

H. Kewley,
Clothes Tongs,
N^o 42,951, *Patented May 31, 1864.*

Fig. 2.

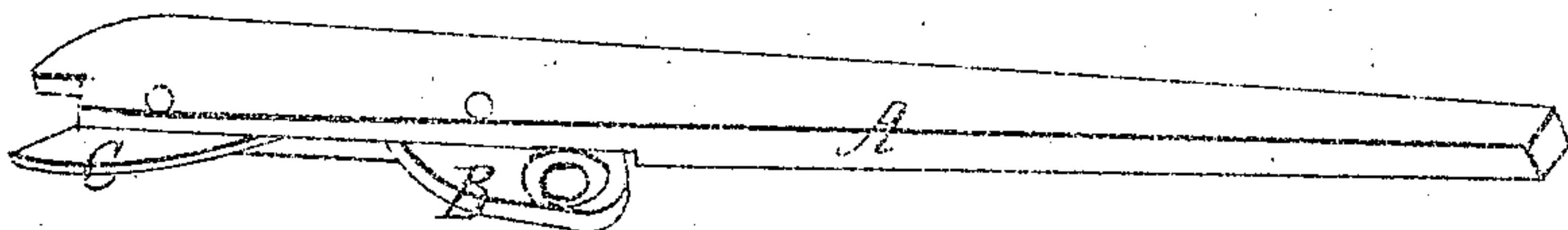
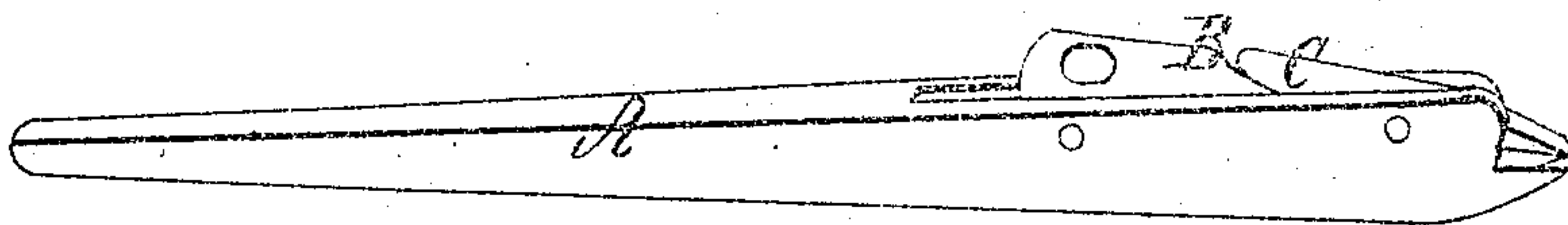


Fig. 1.



Witnesses;
In presence of
E. W. Harris
O. D. George

Inventor,
Henry Kewley

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY KEWLEY, OF PORT HURON, MICHIGAN.

IMPROVED CLOTHES-PINCHER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 42,951, dated May 31, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY KEWLEY, of the city of Port Huron, St. Clair county, and State of Michigan, have invented a new and useful machine or implement for removing boiling clothes from a boiler, and which I call "Clothes-Pinchers;" and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying photographs.

It consists of a piece of hard wood, one inch in thickness, two inches in width at the lower or widest end, and sloping from that to one inch in width at the smaller end or handle, and with the edges rounded and of sufficient length to be convenient—say three feet. This piece is marked A on the accompanying photograph. In the edge of the lower or larger end of this stick A is a groove about fourteen inches long, one inch deep, and three-eighths of an inch wide, and in this groove there is the wedge B, about seven and a quarter inches long, and the larger end wide enough for a handle—say one and three-quarter inch wide—and thin enough to slide easily in the groove of the handle A. This wedge B is kept in place by means of a pin through the handle A and wedge B. In that part of the wedge which is in the groove there is a slot long enough to allow the wedge to slide down far enough to hold in place the jaw C, hereinafter described, as the pin passes through this slot. In this groove is also a jaw, C, about seven inches long and one inch wide in the middle, and sloping nearly to a point at each end. One end of this jaw rests on the wedge B and the other is even with the lower end of the handle A. This jaw is kept in

place by a pin passing through the handle A and the jaw C. When the wedge B is drawn up, as in Figure 2, the jaw is thrown up or open by means of a small spring placed below the pin and in the groove under the jaw. A square notch, about one inch in depth, is cut in the upper side of the lower end of the handle A, forming the immovable part of the jaw. When the wedge B is slid down, as in Fig. 1, the upper end of the jaw is raised, the wedge sliding under it, and the lower end is shut down on the immovable jaw.

The machine is operated thus: The wedge is drawn up and the jaw opens. The lower end with the open jaw is then pressed upon the hot clothes in the boiler, and the wedge pushed down and the jaws closed, and the clothes (one or more pieces at a time) removed to the tub or other receptacle, and the wedge pulled up and the clothes dropped, and the operation repeated till all are removed from the boiler. It is designed to take the place of the broomstick, which women have almost universally used for this purpose, and to avoid the necessity of their scalding their hands, as they are apt to do when using their unhandy broomsticks.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The wedge sliding in the groove and the closing of the jaw by means of the sliding wedge, and thereby grasping firmly in the jaws the clothes in the boiler, and thus enabling the washerwomen to remove them from the boiler without difficulty or danger.

HENRY KEWLEY.

In presence of—

JOHN MCNEIL,
E. W. HARRIS.