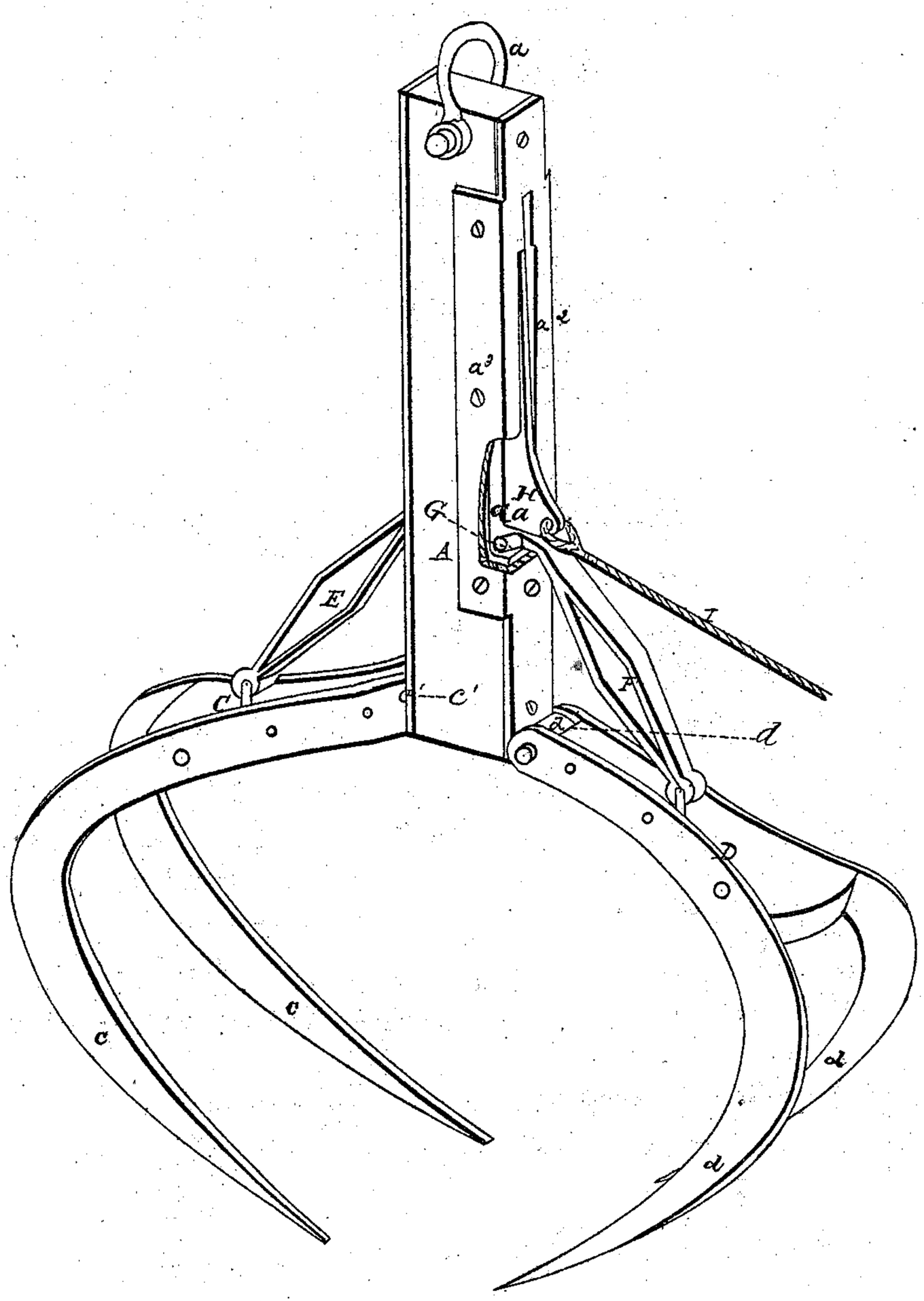
C. E. Lins.

Horse-Hay Fork.

No. 81517 Patented Aug. 25, 1868.

Fig. 3.



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CHARLES E. LINS, OF ASHLAND, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 81,517, *dated August* 25, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN HORSE HAY-FORKS.

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

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. LINS, of Ashland, in the county of Schuylkill, and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Horse Hay-Forks; and I do hereby declare that the following is a sufficiently full, clear, and exact description thereof, to enable one skilled in the art to which my said invention appertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawing which is made a part of this specification.

The subject of my invention is a horse hay-fork, of novel and simple construction and operation. It consists of a pair of jaws, composed of a plurality of tines, attached to a suitable handle or stock, the one by a rigid and the other by a hinge joint. The hinged or movable jaw is connected, by means of a suitable rod or brace, to a slide or roller working in a recess in the face of the stock, and engaged by a suitable catch to lock the jaws in their closed position.

In the drawings—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved fork, in its closed or set position.

Figure 2 is a side elevation thereof, open, and in the position in which it is driven into the hay.

Figure 3 is a perspective view, showing a different construction of the locking-devices from that represented in the other figures.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

A may represent the stock or handle, which may be of any suitable form, and is provided at its upper end with a loop or eye, *a*, for the reception of the elevating-rope B, and has attached to it, at its lower end, a pair of jaws, C D, each of which is preferably composed of a plurality of tines, *c d*, and are connected to said stock by the rigid and hinged joints *c' d'* respectively.

E is a rigid brace, connecting the fixed jaw C, at a suitable distance from its intersection with the stock A, to said stock, for the purpose of strengthening it, and F, a rod, similar to the brace E, connecting the movable jaw D, at a corresponding point, to the locking-devices.

In figs. 1 and 2, the rod or brace F is represented as provided with a widened and slotted upper end, *f*, to adapt it for attachment to a sliding block, G, working in a recess, a^1, in the stock A, and held from lateral displacement in said recess by means of guides, *g g'*.

H is a spring-latch, attached to the stock in any suitable manner, and working in a slot, a^2, in its face, and adapted to engage with the upper end of the block G, to hold said block in its depressed position, represented in fig. 1.

In fig. 3, the widening and slotting of the end *f* of the rod or brace F is represented as dispensed with, and said end, of the same or a less width, working in the slot a^2, which is elongated for that purpose.

The slide G is composed of suitable studs or pins projecting from the sides of the rod, and occupying the recess a^1, the sides of which are thus adapted to be closed, as represented at a^3, thus greatly increasing the strength of this part of the apparatus.

The latch H is composed of a flat bar of metal, or other similar material, pivoted at its upper end, and adapted to close by gravity over the slide G of the rod F, to hold the jaws in their closed position, as represented.

I represents the trip-cord, which is attached to the latch H, as shown. By pulling said cord, the latch is retracted, releasing the slide G, and thus allowing the jaw D to open to discharge the load.

The shape of the tines is such that the load exerts a continuous pressure on the locking-devices, so that when released the movable jaw will readily open to discharge the load. By hinging one jaw only, the load is discharged to that side, and the fork is thus adapted to pitch the hay to the sides and corners of the mow, when desired, instead of dropping it always directly under the fork.

To enter the fork into the hay, it being in the position represented in fig. 2, the jaw D is first forced down by pressing on it with the foot, and then, while still holding it, the jaw C is inserted by forcing the upper end of the stock back, thus bringing the slide G to its depressed position, when the latch H engages with it, and

holds the jaws in the position into which they have been forced. The fork is then elevated by means of the rope B, and, having reached the desired locality, by drawing the cord I the latch is retracted and the jaws allowed to open, discharging the load, as before described.

The several parts of my improved fork may be made of combined wood and metal, as represented, or in any other approved mode. I also propose substituting a roller for the slide G, when desired, and otherwise modifying the form of the various parts, as may be preferred.

Having described my invention, I claim as new therein, and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. The combination, with the movable jaw D, of the slide G, connecting-rod F, and latch H, arranged and operating in the manner and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combined arrangement of the stock A, rigid and hinged jaws C D, brace E, rod or brace F, slide G, and latch H, all substantially as described, for the purposes specified.

CHARLES E. LINS.

Witnesses:

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