S. M. NEELY.
ANIMAL TRAP.
No. 560,597. Patented May 19, 1896.

[Diagram of animal trap]

[Signatures of witness and attorney]

Samuel M. Neely.

[Name of attorney]

[Signature of attorney]
To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SAMUEL M. NEELY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Smith's Turn-Out, in the county of York and State of South Carolina, have invented a new and useful Animal-Trap, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an improvement in animal-traps, and has for its object to provide a means of the nature referred to of simple, inexpensive, and efficient construction, which is adapted to be baited and anchored to a tree or other fixed support and to be sprung by the animal in his attempt to remove the bait therefrom.

The trap contemplated in this invention, while particularly designed for catching rodents and the smaller species of animals, may, when manufactured in larger sizes, be equally as well employed for entrapping wild animals of a larger size.

The invention consists in certain novel features and details of construction and arrangement of parts whereby advantages in point of simplicity and economy of manufacture are attained, as hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the drawings, and finally embodied in the claims.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of an improved animal trap constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is an enlarged detail view showing the manner in which one of the spring arms may be made to embrace and support the other arm.

Similar numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in the several figures of the drawings.

Referring to the drawings, the improved trap therein shown is made principally from a stout piece of spring-metal wire. This wire blank is bent at its central portion to form two complete coils 1, after which the terminals are extended in the same direction and at a slight distance apart to form an oppositely-disposed pair of spring-arms 2. After being extended the desired distance these arms are given a bend inwardly toward each other to form oblique or diagonally-extending portions 3, which cross each other, as shown, after which the terminals of the blank are again extended outwardly to form continuations of the spring-arms 2. The extremities of the spring-arms are each given a complete coil or loop 4, and a series of radially-projecting fingers 5 are soldered or otherwise secured to said loops, the extremities of said fingers being bent or hooked inward, as shown, and arranged to intermesh, the fingers of one spring-arm with those of the other arm.

6 designates a bait hook or rest, which is composed of a piece of wire soldered or otherwise secured at its inner end to the advance portion of one of the coils 1, the end thereof which is adapted to receive the bait being disposed between the radial fingers at the extremities of the spring-arms. By this arrangement when the trap is set and the spring-arms held apart it will be necessary for the animal to poke his head between the radial fingers in order to obtain the bait.

7 indicates the trigger, which is pivotally connected at one end to one of the spring arms 2 and also provided near said end with a notch 8, adapted to engage a spur or projection 9 upon the opposite spring-arm for holding said spring-arms in the position shown in Fig. 1. The outer swinging end of said 80 trigger is formed with a series of notches or indentations 10, adapted to receive an anchoring-cord 11, which may be adjusted to anyone of said notches, according to the leverage which is desired to establish for affecting the springing of the trap. If desired, the anchoring-cord may have a branch 12, extending to and connecting with the coils 1, the free end of said anchoring-cord being in practice securely tied to a tree, bush, or other fixed support near the place where the trap is set. If desired, one of the oblique or diagonally-extending portions 3 of one spring-arm may be made double or have an extra piece of wire secured thereto and extending in parallel relation therewith, sufficient space being left between the main arm and the extra wire to receive and permit the movements of the other spring-arm, the object of this construction being to impart additional strength to the device and hold the spring-arms against relative lateral play.

It will be apparent from the foregoing description that as the animal grasps the bait,
which lies between the pointed fingers, and
attempts to remove the same the trigger will
be vibrated by reason of its being anchored
in the manner described, thus springing the
5 trap and catching the head of the animal be-
tween the oppositely-disposed radial fingers.

It will be understood that the trap described
may be manufactured in different sizes and
from spring wire of different gages, and that
10 if preferred the bait hook or rest, instead of
being rigidly connected to one of the coils,
may be mounted loosely or pivotally con-
nected with said coil.

Other changes in the form, proportion, and
15 minor details of construction may be resorted
to without departing from the spirit or sacri-
ficing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what
is claimed as new, and desired to be secured
20 by Letters Patent, is—

1. An animal-trap consisting of a pair of
spring-arms comprising opposing impaling-
jaws and united and actuated by one or more
25 spring-coils, a rigid bait hook or rest secured
to one of the connecting-coils between said
spring-arms at one end and disposed at its op-
posite end between the jaws, a trigger carried
by one of said spring-arms and adapted to
engage with the opposite arm and an anchor-
ing-cord connected to the trigger and adapted
30 to be attached to a fixed object, substantially
as and for the purpose described.

2. An animal-trap comprising a pair of
spring-arms united and actuated by one or
more coils formed integrally therewith, a se-
ries of pointed and inwardly-projecting fin-
gers secured to the free ends of said spring-
arms, a trigger connected with one of said
arms and formed with a notch to engage a
lug or projection upon the opposite arm and
also provided with a series of notches or in-
dentations adjacent to its outer end, and an
anchoring-cord connected with said trigger
and adapted to be secured at its opposite end
to a fixed object, substantially as and for the
45 purpose described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as
my own I have hereunto affixed my signature in
the presence of two witnesses.

SAMUEL M. NEELY.

Witnesses:

J. S. WYLIE,

H. DUFFY.