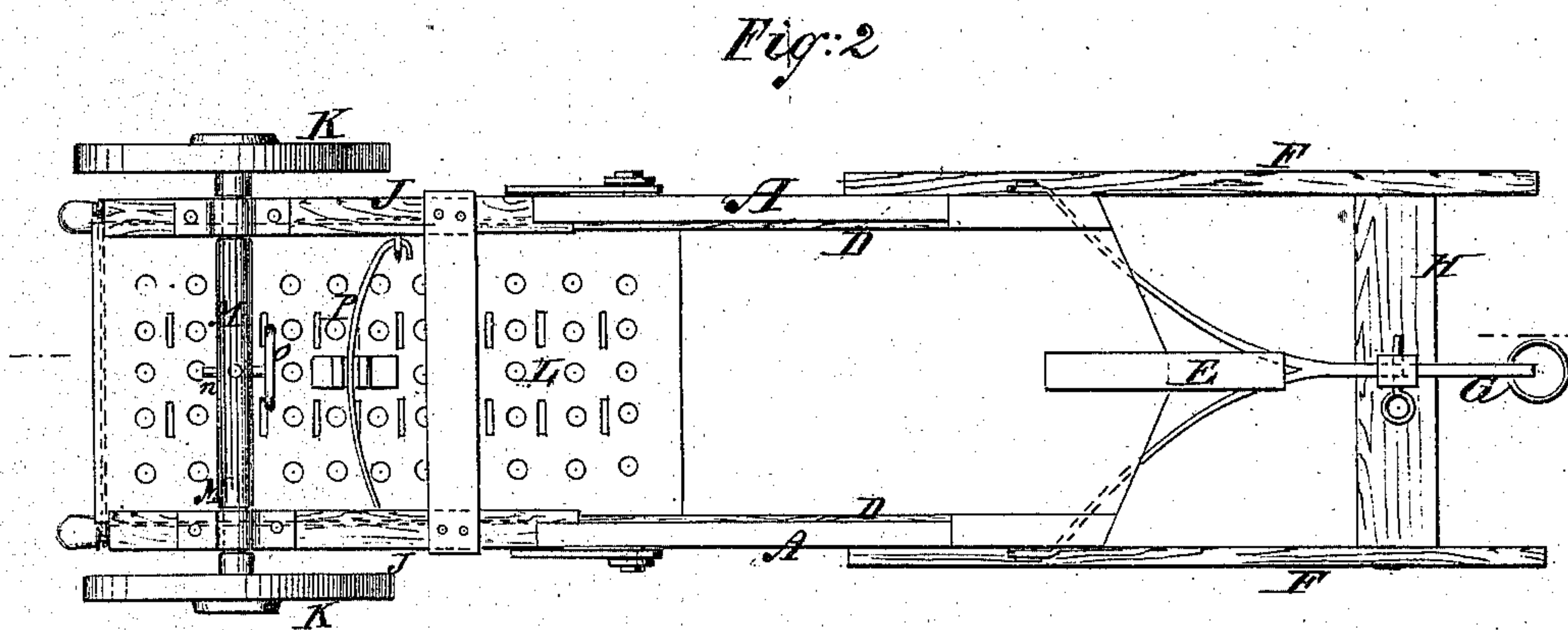
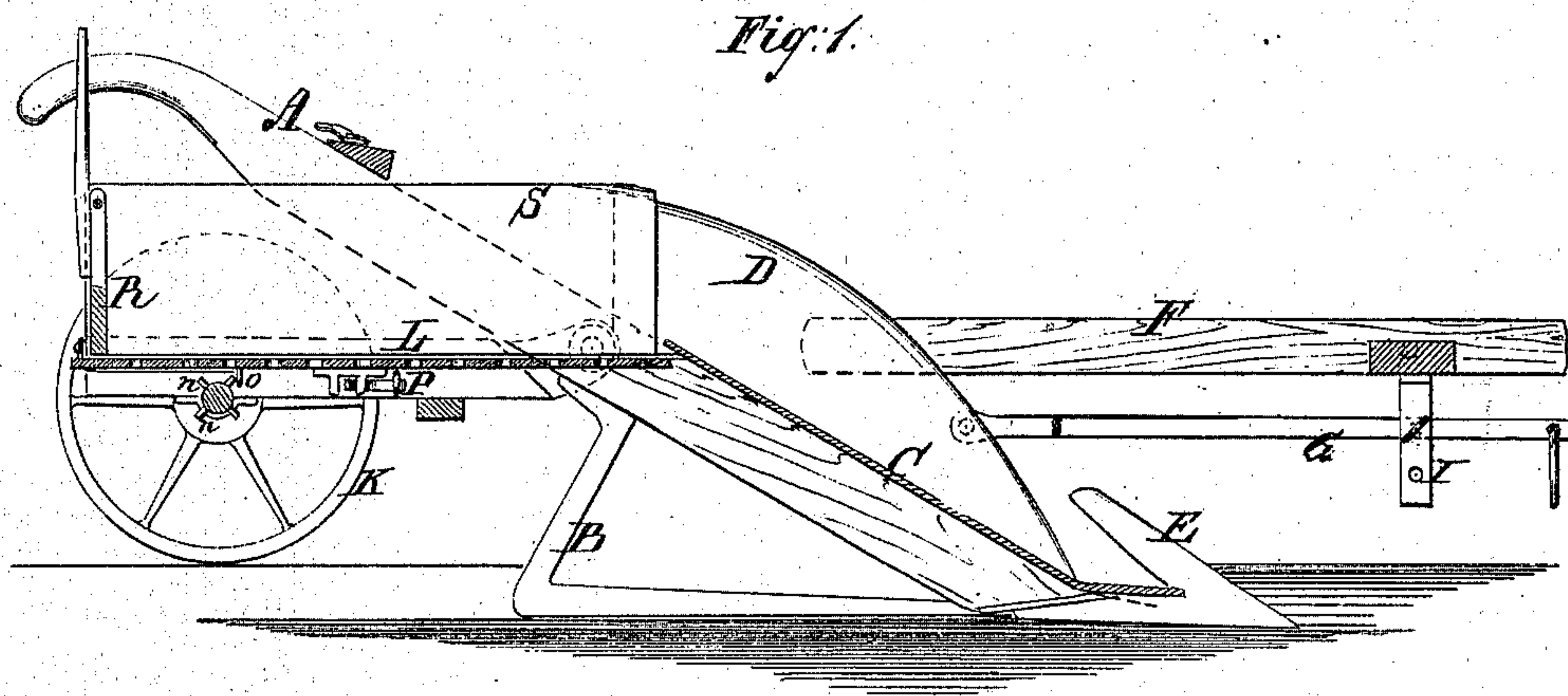


G. M. MARKS.
Potato Digger.

No. 107,698.

Patented Sept. 27, 1870.



Witnesses:

C. Raettig.
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pr.

Inventor:

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Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE M. MARKS, OF HALF MOON, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN POTATO-DIGGERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **107,698**, dated September 27, 1870.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE M. MARKS, of Half Moon, in the county of Centre and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Potato-Diggers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification.

This invention relates to new and useful improvements in a machine for digging potatoes, whereby that tedious and laborious operation is performed by horse-power, and in the most expeditious manner; and it consists in the construction and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter described.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 represents a vertical longitudinal section of the machine on the line *xx* of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the bottom or reverse side of the machine.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

A A are the handles, which are supported in a sloping position by the triangular pieces B, attached to each handle, the lower sides of which run upon the ground, as represented in the drawings.

C is an inclined platform supported by the handles, formed of or lined with metal, so as to present a smooth upper surface. The lower end of this inclined platform is brought to an edge, and is similar in form to the edge of an ordinary scraper, but with a projecting point, E, extending forward and rising up, as seen in Fig. 1.

D D are sides rising from the outer edges of the platform, to which the frame F is attached, for supporting the draft-bar G. This frame is supported in a nearly horizontal position. From the under side of the cross-piece H, a loop, I, drops down, with a number of holes through it. The draft-bar is supported in this loop, and elevated or depressed by means of the adjusting-holes in the loop.

J J are timbers, which are pivoted to the handles at their forward ends. Their back ends are supported on the axle M of the supporting-wheels K K.

L is a perforated platform or screen, which is supported in grooves in the timbers J J. This screen is given a longitudinal vibrating motion from the small pins *n* in the axle M. As the axle revolves, these pins strike a wire or iron, *o*, attached to the bottom of the screen, and move the screen forward until the pin slips off the wire or iron. The back motion is produced by the spring P. As the machine moves forward, a constant vibrating motion is thus produced. Point E and the forward portion or edge of the inclined platform C are made to run beneath the potatoes in the ground. As the machine moves forward, the potatoes and earth slide up on the inclined platform, and are delivered onto the vibrating screen L. The motion of the screen serves to detach the earth which adheres to the potatoes, and sifts it through onto the ground.

R is a pivoted gate at the back end of the screen, which is adjusted so as to deliver the potatoes from the screen as fast as they are thoroughly freed from the earth.

S S are side boards, which rise on each side of the screen, to which the gate R is pivoted.

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

1. The inclined platform C, point E, and screen or perforated platform L, arranged to operate substantially as and for the purposes described.

2. In combination with the handles A, the triangular pieces B, substantially for the purposes described.

3. In combination with a potato-digger, the vibrating screen L, substantially as and for the purposes set forth.

GEORGE M. MARKS.

Witnesses:

P. W. BURKET,
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