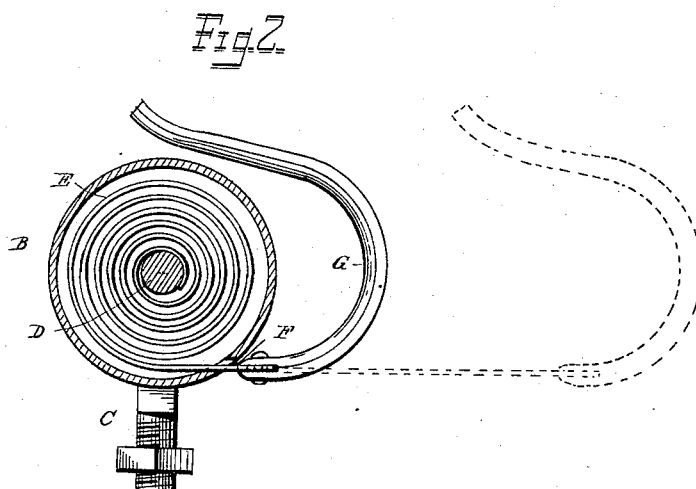
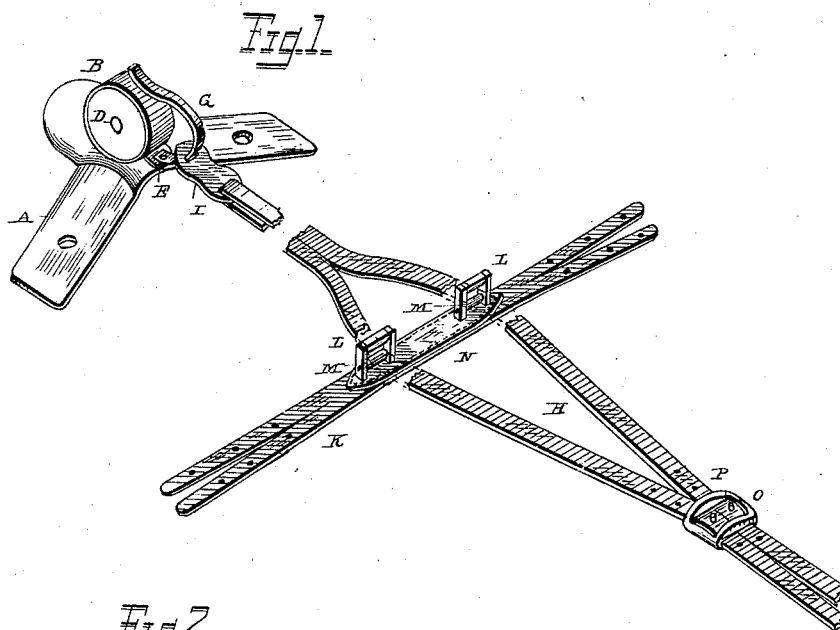


(No Model.)

M. O. SULLIVAN.  
CHECK REIN ATTACHMENT.

No. 302,444.

Patented July 22, 1884.



WITNESSES

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MICHAEL O. SULLIVAN, OF INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS.

## CHECK-REIN ATTACHMENT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 302,444, dated July 22, 1884.

Application filed May 21, 1884. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, MICHAEL O. SULLIVAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Independence, in the county of Montgomery and State of Kausas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Check-Reins, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

My invention relates to certain improvements in overdraw check-reins for horses, and is designed to ease the horse's mouth from sudden pulls or jerks. The roof of a horse's mouth is very tender and susceptible to injury, and for this reason, when overdraw checks are used some means for easing the strain on the horse's mouth should be provided. This is completely accomplished in the hereinafter-described device, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of the device, and Fig. 2 a detail section of a portion of the device.

A represents the ordinary iron-work resting on and secured to the harness-saddle. On this, in place of the usual check-rein hook, is secured a cylindrical box, B, by means of a rod, C, downwardly extending from the said box, passing through a hole in the top of the saddle-iron, and there secured by means of a nut, as shown. The box B has centrally through it a fixed rod, D, to which is secured one end of a flat metallic coiled spring, E, the other passing out of the box, near its bottom, through the slot F therein. The outer end of the spring is riveted in the divided end of a check-rein hook G, the upper or free end of which extends normally backward over the box. This arrangement of parts, extremely simple in construction and operation, allows the check-rein hook to "give" according to the amount of force exerted on it by the horse, its "spring" causing it to retreat into the box when the said force is lessened or entirely taken from it.

The check-rein proper, designated by the letter H, is of usual construction, and is secured to the check-rein hook by the link I, of leather or metal. The check-rein is divided before reaching the horse's ears, as is usual. Ordinarily the divided check is passed over

the crown-piece of the bridle and guided by loops thereon. Where there is no longitudinal motion of the check this arrangement works well; but in a rein constructed to give, as above described, the constant motion would be very detrimental to the harness, as is evident. To prevent such a result, on the crown-piece K, at about the points the check usually crosses, are placed the standards L. Each of these standards consists of two uprights secured to a thin base-plate and a cross top piece. Below the cross-piece are the rollers M, between which and the said cross-piece pass the straps of the divided check-rein, as shown. Before the top piece and rollers are put in place in the standard, the uprights have slipped over them a leather finishing and securing strip, N, the said uprights passing through holes in the same. The bases are thus secured and covered from sight, the strip N being sewed to the crown-piece. It is evident that these friction-rollers and their standards form a very necessary adjunct to the successful operation of the spring check-rein. They not only reduce friction and prevent wear to the harness, but, by being somewhat elevated, they obviate all danger of the check chafing the horse's neck. As the check-rein passes over the face of the horse, it is necessary for the two parts to be brought together and then separated on each side the nose to the bit.

In the spring check-reins it is necessary to adjust the point of contact to suit different horses, so as to bring the pressure as much as possible from the roof of the horse's mouth, the object of the said check being to relieve the animal from pain and injury. This connection is made by means of a rectangular piece or frame, O, having a loop on its under side, on which are raised two lugs, P, which pass through holes in the check-rein straps, which pass, side by side, under the frame and over the loop.

Having described the invention, what I claim is—

1. In a check-rein, the combination, with the said rein, of a check-hook secured to the free end of a metallic spring contained in and secured to a centrally-located fixed rod in a box fastened to the saddle-iron of a harness.

2. In an overdraw check-rein, the combination, with the said rein, connected to a spring check-hook, of the adjustable connecting-piece, rectangular in form, and having a loop on which are raised two lugs, all arranged as and for the purpose specified.

3. In an overdraw check-rein, the combination, with the said rein, of the check-hook connected to a flat, spiral, metallic spring contained in a box and secured to a central rod therein, the box being secured to the saddle-iron, the friction-bearings on the crown-piece

of the bridle consisting of standards carrying friction-rollers, and the connecting-link, rectangular in form and having a loop on which are raised two lugs, all arranged to operate as and for the purpose specified.

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

MICHAEL O. SULLIVAN.

Witnesses:

MARY SCHAUB,  
FRED SCHMIDT.