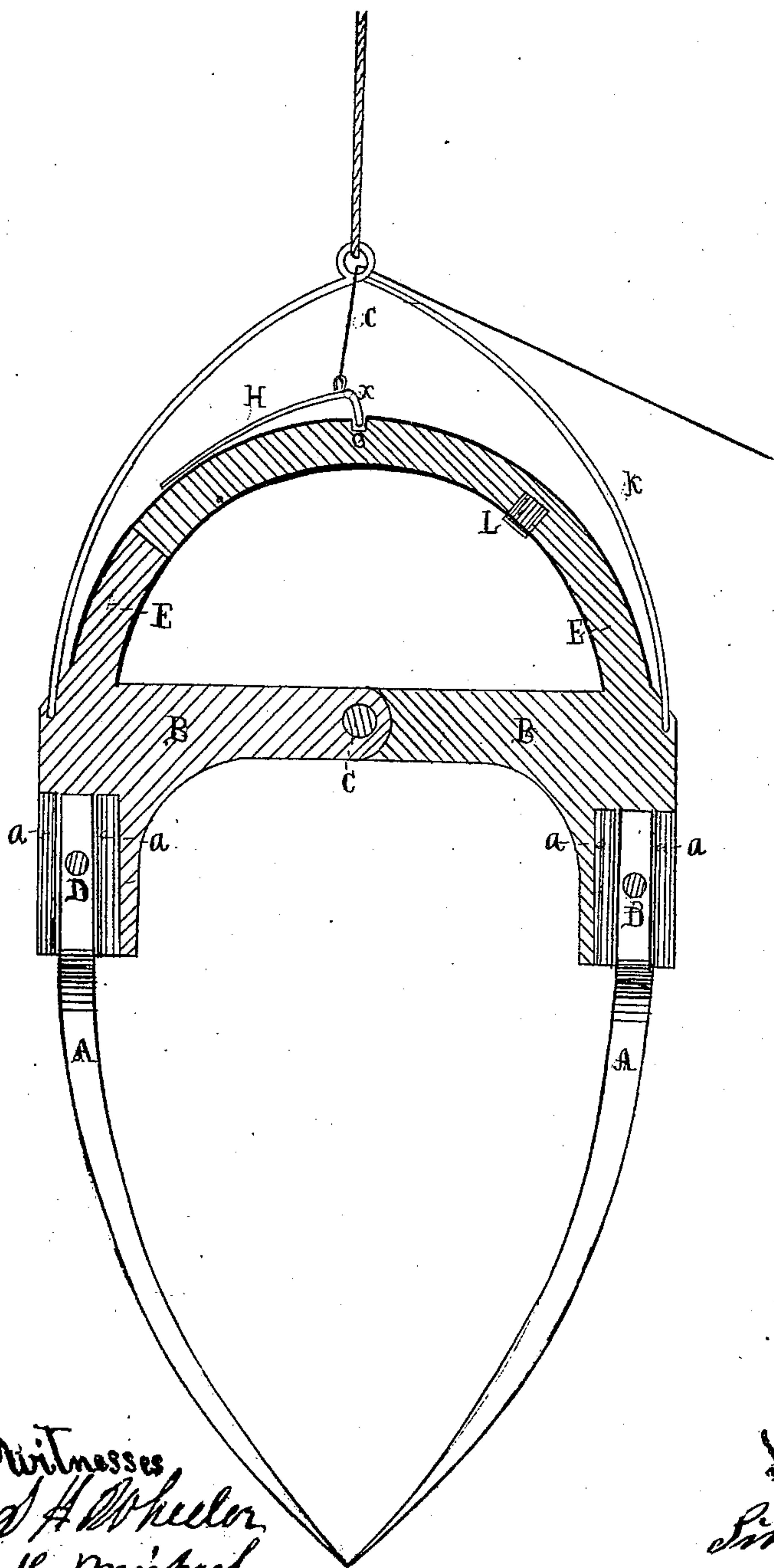


S. Slack,
Hay Fork.

No. 94142.

Patented Aug. 24. 1869.



Witnesses
J. H. Wheeler
H. Michael

Inventor
Simon Slack

United States Patent Office.

SIMON SLACK, OF DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF
AND E. G. SALISBURY.

Letters Patent No. 94,142, dated August 24, 1869.

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, SIMON SLACK, of Dowagiac, in the county of Cass, and State of Michigan, 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, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in its great simplicity, cheapness, and durability, at the same time possessing all of the advantages of that class of horse hay-forks known as double or grappling-forks, as will be seen from the following description, showing that the entire apparatus is made with but one pivoted joint.

To enable others to make and use my invention, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings—

A A represent two forks, attached to the cross-head B by means of the bolts D D, and held in their proper position by means of the flanges *a a a*.

Each of the forks is constructed with two separate tines, which are attached to opposite sides of the cross-head in each fork respectively.

Said cross-head is made in two parts, and pivoted at C.

Each part is provided with an upward and inward curved arm E E, which overlap each other, and when the fork is in position for its load, these arms form a true semicircle above the cross-head. These arms also form a convenient handle for manipulating the fork.

A recess, *o*, is formed in the upper edge of these arms, into which the latch *x* drops, when the forks are in position to move their load, and by which they are retained in position, until liberated by means of the trip-cord G.

Said latch is attached to a spring, as seen at H, for the purpose of throwing it into the recess *o*.

One of the circular arms is provided on the under edge with a keeper, as seen at L, which partially embraces the other arm, and holds them both in place, at the same time allowing one to slide past the other.

A flexible or stiff bail may be used, as seen at *k*, to which the hoisting-rope is attached.

It will be seen that the curve in the points of the fork-tines will draw them together, as they are pressed into the hay, when the latch *x* will engage with the recess *o*, making the fork self-adjusting.

It will also be seen, that when the latch is disengaged, the forks will swing apart and drop their load.

Having thus fully described my invention,

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

The circular arms E E, latch *x*, spring H, and keeper L, in combination with the cross-head B and forks A A, when constructed and arranged as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing, I have hereunto set my hand, this 24th day of May, 1869.

SIMON SLACK.

Witnesses:

S. H. WHEELER,

H. MICHAEL.