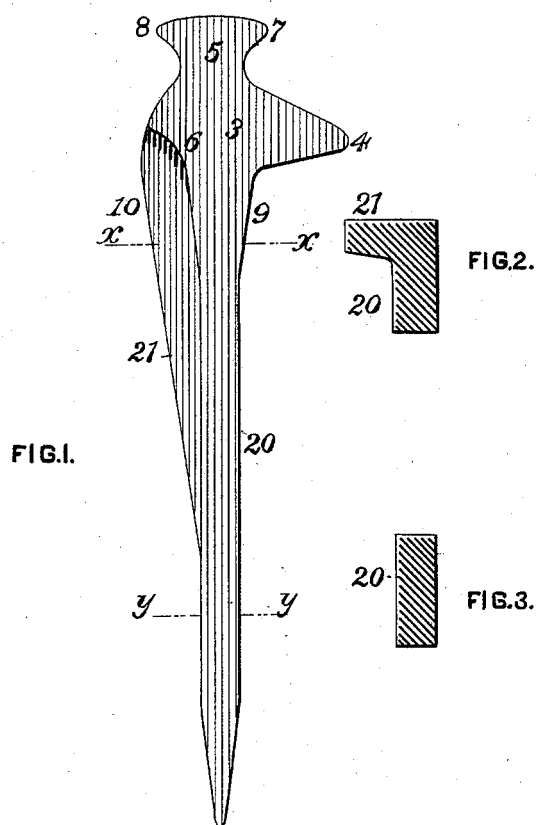


(No Model.)

H. GREER.  
RAILWAY SPIKE.

No. 387,068.

Patented July 31, 1888.



WITNESSES:

*R. H. Whittlesby*  
*P. E. Gaither*

INVENTOR,

*Howard Greer*  
*By George H. Christy* Att'y.

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HOWARD GREER, OF LAKE VIEW, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF, AND MORRIS  
SELLERS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## RAILWAY-SPIKE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 387,068, dated July 31, 1888.

Application filed April 2, 1888. Serial No. 269,347. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HOWARD GREER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lake View, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented or discovered a certain new and useful Improvement in Railroad-Spikes, of which improvement the following is a specification.

Figure 1 is a view in side elevation of a railway-spike illustrating my present improvement. Figs. 2 and 3 are cross-sectional views thereof in the plane of the lines *x x y y*, respectively.

In an application already filed, Serial No. 264,457, I described and laid claim to a railway-spike having a double head and certain other features of novelty; but in the drawings showed such features only as applied to a T-shanked and a rectangular-shanked spike. I believe it to be practical and advantageous to apply some if not all of said features to a spike the shank of which has in cross-section what may for convenience be termed an "L shape;" and to this my present invention relates. Such a spike is shown in the drawings, where the shank 20 has a vertical back rib, 21, but which, instead of extending up and down the middle of the back face of the shank, is made on one edge of such back face, so that a cross-section through its deepest part gives an L-shaped figure, as illustrated in Fig. 2. The lip or hook of the spike, which laps onto the rail-flange, is represented at 4. Above this is the head 5, which has along its opposite edges two ribs or beads, 7 and 8—one, 7, being on the edge or side next the rail, (when driven,) and the other, 8, being on the opposite side or edge. Then it will be seen that a claw-bar can be applied to draw the spike, with the rail-flange as a bearing or fulcrum, and with the handle of the claw-bar working in or nearly in a vertical plane parallel with the line of the track; but this feature in its general application to railway-spike constitutes a part of the subject-matter of said application, Serial No. 264,457, and hence, in this regard, the present case is limited to an L-shanked spike having the beads or ribs referred to. In this connection I have

also shown tapering enlargement 9 along the inner upper face of the spike-shank, which, however, being broadly claimed in the application above referred to, is herein claimed only as an element in an L-shaped spike; also, in said application I provided for a swell or enlargement, 6, on the back of the lower head, 3, so that when, in drawing the spike, a new bite was required, one prong of the claw-bar could be inserted under the lip 4 and the other under the swell 6, the use of the rail-flange as a fulcrum still being retained. The utility of this construction is more obvious with the L form of shank shown than with the T, for the reason that, on working from oneside, the vertical back rib of the shank is more out of the way; and, still further, I provided for a third grip or bite by means of the taper 9 and a taper, 10, on the back face of the vertical rib; but all these elements are claimed generally in the case above referred to, and in the present case are claimed only as constituent elements of a spike having a shank L-shaped as distinguished from T-shaped or rectangular in cross-section.

I claim herein as my invention—

1. A railway-spike having an L-shaped shank, upper head with beads 7 and 8, and a lower head with hook 4, substantially as set forth.

2. A railway-spike having an L-shaped shank, an upper head with beads 7 and 8, and a lower head with hook 4 and swell 6, substantially as set forth.

3. A railway-spike having an L-shaped shank, an upper head with beads 7 and 8, a lower head with hook 4, and an incline, 9, beneath the hook, substantially as set forth.

4. A railway-spike having an L-shaped shank, an upper head with beads 7 and 8, a lower head with hook 4, and inclines 9 and 10, substantially as set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

HOWARD GREER.

Witnesses:

CHARLES F. LOESCH,  
FRANK J. LOESCH.