To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, John J. Tatum, a citizen of the United States, residing at Baltimore, State of Maryland, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stake-Holders for Flat-Cars, of which the following is a specification.

In practice, it has been found that on the ordinary stake holders as now used, when a temporary stake is driven in the pocket to support lumber and other materials that might be loaded on the car, it often happens that in the vibration of the car, the stake works loose and sometimes out of the pocket.

The primary object of the present invention is to overcome this difficulty, to which end, one feature of the invention consists in providing stake pockets with means which are adapted to engage the stake when the stake is received by the pocket and so construct this means as to resist the withdrawal of the stake from the pocket.

A further object of the invention is to provide a stake pocket, as above mentioned, which will be of simple and cheap construction, yet efficient in carrying out its intended use.

Further objects will be apparent from the following description of the accompanying drawings, wherein certain novel features will be described and particularly pointed out in the subsequent claims.

In said drawings—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the inside of one form of stake pocket;

Fig. 2 is a top plan view of a similar form; Fig. 3 is a sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a side elevation on the outside of another form of stake pocket;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view on the line 5—5 of Fig. 4;

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of the outside of another form of stake pocket, and Fig. 7 is a sectional view on the line 7—7 of Fig. 6.

Referring to the drawings in detail, the invention will be first referred to with reference to the form shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3, wherein 5 represents the stake holder which is preferably of a conventional type, having the usual attaching ears 6 which are adapted to be secured to the car by suitable bolts received in the openings 7. The holder is provided with a pocket 8 which is adapted to receive the usual stake (not shown). In order to prevent the stake from creeping, as well as to resist its withdrawal from the pocket, a resilient finger 9 is mounted on the side of the pocket, preferably within a recess 10 formed on the inner side thereof. One end of this finger is secured to the pocket by rivets or bolts 11 which pass through the side of the pocket. This finger is preferably constructed of a flat sheet of steel, readily resilient in order to perform its proper function. The free end of the finger is bent, such as at 12, to project in the pocket and lie normally in the path of the stake when the stake is received by the pocket. This laterally projecting end is preferably provided with a toothed edge 13 which is adapted to be embedded in the stake and, when so embedded, sufficient resistance is offered to prevent the stake from creeping within the pocket.

As stated, the device as thus described, is the preferred form of the device, but it is to be understood that a somewhat different manner of mounting the resilient finger will clearly come within the scope of the subjoined claims. As an illustration, attention is directed to Figs. 4 to 7 inclusive, which show the resilient finger as mounted on the outside of the pocket and by either providing an opening, such as 14, in the pocket through which the free end of the finger may laterally project, or by permitting the laterally projecting free end of the finger to project immediately under the lower opening in the pocket, the same results may be achieved.

Special advantages accrue from combining the features of a sharpened or self-embedded end and a resiliency in a securing means for stake pockets among which may be mentioned the assurance of maintained engagement with and gripping of the stake in spite of vibration of the stake in the pocket when in use, and the constant increase of gripping effect as a result of such vibration.

I claim:

1. In a stake holder for flat cars having a pocket adapted to receive the stake, means adapted to engage the stake, when received by the pocket, and resist its withdrawal therefrom, said means comprising a self-
embedding resilient lateral projection adapted to normally lie in the path of the stake, when received by the pocket.

2. In a stake holder for flat cars having a pocket adapted to receive the stake, means adapted to engage the stake, when received by the pocket, and resist its withdrawal therefrom, said means comprising a resilient projection having teeth provided on its outer edge, said projection adapted to normally lie in the path of the stake, when received by the pocket, the toothed edge of said projection adapted to be embedded in the stake by the act of forcing the stake in the pocket.

3. In a stake holder for flat cars having a pocket adapted to receive the stake, means adapted to engage the stake, when received by the pocket and resist its withdrawal therefrom, said means comprising a resilient finger carried by the holder adapted to project laterally within the said pocket and normally lie in the path of the stake, when received by the pocket, said finger having a toothed outer edge adapted to be embedded in the stake, by the act of forcing the stake in the pocket.

4. In a stake holder for flat cars having a pocket adapted to receive the stake, means adapted to engage the stake, when received by the pocket, and resist its withdrawal therefrom, said means comprising a resilient finger mounted within a recess in the wall of the stake pocket, said finger having a lateral projection provided with a toothed edge and adapted to normally lie in the path of the stake, when received by the pocket, said toothed edge adapted to be embedded in the stake by the act of forcing the stake in the pocket.

The foregoing specification signed at Baltimore, Md., this 1st day of June, 1916.

JOHN J. TATUM.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."