No. 731,917. PATENTED JUNE 23, 1903.

R. E. LACKNER.

GRAPPLING TONGS.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 5, 1902.

NO MODEL.

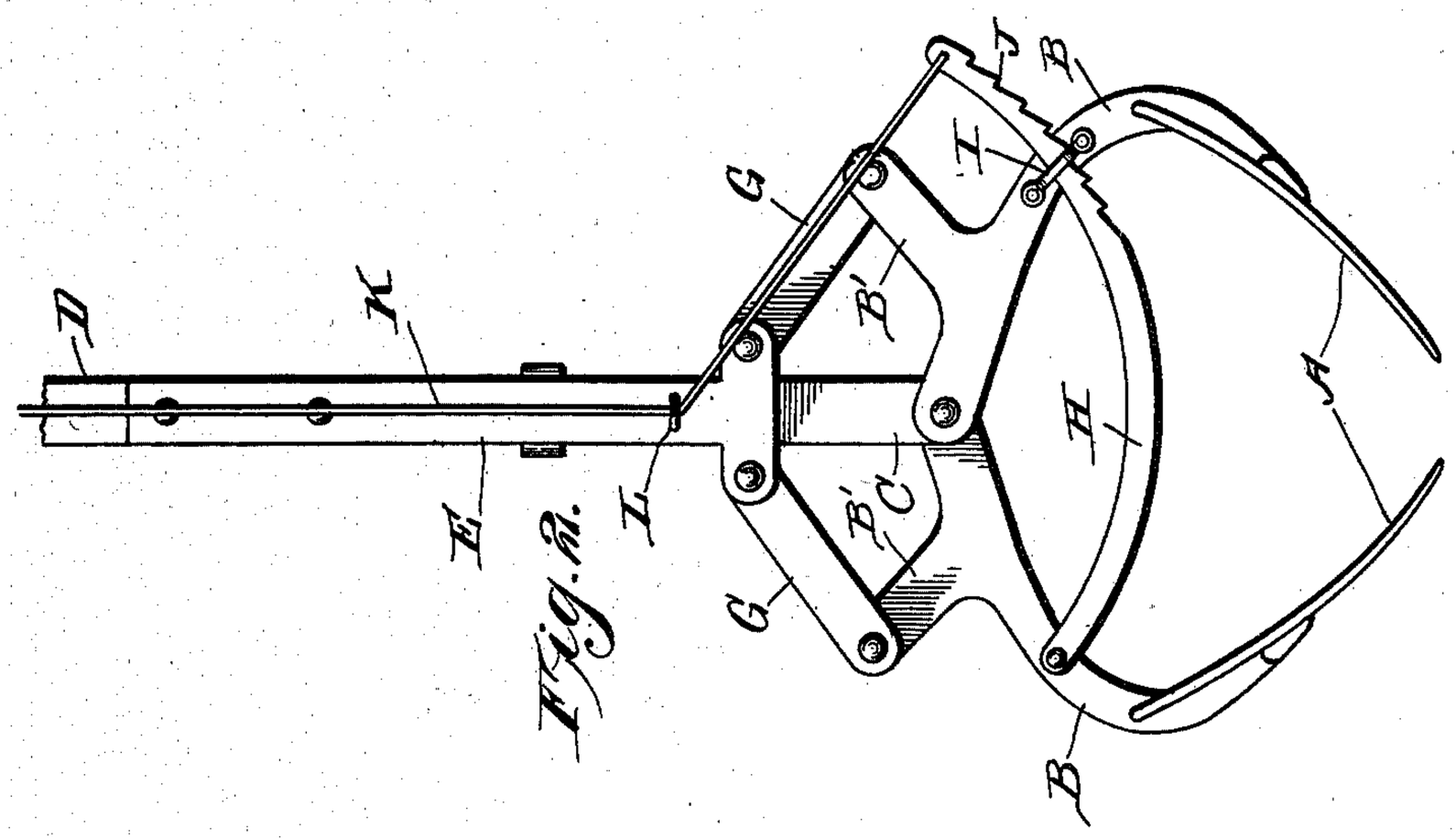

Fig. 2.

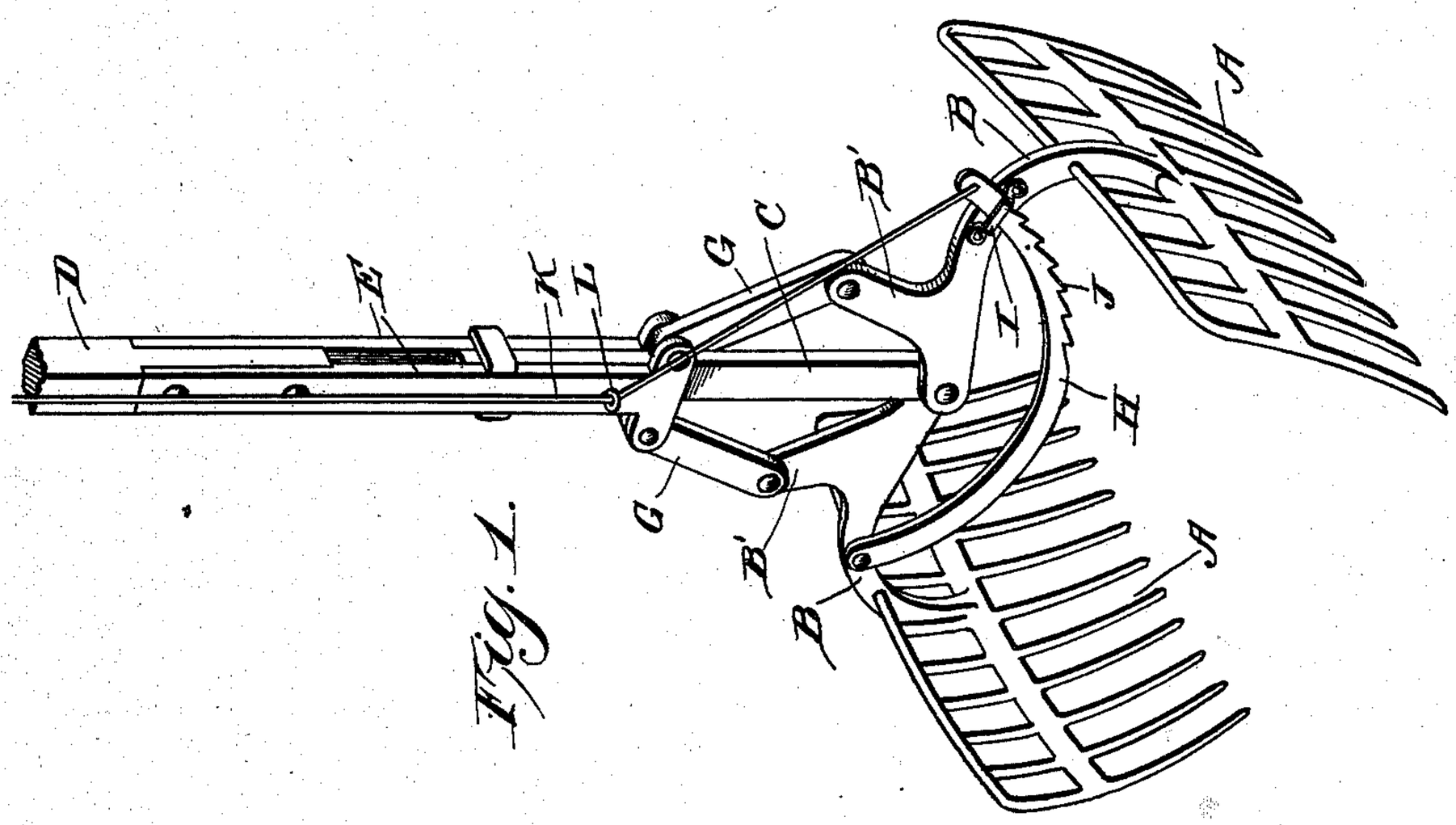

Fig. 1.

Witnesses
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No. 731,917.

Patented June 23, 1903.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT E. LACKNER, OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS.

GRAPPLING-TONGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 731,917, dated June 23, 1903.

Application filed August 5, 1902. Serial No. 118,501. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT E. LACKNER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paragould, county of Greene, and State of Arkansas, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Grappling-Tongs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to a new and useful improvement in grappling-tongs, and relates particularly to that class of tongs used in grappling for oysters, mussels, and other shell-fish, and has for its object to provide a device of this description which may be used in any depth of water, the jaws of the tongs being closed by downward pressure and being provided with a latch adapted to lock the jaws either open or closed, said latch to be operated from above.

With these ends in view this invention consists in the details of construction and combination of elements hereinafter set forth and then specifically designated by the claim.

In order that those skilled in the art to which this invention appertains may understand how to make and use the same, the construction and operation will now be described in detail, referring to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my improved tongs; Fig. 2, a side elevation of the tongs.

A represents the jaws of the tongs, each jaw being composed of a series of teeth. These jaws are attached to one end of the curved arms B, these two arms being pivoted together at their other ends upon the lower end of an upright bar C.

D is the pole or handle, which extends upward to the point from which the tongs are operated. The lower end of this handle D is either provided with a socket in which the upper end of the bar C fits and slides, or, as shown in the drawings, provided with two side straps E, between which the bar C is held and adapted to slide.

The curved arms B have extending upward therefrom the branch arms B′, to the upper ends of which are pivoted the lower ends of the links G, the other end of said links being pivoted upon the opposite side of the straps E. This forms a toggle-joint, so that when the handle D is depressed, so as to cause the bar C to slide upward between the straps E, the toggle-joint will operate so as to close the jaws A together. Thus it is only necessary to press downward upon the tongs to close the jaws.

For the purpose of locking the jaws against spreading I pivot to one of the curved arms B a bar H, which extends in a curve to the opposite curved arm B, and the free end of the bar H passes through a clip I, secured to this opposite curved arm. The lower or convexed edge of the bar H is provided with ratchet-teeth J, adapted to engage the clip I and hold the jaws against spreading, the bar H being held in engagement with the clip by gravity.

K is a cable, cord, or other flexible connection secured to the free end of the bar H and extending through an eye L upon the handle upward parallel with said handle to the upper end. Thus when the jaws are locked against spreading it is only necessary to pull upward upon the flexible connection K, which will raise the bar H, and thereby bring the teeth J out of engagement with the clip I and allow the jaws to spread.

These tongs are designed to be operated either by hand or by means of a derrick.

Of course I do not wish to be limited to the exact construction here shown, as slight modifications could be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and useful is—

In grappling-tongs, a pair of jaws, curved arms extending from said jaws inward, a guiding-bar, to the lower end of which the inner ends of the curved arms are pivoted, a handle, a socket secured to the lower end of the handle in which the upper end of the guiding-bar fits and slides, links pivoted at their upper ends to the opposite sides of the lower end of the socket, branch arms extending upward from the curved arms and pivoted to the other end of said links, a bar pivoted to one of the curved arms and extending through a clip upon the opposite curved

arm, said bar being provided with ratchet-teeth upon its under side adapted to engage the clip and prevent the jaws from spreading, a flexible connection connected to the free end of the curved bar and extending upward to the upper end of the handle, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my signature in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

ROBERT E. LACKNER.

Witnesses:
H. ARMSTRONG,
E. B. BUTLER.