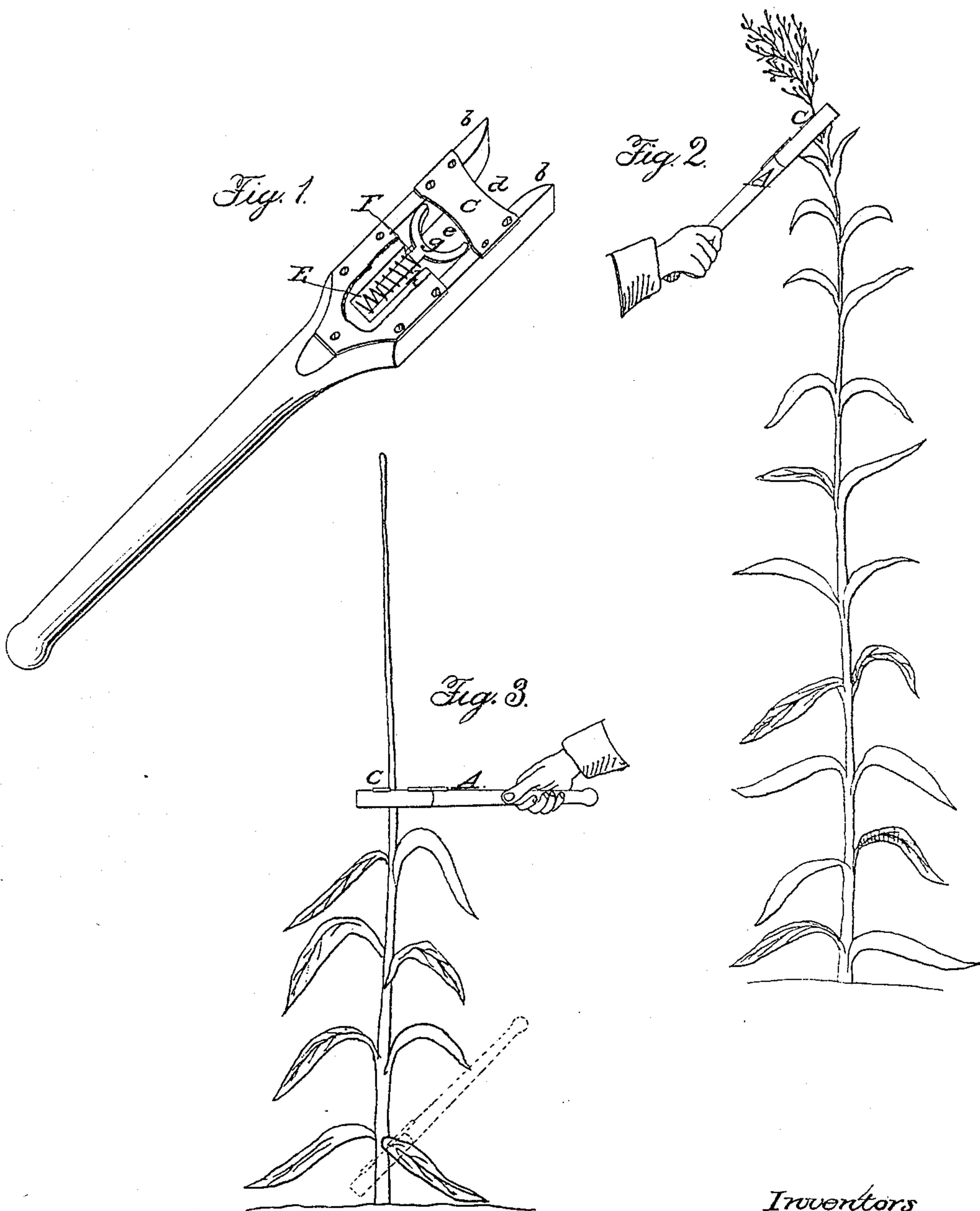


A. D. &amp; L. D. HUFF.

Cane-Stripper.

No 61.940.

Patented Feb. 12, 1867.



Witnesses.  
 Jay Hyatt.  
 James Perkins

Inventors  
 A. D. Huff  
 L. D. Huff  
 by J. Fraser & Co.  
 Attys



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United States Patent Office.

A. D. HUFF AND L. D. HUFF, OF CLINTON, IOWA.

Letters Patent No. 61,940, dated February 12, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN SORGHUM STRIPPER.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, A. D. and L. D. HUFF, of Clinton, in the county of Clinton, and State of Iowa, have invented a new and improved Instrument for Stripping and Cutting Sorghum and other Sugar Canes; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of our instrument.

Figure 2 is a view of the same represented in the act of "topping."

Figure 3, a view showing the manner of stripping and cutting the stalk after it has been topped.

Like letters of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Our improvement relates to the construction of an instrument by which sorghum and other canes can be topped, stripped, and cut by three motions; and the invention consists of a knife formed with two cutting edges for topping and cutting, in combination with a self-adjusting stripper, which acts conjointly with one of the said edges, all as hereafter fully set forth.

In the drawings, A represents the wooden handle and stock of the instrument, of suitable and convenient length, with the operating end divided into forks or guides, *b b*. C is the knife, formed out of a single plate, secured to the upper side of the stock A, near its end, and provided with two (preferably concave) cutting edges, *d e*, as shown. F is the stripper iron, provided with a forked or curved end, *g*, which is designed to press against the stalk of the cane on one side, while the edge *e* of the knife operates on the other during the operation of stripping, as shown in fig. 3. The shank *h* of this iron is encircled by a coiled spring, *l*, or its equivalent, which is secured in a groove in the stock, as shown, or in any other suitable manner, the spring operating to keep the stripper pressed against the stalk, and also allow it to yield to adapt itself to stalks of different sizes.

Our instrument is operated as follows: first, the stalk is topped by an inclined thrust upward, the outwardly inclined prongs *b b* guiding the stalk to the edge *d* of the knife, which readily cuts off the worthless portion at the point desired, as shown in fig. 2; second, the instrument is then brought to such a position as to bring the end of the topped stalk between the edge *e* of the knife and the curved end *g*, fig. 3, when the instrument is slipped down the stalk, stripping off the leaves with a single movement; third, the stalk is severed at the bottom by a pull in an upwardly inclined direction, the edge *e* performing the operation with the greatest ease, as represented in red lines, fig. 3.

The chief advantage of our improvement is the amount of labor which is saved by its use, as an operator with one of our instruments can perform the work of four ordinary men. It is cheap and simple in construction, and easily operated. The stripper iron, with the curved edge *e* of the knife, fits all sides of the stalk, and readily adjusts itself, by means of its spring, to all sizes, while the cutting is accomplished by the most easy and natural movement.

What we claim as our invention, is—

The knife C, provided with two cutting edges *d e*, the first for topping with an endwise thrust, and the other for cutting when drawn back, when combined with the forked guides *b b* of the stock A and solid curved stripper F, arranged and operating substantially in the manner and for the purposes described.

In witness whereof we have hereunto signed our names in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

A. D. HUFF,  
L. D. HUFF.

Witnesses:

H. S. HYATT,  
F. H. WOODWORTH.