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J A I R U S O S G O O D, O F B L U E H I L L, M A I N E.

Letters Patent No. 94,128, dated August 24, 1869.

## IMPROVEMENT IN MACHINE FOR MAKING SOD-FENCE.

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, JAIRUS OSGOOD, of Blue Hill, in the county of Hancock, and State of Maine, have invented a new and improved Machine for Making Sod-Fences; 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, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section.

Figure 2 is a top view.

The object of this invention is to provide for public use a machine so constructed and operating that it will cut and raise successive sods from the ground, deposit them one on another, and press them down, so as to form a neat and compact sod-fence.

In the drawings—

A A' represent the two sides, and B, the inclined bottom of that part which supports the cutters, and first receives and conducts away the sod.

C C are two parallel arms, fastened to the upper edges of the sides A A', and projected forward, as shown clearly in fig. 1.

At their forward ends the arms C C support a roller, D, to which is attached a tongue or draught-pole, E.

Behind the roller D, the two arms support a second roller or cylinder, F, to the ends of which are attached parallel cutting-disks or saws, G G, which determine the width of the sod.

To the lower edge of the inclined bottom B is fixed a horizontal cutting-blade, H, which determines the depth of the sod.

The rear end B', of the incline B, is a separate piece, articulated to the other part by a hinge, b, so as to be capable of swinging up and down.

At its rear edge the part B' is connected by a tenon, a, to a laterally-swinging platform, I, the tenon loosely entering an open slot or gain in the front edge of the part I, and being held there by a vertical bolt, a', in such a manner that the part I can swing on the bolt a' as a pivot. The front end of the part I is rounded, and the rear end of the part B' made concave to fit it, as shown in fig. 2, so that, as the part I swings to one side or the other, the joint will not be opened.

At its rear end the platform I is connected to an incline, K, by means of a hinged piece, K', and a tenon-joint, i i', exactly similar to the hinged piece B', and tenon-joint, that connects it to the incline B. The part K K' swings laterally with relation to the part I.

The connecting piece K' is supported upon a sled, L, having two or more rollers, l l, arranged as shown.

The rear or lower end of the incline K has a roller, O, under it, for the purposes hereinafter set forth.

The rollers l l can be fixed higher or lower in the sled, as desired, a series of holes, e e e, being provided to accommodate them.

Chains, c c' c'', extend from the front end of the sled to the parts A and I, and from the platform I to the walls A A', as shown in the drawings, forming stays, to keep the several parts in the proper relative positions to each other.

M is the driver's seat.

N N' are side walls to the platform I and parts K' K, to prevent the sod from running off at the sides of the machine. These walls may be curved on one or both sides, as shown at N', to prevent friction, and their ends, near the joints, may be turned outward, as seen at n, in order not to project into the path traversed by the sod, in whatever position the several parts of the machine may be.

The parts are so constructed that the sod cut from the ground by the action of the cutters G G H is, by the forward motion of the machine, forced back up the incline B and over the parts I K' K, and is dropped continuously, grass-side up, from the rear edge of the latter incline.

The machine is not limited to any particular number of parts, corresponding to those shown at I K' and L, but any desired number may be employed, according to the height of the fence to be made.

The method of operating the machine is very simple. The line of the fence having been determined upon, a single continuous strip of sod is cut out immediately contiguous to the base of the proposed fence, and is deposited upon the ground along the said line. In returning, the machine cuts a similar strip from the other side of the fence, and deposits it upon the strip first laid down. The machine is then adjusted to cut another strip, of equal size, from the side first operated upon, carry said strip across the open space from which the first sod was taken, and deposit it, in turn, upon the fence, as the third layer.

In its second return trip, it cuts out, without further adjustment, a similar strip on the opposite side of the fence, and puts it in place as the fourth layer and so on, till the fence is completed.

The several parts of the machine are constructed of such a size, and so adjustable that they can be readily set to cut the several layers, and deposit them as above set forth. The manner in which the machine is thus adjusted will be clearly understood from fig. 2, which represents it as prepared to cut out the first and second layers. It will be observed in this figure that the right edge of the part K, which delivers the sod, is in line with the left edge of the part G G, which cuts it, so that the sod cut from the track of the machine is laid immediately at the left side of said track.



At the next cut, for the third and fourth layers, the delivering part K will be set so that its right edge will come where its left edge is now seen fig. 2, in other words, so that it will deliver the sod one "width" further to the left than before, and so on at each successive "trip" of the machine. In making the several cuts, the chains above described will be adjusted to hold the parts firmly in position.

In the first trip the rollers *ll* will be adjusted in the lower holes; in the subsequent trips they will be adjusted as much higher as may be necessary. So, too, during the first trip the roller O will be employed. Afterward it may be taken out, if preferred, and the rear edge of the part K be allowed to rest upon the fence that is making, in which case it will operate to press down the successive layers of sod, and render the fence more compact and uniform.

The sled is designed to bestride the fence during its formation, causing the rollers *ll* to press also upon the successive layers of sod, and level them down, as the machine is moved along.

Having thus described my invention,

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

1. The combination of the cutters G G H, with the incline B, the laterally-swinging platform I, and the delivering-part K, arranged and connected so as to adapt them to cut out the sod, and deposit it at the side of the track made by the machine, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

2. In combination with the parts I K K', constructed and operating as above set forth, the guide-sled L, as and for the purpose specified.

3. The combination of the adjustable rollers *ll* with the guide-sled L, as and for the purpose set forth.

4. The combination of the incline B or K, with the laterally-swinging platform I, the vertically-swinging connecting-piece B' or K', and the joints *b a*, or *k i*, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

JAIUS OSGOOD.

Witnesses:

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JAMES H. GRIDLEY.