4. In a wire stretcher, a standard embodying upright bars, a spacing or thrust frame provided at one end with a notch, a screw
 45 spindle carried by said thrust frame and held at one end in said notch by the entrance of the thrust frame between the bars of the standard, and a tightening block threaded on said spindle.
 50

5. In a wire stretcher, the combination of a standard comprising upright parallel bars, a thrust frame having a notched flange at one end set in the space between said bars, a screw spindle journaled in the thrust frame
 55 and having one end resting in the notch of said flange, a tightening block threaded on said spindle, a clip embracing the bars of the standard and in which the end of said spindle is rotatable, and a pin passing through
 60 alining perforations in the standard and supporting said clip.

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

JESSE WRIGHT.

Witnesses:

VERNELLE McCONKEY,
 JOHN THOMAS DAVIS.