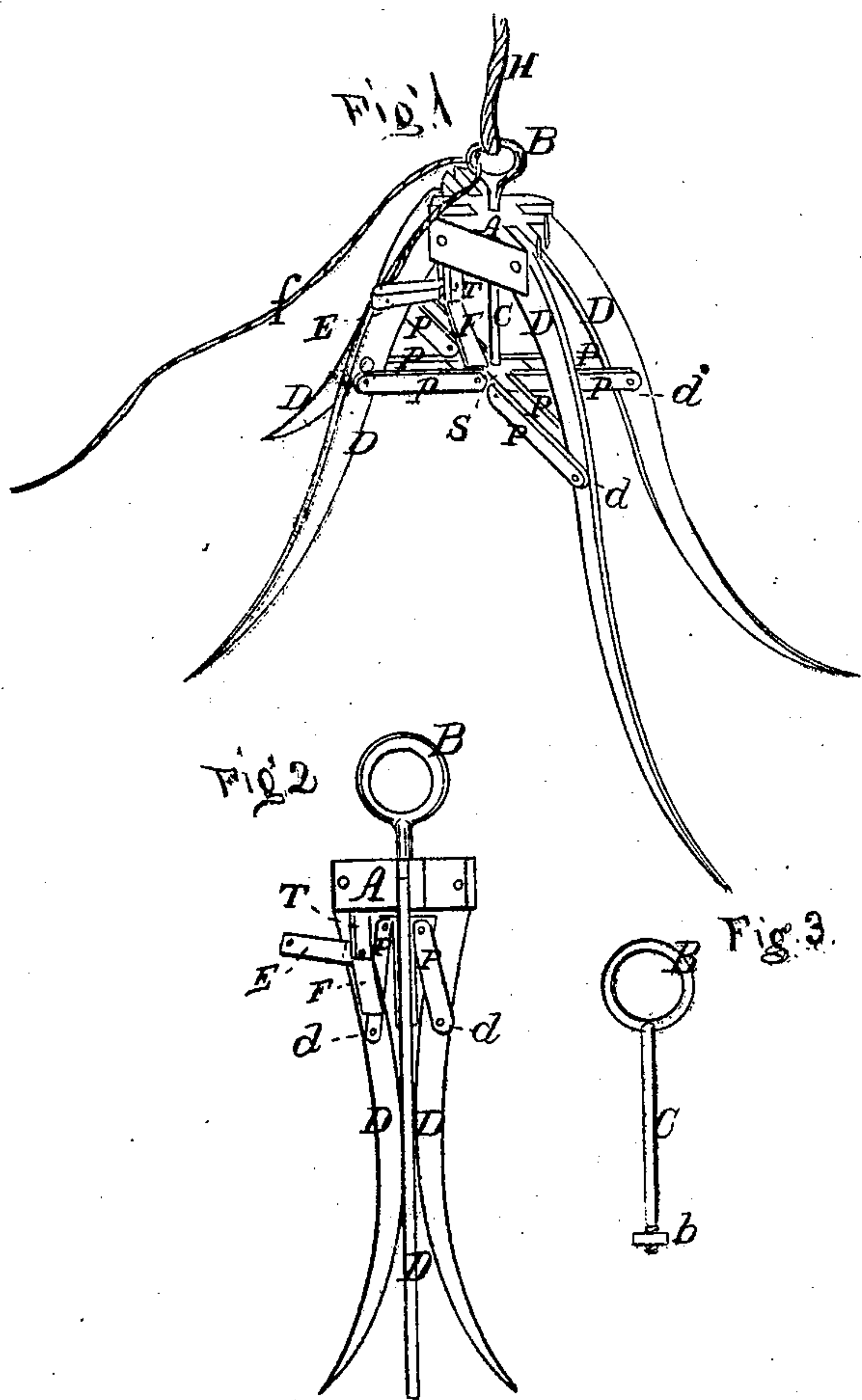


R. S. Sheldon.
Hay Fork.

No. 85,702.

Patented Jan. 5. 1869.



Witnesses.
G. L. Chapin
A. Hayward

INVENTOR.
R. S. Sheldon

United States Patent Office.

ROSCOE S. SHELDON, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

Letters Patent No. 85,702, dated January 5, 1869.

IMPROVEMENT IN HORSE HAY-FORKS.

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

To all whom this may concern:

Be it known that I, ROSCOE S. SHELDON, of Chicago, in the county of Cook, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Horse Hay-Forks; 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 drawings, and letters marked thereon, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective representation of my invention, with the prongs spread out and in position to raise hay.

Figure 2, an elevation of the same, with the arms closed.

Figure 3, an elevation of the guide-bar, removed from the cross-head.

The present invention relates to an improvement in that class of hay-forks which have expanding arms or prongs, for grasping the hay; and

Its nature consists in the use of a vertical bar, which is put through the upper cross-head and extends downward between the prongs far enough to provide a guide for the inner ends of the braces, their outer ends being pivoted to a lower cross-head which slides on the bar, and thus allows the prongs to readily open and close; and, further, in the application of a weighted elbow-toggle for locking the prongs when they are expanded.

To enable others to fully comprehend the construction and operation of my invention, I have marked corresponding parts with similar letters, and will now give a detailed description.

A represents the upper cross-head, which is made of metal, and has pivoted to its angles the ordinary prongs D D D D for grasping the hay.

A metal bar, C, is put through the cross-head A, and fastened to it, and it extends downward between the prongs D far enough to provide a guide for a lower cross-head, S, which is arranged to slide on the bar C, and it has pivoted to its arms four pairs of braces, P P, &c.

These braces are pivoted, at their opposite ends, to

the prongs D, and hold them in position when they are raising hay.

The device for locking the braces consists of an elbow-toggle, E F, which is made of metal, and pivoted to lugs T projecting downward from the cross-head A. The end, E, of the toggle being weighted, brings the end, F, of the same over the lower cross-head, and thus locks the braces.

A nut, b, is turned on the end of the bar C, as shown at fig. 3, to prevent the lower cross-head from sliding down too far and getting out of place.

By this construction and arrangement a very simple, durable, and convenient fork is provided, and one that is not liable to break or get out of order, like those forks that have long bars projecting above the cross-head A, and elbow-braces pivoted to their tops and to the prongs.

When the braces P are properly adjusted, their inner ends will have such an upward inclination as will permit the prongs D to draw together as soon as the toggle E is removed from the cross-head S.

Operation.

The fork is suspended by a rope, H, fastened to the ring B, and it is supposed to be raised and lowered in the usual manner.

The prongs D are to be forced into the hay far enough to bring the cross-head S under the toggle F.

The hay is loosened from the prongs by drawing on the rope f.

Having thus described my invention,

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

The prongs D D, cross-head A, braces P P, bar C, and cross-head S, locked by the toggle E F, arranged substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

R. S. SHELDON.

Witnesses:

G. L. CHAPIN,
A. HAYWARD.