(No Model.)

J. F. VANDYKE.

RELEASING DEVICE.

No. 345,556. Patented July 13, 1886.

Fig. 1.

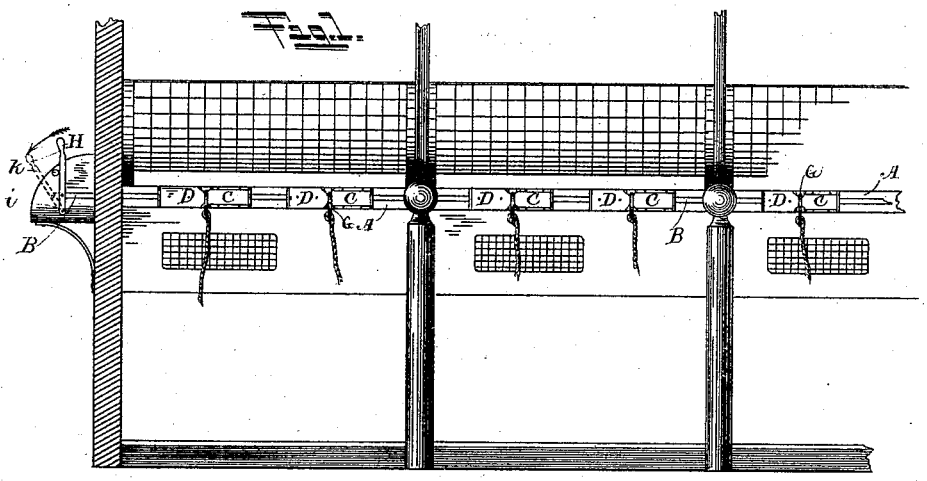


Fig. 2.

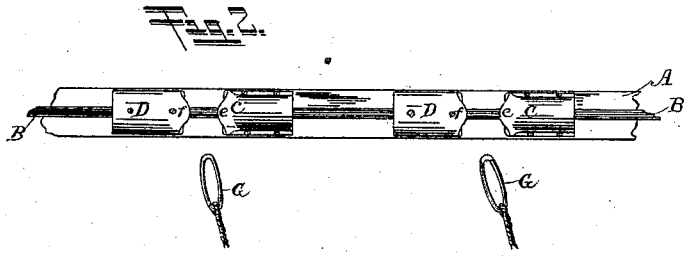
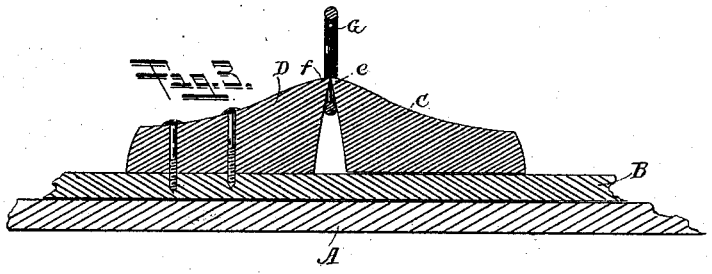


Fig. 3.



WITNESSES

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JAMES F. VANDYKE, OF ANDERSON, INDIANA.

RELEASING DEVICE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 345,556, dated July 13, 1886.

Application filed May 21, 1886. Serial No. 202,885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES F. VANDYKE, of Anderson, in the county of Madison and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Releasing Devices; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, which will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention has for its object the prompt and easy release or detaching from the hitching device of any number of horses or cattle, all by a single action, as is often desirable in case of fire; and it consists in a simple and very efficient device, which will be readily understood from the following description.

Figure 1 illustrates my improved devices sufficiently to make the invention clear, the same being shown applied to a manger, the hitching-jaws being closed. Fig. 2 shows two pairs of the jaws when separated or open, and Fig. 3 a longitudinal central section through one pair of jaws.

A is a piece of board or scantling, which may be of any desired length, according to the size of the barn or stable, or to the number of animals to be hitched in line when fastened in the stable or in their stalls; and, if desired, this piece may have other similar pieces placed in line with it to any needed distance, as my device is applicable for the unhitching of several hundred animals simultaneously. This piece A may either be fixedly secured to the top of the manger, extending the full length of the manger or mangers, or the top of the manger may, if desired, be itself utilized, instead of such piece, as the base or support for the other parts of my device, which are as follows:

B is a slide-bar of any length desired, adapted to be moved lengthwise along the piece A, or along the top of the manger or other part of the barn or stable to which my device may be applied. This slide bar or rod B should be long enough to have one end extend through the wall of the building, so that it shall be accessible to and may be operated by a person outside such building, so that there shall be no need of his entering the same in case of fire for the purpose of unhitching the animals to set them free. Each of these parts A and B has secured or bolted to it other pieces, C or D, respectively, and the slide bar or rod B, which carries the pieces D, slides through holes or mortises made in the stationary pieces C, so that when the bar B is moved in one direction it shall bring the projecting or hooked end *e* of each of the pieces C into contact or close proximity to the corresponding projection or hooked end, *f*, of each of the pieces D, and thus serve to hold securely a ring, G, or any kindred device. To each of these rings a halter or other strap, chain, or rope by which the animal is to be fastened is readily tied or secured, and when this slide-bar B is moved back it serves to release all the animals at once by separating each pair of pieces C D from each other and thus letting the ring fall.

As a simple means for operating the slide-bar I employ a lever, H, which at one extremity may be pivoted or fulcrumed at *i* to any fixed piece or object outside of the barn, and it is also pivoted to this slide-rod. By working the handle or free end of this lever it will be seen that the jaws or hooked ends of the pieces C D may be opened or closed by the operator at will without his entering the barn which may be on fire, and that the device at all times can be operated to release all the animals at once for any purpose. The lever may be locked to place in any simple way—as, for instance, by a stop-pin, *k*, inserted in a hole. It is desirable that the pieces C D project somewhat horizontally, or nearly so, or project downward from their respective bars or supports, in order that the rings may readily drop away from them when the pieces C and D are separated. When the rings are in place and held there by the jaws *e f*, they may and will remain there permanently until all are designedly released together, and any one or more of the animals can at any time be fastened in his stall by tying his halter to the ring G, which remains hanging from the jaws *e f* of his stall.

I claim—

1. In a releasing device, the combination, with a series of fixed pieces, C, having jaws

or hooked ends, of the slide-rod B, pieces D, secured thereto and having jaws or hooked ends, and the lever H, to move the slide-rod, and thereby to cause the pieces D to engage the pieces C, as and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination, the continuous slide rod or bar B, provided with a series of pieces, D, having each a hooked end or jaw, *f*, the series of stationary pieces C, each provided with its hooked end or jaw *e*, a lever and its stopping device outside the building for operating and locking the slide and its hooks or jaws, and a series of halter-rings or kindred devices adapted to be held by the closed jaws and to drop from the open jaws.

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Witnesses:
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