

United States Patent Office.

LEONARD R. SHIPMAN, OF BLOOMSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.

Letters Patent No. 106,514, dated August 16, 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOWING-HOOKS FOR CANAL-BOATS.

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, LEONARD R. SHIPMAN, of Bloomsburg, in the county of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Tow-Hooks; 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 annexed drawing making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawing is a top view of my invention;

Figure 2 is a side view; and

Figure 3 is a central vertical longitudinal section of the same.

My invention relates to means for casting off the tow-rope of a canal-boat; and consists in the construction and novel arrangement of an adjustable tow-hook, designed to be secured at any part of the deck, and provided with a spring catch, whereby it may be cast loose at a moment's warning, and the loop of the rope allowed to slip off.

The letter A, of the drawing, designates the bed-plate of the tow-hook.

It is provided with a projection at *n*, and a slot at *z*, whereby it may readily be secured by means of two staples, *r r*, and the confining-hook *s*, at any point of the deck of the boat.

K represents the hook or post, over which the loop

of the tow-rope is passed after being carried through the ring L.

The hook K is hinged to the bed-plate at its forward end. Its rear end extends horizontally along the surface of the bed-plate, and is notched at *n* to receive the point of the spring-catch G.

l is the operating-rope, usually carried within reach of the helmsman.

My invention is designed to prevent the frequent breaking of tow-ropes, and the accidents to the horses and mules which frequently happen in consequence of the fouling of the rope.

It will also save time in passing through locks, especially at night, as the helmsman will be able to cast off at the proper time without calling on a second person.

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

The tow-hook herein described, having bed-plate A, with toe *n* and slot *z*, hinged post K, ring L, and catch G, operated by spring, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the above, I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

LEONARD R. SHIPMAN.

Witnesses:

C. B. BROCKWAY,
F. COOLEY.