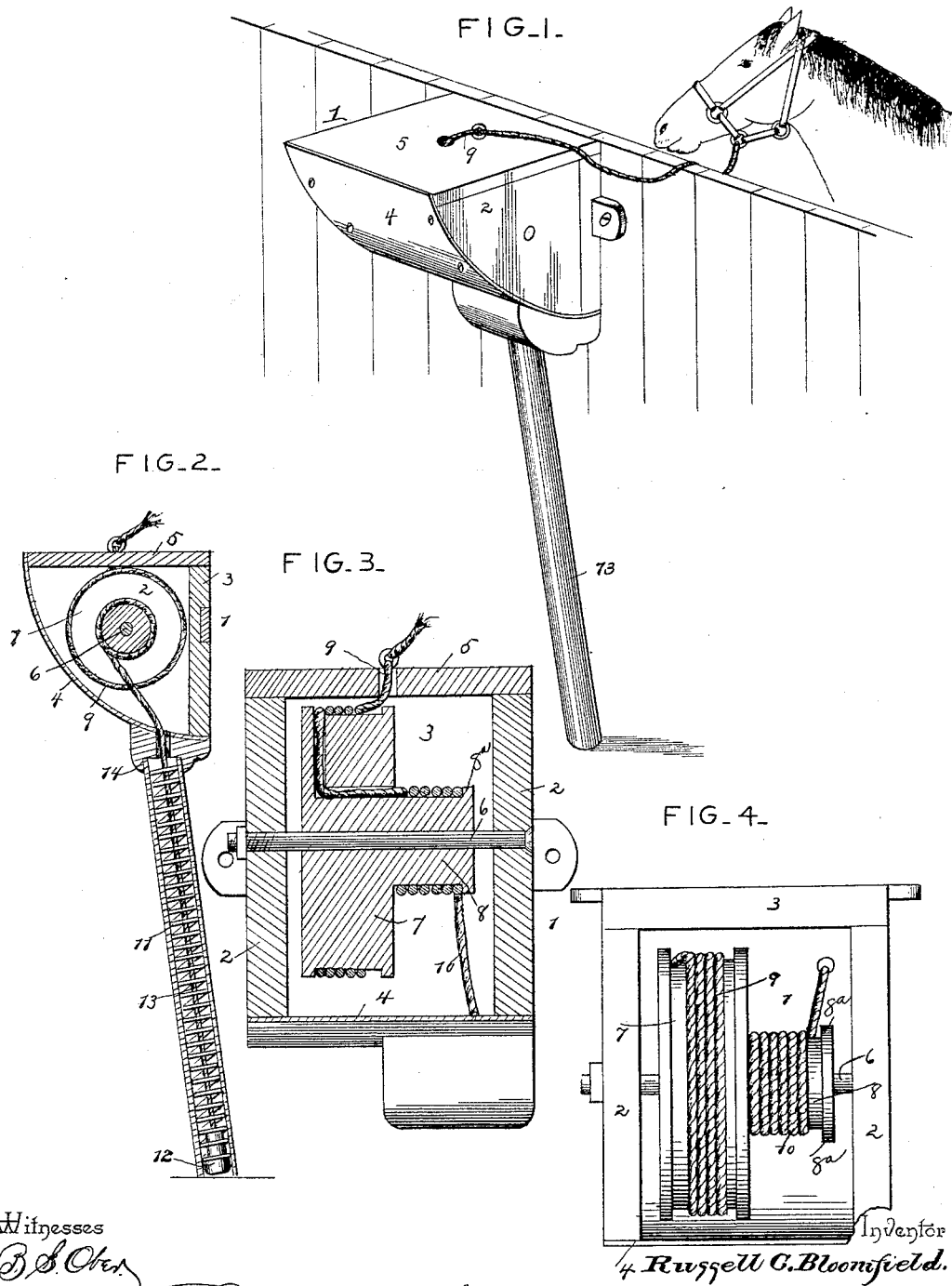


(No Model.)

R. C. BLOOMFIELD.
HITCHING POST.

No. 458,938.

Patented Sept. 1, 1891.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL C. BLOOMFIELD, OF BARNES, KANSAS.

HITCHING-POST.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 458,938, dated September 1, 1891.

Application filed April 23, 1891. Serial No. 390,144. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUSSELL C. BLOOMFIELD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Barnes, in the county of Washington and State of Kansas, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Hitching-Posts, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in hitching devices.

The object of the present invention is to provide a simple and inexpensive hitching device adapted to be placed in a stable or stall thereof or similar place to secure cattle and capable of paying out the hitching-rope as is necessary and taking up slack, whereby all severe strain upon the halter of an animal is prevented.

The invention consists of the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claim hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hitching device embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view. Fig. 4 is a plan, the top of the casing being removed.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 designates a casing adapted to be secured to the side of a stable, barn, or the like, more especially at the head of a stall, and consisting of sides 2, a back 3, and a curved front 4, which also forms the bottom of the casing, and the latter is provided with a top 5. The hitching device is located at the head of a stall, but outside of the same, and the back of the casing is provided with perforated ears. A spindle 6 is journaled in the sides 2 of the casing and has mounted upon it a pulley 7, provided at one side with a sheave 8. On the circumference of the pulley is wound a hitching-rope 9, and the pulley is grooved to receive the same, and is adapted to be rotated as the hitching-rope is pulled upon and drawn out of the casing by an animal. The sheave is provided at its outer end with a flange 8^a, and is adapted to have wound upon it a return rope 10, which may have one end secured

to the sides of the pulley adjacent the sheave and has its other end connected with the lower end of a spiral spring 11, which is compressed as the return rope is wound around the sheave. The lower end of the spiral spring 11 receives a plug 12, which is provided with an opening, and to which the return rope is secured by knotting. The spiral spring is arranged in a tubular post 13, which has its upper end secured in a socket 14, and the latter forms a bearing-surface for the upper end of the spiral spring and is secured to the bottom of the casing near the back thereof. The top of the casing is provided with a central opening, through which the hitching-rope is drawn, and when the hitching-rope is drawn out of the casing the pulley and sheave are rotated and the return rope is wound upon the latter and the spiral spring is compressed and is adapted to return the hitching-rope and take up any slack. The halter rope or strap is attached to the ring of the hitching-rope and is of the ordinary length. The spring is sufficiently strong to prevent the hitching-rope being pulled out more than a few inches by the ordinary movements of a horse's head; but when a horse is lying down and needs more rope in moving about or getting up the hitching-rope will be drawn out, and it is impossible for a horse to exert severe strain on the halter rope or strap.

It will be seen that the hitching device is simple and inexpensive in construction and adapted to readily yield to the movements of an animal, and there is no liability of irritating the latter or inconveniencing it in any way. It is impossible for a horse to draw back and throw its entire weight upon the halter-rope when it rises, and it has to depend altogether upon itself in rising, as the hitching device will allow extra rope to escape until the animal is up and then will take up slack.

What I claim is—

In a hitching-post, the combination of the casing provided with a socket 14, the tubular post having its upper end fitted in the socket, the spiral spring arranged in the tubular post, the spindle journaled in the sides of the casing, the pulley mounted on the spindle

and provided at one side with a sheave, the
hitching-rope wound on the pulley, and the
return rope having one end connected to the
lower end of the spring and its other end at-
5 tached to the pulley and adapted to be wound
on the sheave, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my own I have hereto affixed my signature in
presence of two witnesses.

RUSSELL C. BLOOMFIELD.

Witnesses:

W. C. HAVELY,
J. C. MCARTHUR.