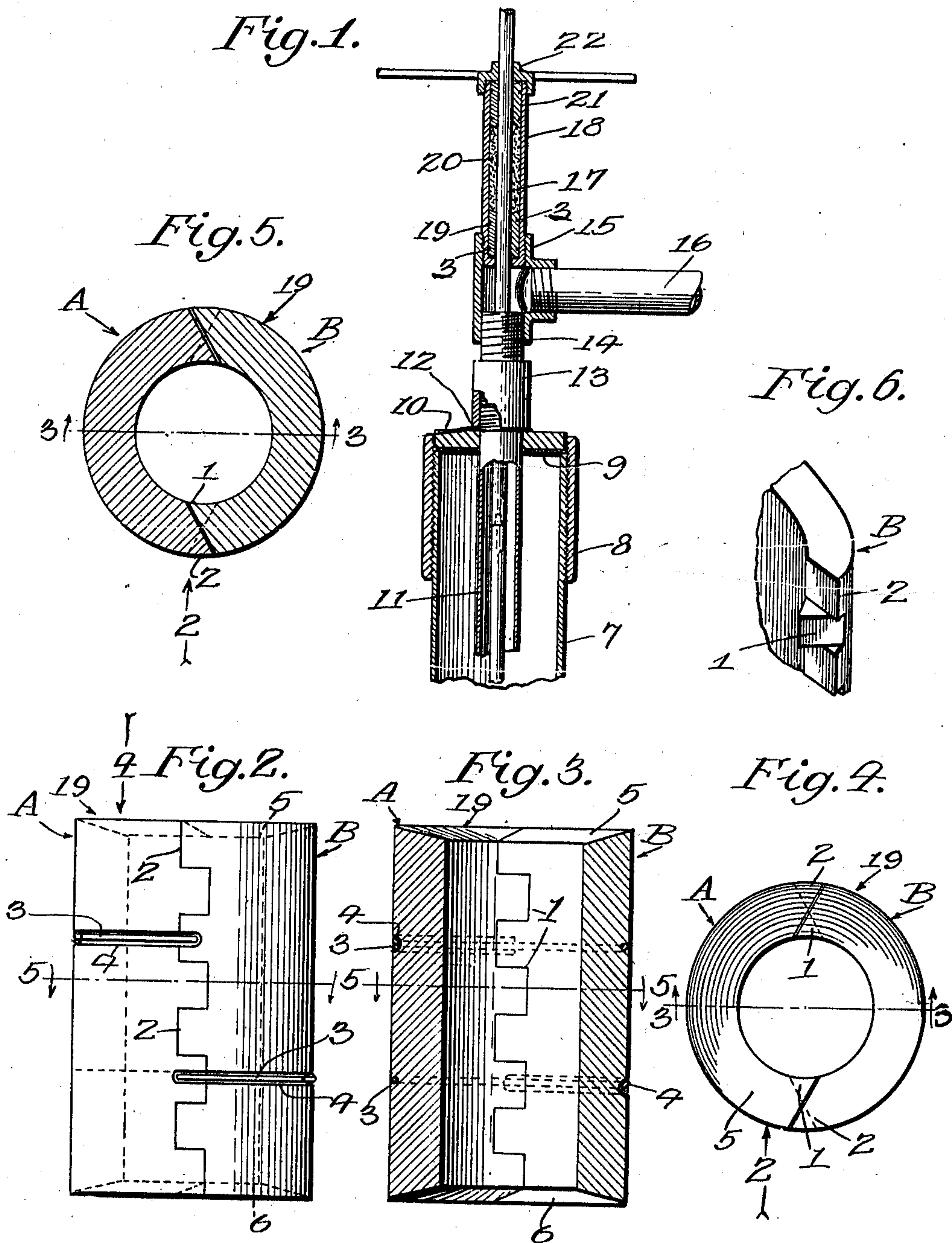


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STUFFING BOX FOLLOWER.  
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993,660.

Patented May 30, 1911.



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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## STUFFING-BOX FOLLOWER.

993,660.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 30, 1911.

Application filed November 22, 1910. Serial No. 593,650.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM G. DRIGGS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Sawtelle, California, have invented a new and useful Stuffing-Box Follower, of which the following is a specification.

My object is to construct a stuffing-box-follower especially for use around the sucker-rod at the top of an oil well; and my invention consists of the novel features herein shown, described and claimed.

In the drawings: Figure 1 is a sectional detail of the top of oil well casing and showing the use of a stuffing-box-follower embodying the principles of my invention. Fig. 2 is an enlarged elevation of the stuffing-box-follower, as seen looking in the direction of the arrows 2 in Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation on a plane parallel with Fig. 2 and on the lines 3—3 of Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 4 is a top plan view as indicated by the arrow 4 in Fig. 2. Fig. 5 is a cross-section on the lines 5—5 of Figs. 2 and 3. Fig. 6 is a fragmentary perspective showing the interlocking teeth.

Referring to the drawing in detail, my stuffing-box-follower consists of two halves A and B, both cast in the same mold, of any suitable boxing metal, such as Babbitt metal.

For a one and one-eighth inch sucker-rod, I make the stuffing-box-follower three inches long and two inches outside diameter. The stuffing-box-follower is divided longitudinally and the meeting edges of the two halves A and B are provided with interlocking mating inside teeth 1 and outside teeth 2, said teeth being arranged alternately and evenly spaced apart, and said teeth crossing a radial line at their centers, so as to break up the line of division and render it tortuous. The teeth of one-half fit between the teeth of the other half and are arranged so that two pieces cast in the same mold will fit together to form the whole.

A tie wire 3 is placed in the mold at one end and cast into the metal with its ends free, and a groove 4 is cast into the periphery of the other end, so that when the two pieces are put together the wire cast in one piece will pass around in the groove of the other piece, and then the ends of the wires may be tied together thus holding the two halves together upon the sucker-rod. Both ends 5 and 6 of the stuffing-box-follower are dished.

The well-casing 7 has a coupling or sleeve

8 upon its upper end. Packing 9 is placed in the sleeve 8 against the end of the casing 7, the cap 10 is placed in the sleeve against the packing, the pump-tubing 11 extends through the cap 10, the packing 12 is placed around the pump-tubing upon the cap, the sleeve-coupling 13 is screwed upon the pump-tubing, the nipple 14 is screwed upon the sleeve, the tee 15 is screwed upon the nipple 14, the overflow pipe 16 is screwed into the tee 15, and the sucker-rod 17 extends through the tee 15.

The stuffing-box-casing 18 is screwed into the upper end of the tee 15, a stuffing-box-follower 19 is inserted downwardly into the casing 17, the stuffing-box-packing 20 is inserted downwardly against the follower, a second follower 21 is inserted downwardly against the packing and a cap 22 is screwed upon the stuffing-box-casing 18, the sucker-rod extending through the stuffing-box and through the cap.

Heretofore the stuffing-box-followers have been solid rings and it was necessary to uncouple the sucker-rod in order to change the followers when they become worn, which is very often. With my divided stuffing-box-follower it is only necessary to slide the followers out of the casing and then separate them.

I claim:

1. A stuffing-box-follower comprising two pieces separable on longitudinal lines, and tie wires cast into one piece and adapted to embrace the other piece.

2. A stuffing box follower comprising two pieces, separable on longitudinal lines; each of said pieces being provided with interlocking mating inside teeth and interlocking mating outside teeth; said teeth being arranged alternately and evenly spaced apart, and said teeth crossing a radial line at their centers, the teeth of one half fitting between the teeth of the other half.

3. A stuffing box follower comprising two pieces separable on longitudinal lines, the meeting edges of the two pieces being provided with interlocking mating teeth arranged alternately and evenly spaced apart so that the teeth of one piece fit between the teeth of the other piece, and the meeting faces of the two pieces crossing a radial line so as to render the line of division tortuous.

4. A stuffing box casing, a sucker rod extending through the casing, a stuffing box

follower inserted downwardly into the casing, a stuffing box packing inserted downwardly against the follower, a second stuffing box follower inserted downwardly  
5 against the packing and a cap screwed upon the stuffing box casing so that the sucker rod extends through the stuffing box followers and packing, and each of said stuffing box  
10 followers comprising two pieces separable on longitudinal lines, and tie wires cast into

one piece and adapted to embrace the other piece so that the two pieces may be tied together to hold the followers upon the sucker rod when the followers are out of the stuffing box casing.

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Witnesses:

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