No. 654,909. Patented July 31, 1900.

C. L. MONROE.

ADJUSTABLE POST HOLE DIGGER.

(Application filed Jan. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

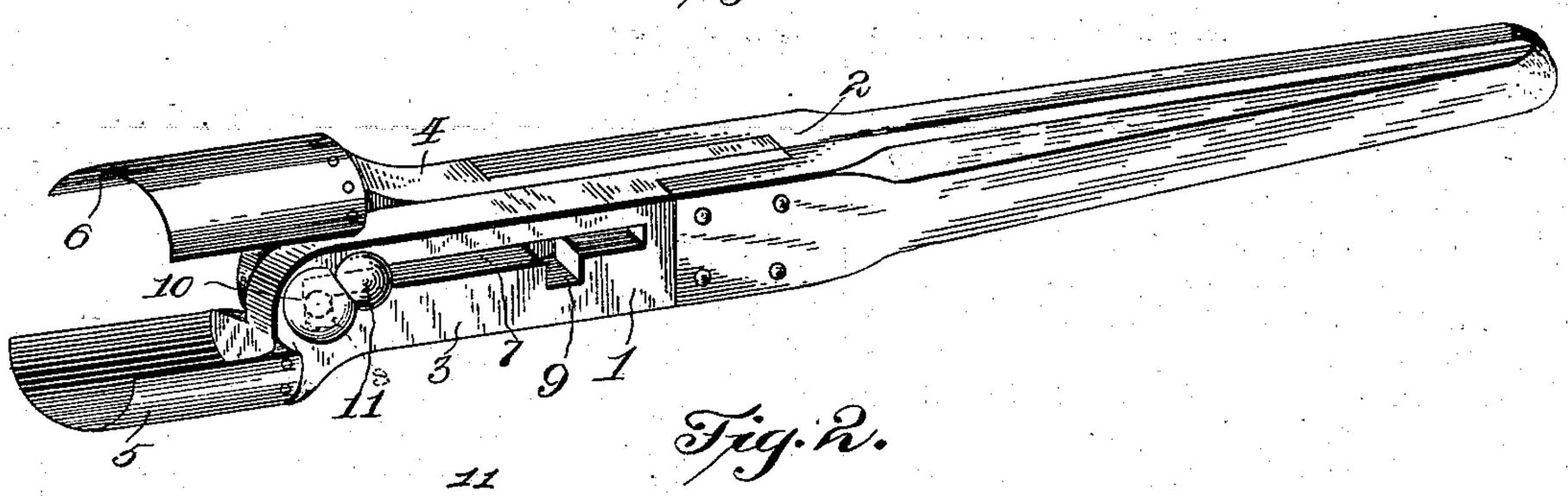


Fig. 2.

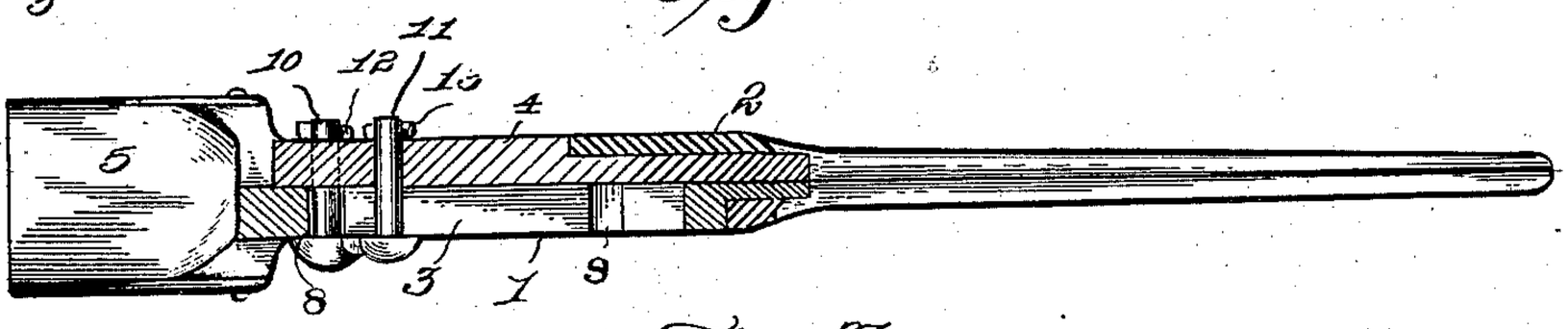


Fig. 3.

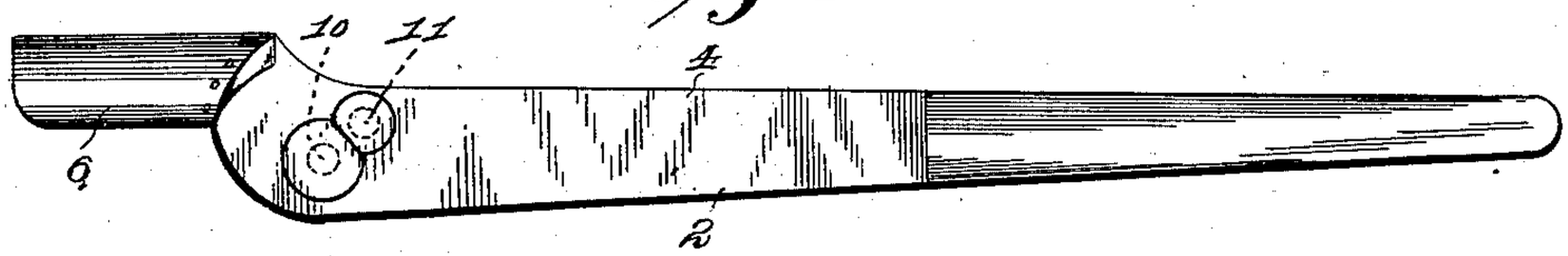


Fig. 4.

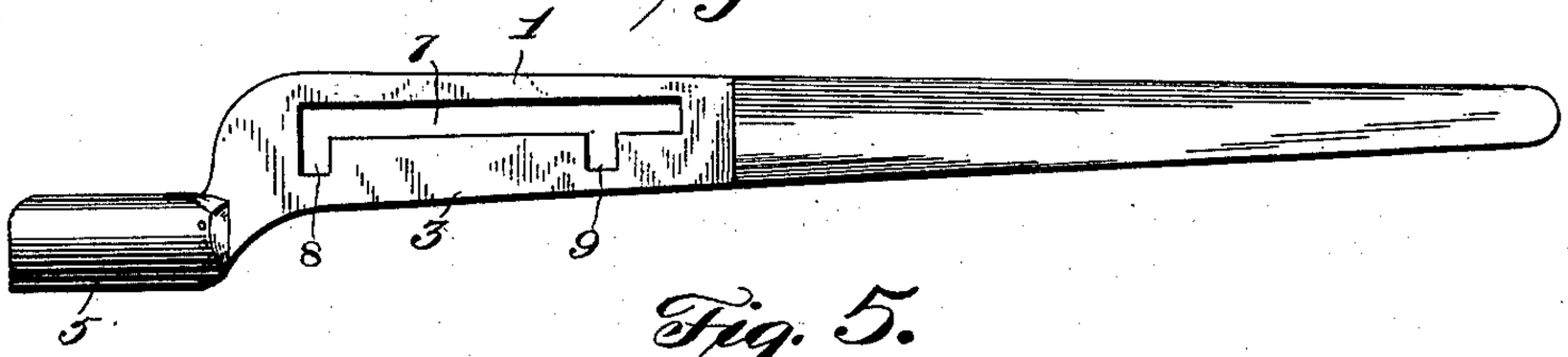
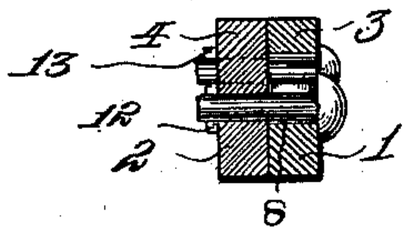


Fig. 5.



Witnesses
Leo S. Bondeso
H. F. Riley

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHALMERS L. MONROE, OF GENEVA, WEST VIRGINIA.

ADJUSTABLE POST-HOLE DIGGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 654,909, dated July 31, 1900.

Application filed January 18, 1900. Serial No. 1,917. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHALMERS L. MONROE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Geneva, in the county of Roane and State of West Virginia, have invented a new and useful Adjustable Post-Hole Digger, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in adjustable post-hole diggers.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of post-hole diggers, more especially that shown and described in Patent No. 634,902, granted to me October 17, 1899, and to provide a simple, inexpensive, and strong construction for enabling the members which carry the shovels or blades to be adjusted and moved longitudinally of each other, to arrange the blades opposite each other, or to extend one beyond the other to adapt the device to operate on different kinds of soil.

The invention consists in the construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a post-hole digger constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view of the same. Fig. 3 is a detail view of one of the bars or members. Fig. 4 is a similar view of the other bar or member. Fig. 5 is a transverse sectional view.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

1 and 2 designate two members composed of metal shanks 3 and 4 and wooden handles of the desired length secured to the inner ends of the shanks, which are provided at their outer ends with segmental portions and which have blades or shovels 5 and 6 secured to them.

The post-hole digger is capable of the same adjustment as that shown and described in the patent above referred to, it being adapted to be used when the ground is sufficiently soft with the blades or shovels opposite each other or in the same plane; but when the ground is hard or stony or when it is necessary to remove roots one of the blades is extended beyond the other to enable it to be used singly.

The shank 3 of the member 1 is provided with a longitudinal slot or opening 7, and it has transverse branches or recesses 8 and 9, extending laterally from one side of the slot and located, respectively, at the outer end thereof and at a point adjacent to the inner end. This slot receives a pair of fastening devices 10 and 11, mounted on the shank of the other member and consisting of bolts, pins, or the like. The fastening devices 10 and 11 (shown in Figs. 2 and 5 of the accompanying drawings) are provided at one side of the post-hole digger with heads and are secured at the opposite side by means of keys 12 and 13, and they are laterally offset from each other, as clearly indicated in Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings. The inner fastening device 11 forms a pivot for the member 1, and the latter is adapted to be oscillated on the member 2 to carry the outer fastening device into and out of engagement with either of the transverse recesses or branches 8 and 9 of the slot 7. When the member 1 is arranged at a slight angle to the member 2 to arrange the fastening devices 10 and 11 in alinement with the slot, the said member 1 is adapted to be moved inward and outward longitudinally to arrange the fastening devices adjacent to either of the transverse branches or recesses. When the outer fastening device 10 is opposite either of the transverse branches or recesses 8 and 9, the members are adapted to be operated on each other to carry the said outer fastening device into the transverse branch or recess, the inner fastening device forming the pivot for such movement of the parts. When the members are in alinement or closed, the inner fastening device 11 is arranged in the longitudinal slot and the outer fastening device 10 is received within the adjacent transverse branch or recess, whereby the two members are locked against longitudinal movement on each other and they are effectually prevented from slipping while the post-hole digger is in use.

It will be seen that the longitudinal slot of the member 1, with its transverse extensions or branches, and the laterally-offset or di-

agonally-alined fastening devices form a simple and effective connection between the members and will enable the same to be readily moved longitudinally of each other and quickly locked at either adjustment to arrange the blades opposite each other, as illustrated in Fig. 1 of the drawings, when it is desired to operate on comparatively-soft soil. It will also be clear that the post-hole digger is adapted to be adjusted to arrange one of the blades or shovels in advance of the other for operating on hard or stony ground, and the transverse branches or extensions of the longitudinal slot are of sufficient length to enable the blades to be swung inward into contact with each other to clamp the soil, so that loose earth may be readily removed from a post-hole. When the post-hole digger is in use and the members are in alinement, the fastening devices and the slots form a solid lock and prevent either of the parts from slipping.

What is claimed is—

1. A device of the class described comprising the member 1 provided with a longitudinal slot having transverse branches or extensions, and the member 2 provided with a pair of fastening devices passing through the said slot, one of the fastening devices being arranged to engage the transverse branches or extensions, substantially as described.

2. A device of the class described comprising the bar or member 1 provided with a longitudinal slot having transverse extensions or branches, the bar or member 2 provided with a pair of fastening devices passing through the said slot and laterally offset from each other, whereby one of the fastening devices forms a pivot and the other fastening device is adapted to engage the branches or extensions, substantially as described.

3. A device of the class described comprising the member 1 provided with a longitudinal slot having transverse extensions, the member 2 provided with laterally-offset diagonally-alined fastening devices passing through the said slot, one of the fastening devices forming a pivot and the other being adapted to engage the transverse extensions of the slot, and blades or shovels carried by the members, substantially as described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

CHALMERS L. MONROE.

Witnesses:

C. S. VANDAL,

J. F. MCWILLIAMS.