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E. JONES & T. W. CLINE.

CANE OR CORN TOPPER.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 20, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

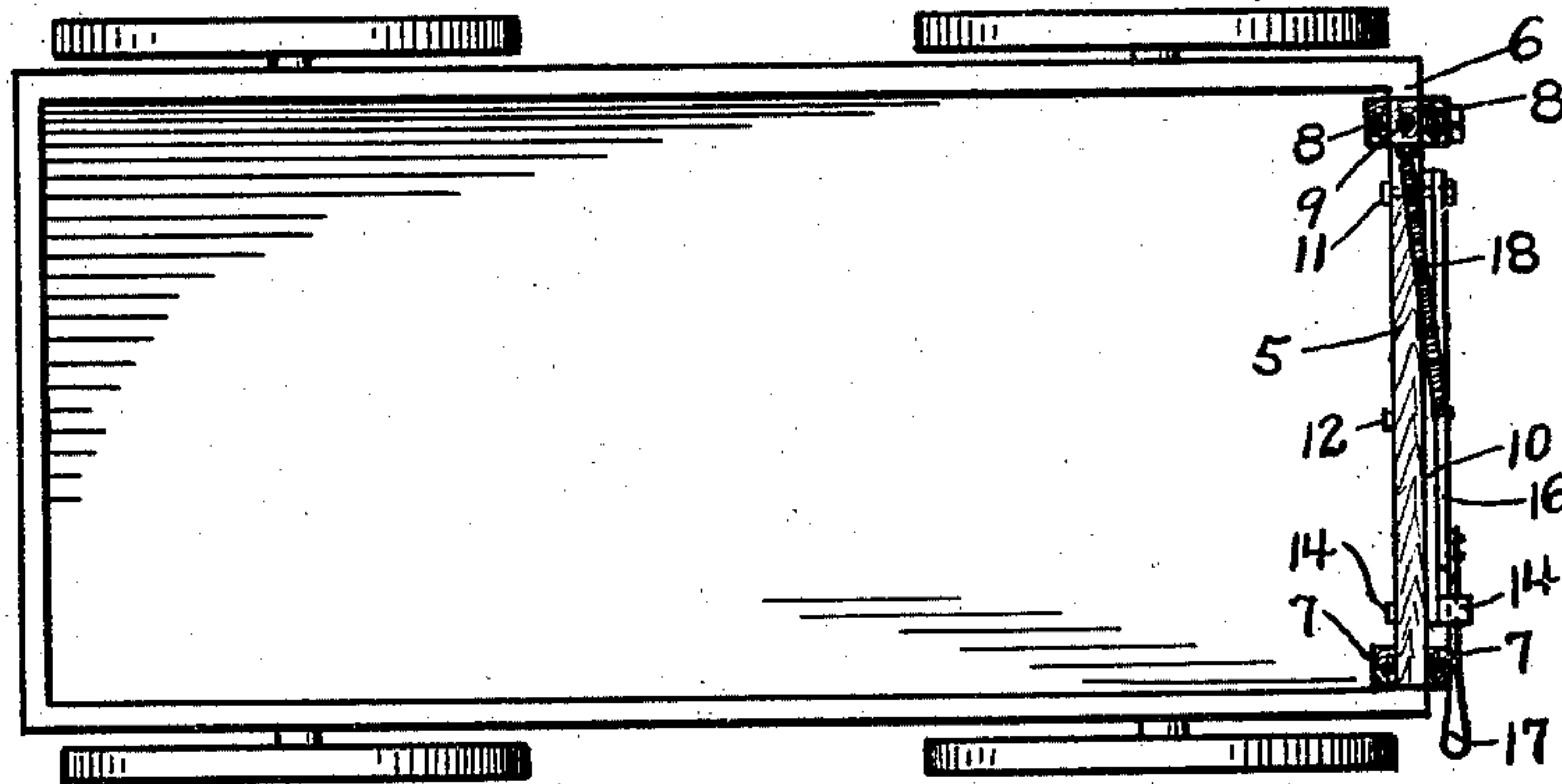
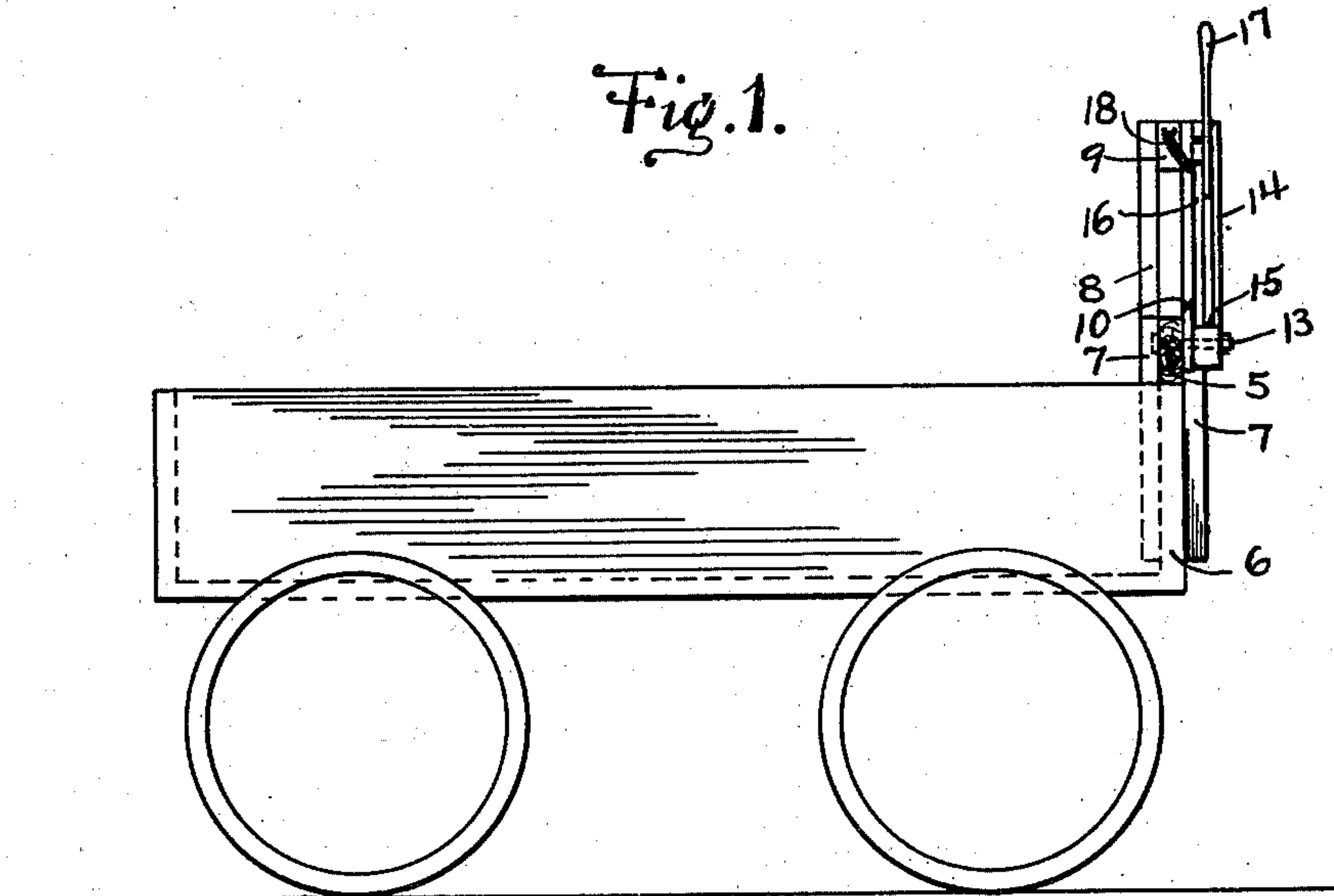
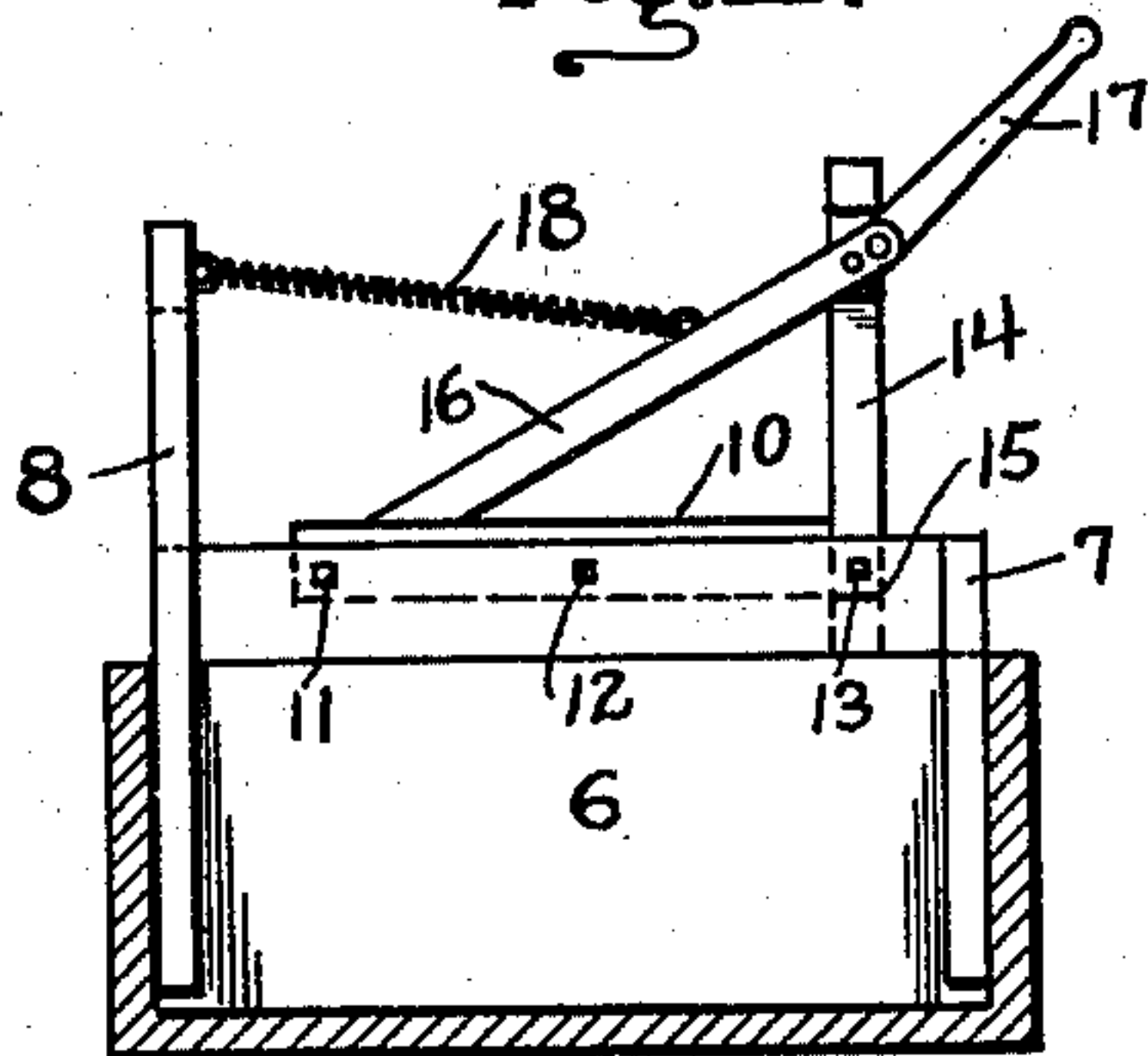


Fig. 2.



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Fig. 3.

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ERNEST JONES AND TOD W. CLINE, OF BURROAK, KANSAS.

CANE OR CORN TOPPER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 743,516, dated November 10, 1903.

Application filed May 20, 1903. Serial No. 157,945. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ERNEST JONES and TOD W. CLINE, citizens of the United States, residing at Burroak, in the county of Jewell, State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cane or Corn Toppers; and we do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to implements for topping cane, Kafir corn, or other plants where it is desired to harvest the tops and leave the plants or stalks in the field, although it will be understood that the apparatus may be set up in a barn or other locality and the materials to be topped brought and fed to it.

The object of the invention is to provide a topper which will consist of few parts connected in such manner that they may be easily and quickly replaced when worn and which will cooperate in such manner as to obtain most efficient result.

A further object of the invention is to provide a construction which may be easily applied to and removed from a support, such as the side of a wagon-body, and in which the various parts may be quickly and easily assembled and disassembled and many of which parts will operate for different purposes.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a side elevation showing an implement embodying the present invention mounted upon one end of a wagon. Fig. 2 is a top plan view of the implement and the wagon. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of a line within and transversely of the wagon-body.

Referring now to the drawings, the present topper comprises a base 5 in the form of a board having the thickness of the end of the ordinary wagon-body, and which board is adapted to rest with its lower edge upon the upper edge of the end 6 of a wagon-body. To hold the base or board 5 against lateral displacement from the end 6, while permitting removal thereof vertically, cleats 7 are secured against the opposite faces of the base 5 adjacent to one end and project below the

lower edge of the base, so that they may lie at opposite sides of the end 6 of the wagon-body and snugly receive the latter between them. Adjacent to the opposite end of the base 5 are two other cleats, 8, which are secured at right angles to the base, and which cleats extend both above and below the base, the cleats being at opposite sides of the base, as illustrated, so that the end 6 of the wagon-body is received between their lower end portions. The two sets of cleats thus serve to effectively hold the base 5 against lateral displacement from the end of the wagon-body. The cleats 8 extend some distance above the base 5, and between their upper ends is secured a block 9 for a purpose to be presently explained.

A knife 10 is provided, and consists of a blade which is disposed against the side of the base 5, so as to project thereabove, and to which side it is held by means of bolts 11, 12, and 13, the bolt 13 passing also through a cleat 14. The cleat, as shown in Fig. 1, is of reduced proportions intermediate of its ends, the end portion being of greater thickness than the intermediate portion, resulting in a shoulder 15, the upper unreduced portion forming a stop for the blade. The bolt 11 at the opposite end of the blade 10 serves also as a pivot for a cooperating blade 16, which lies close against the sides of the blade 10 and at its free end is provided with a handle 17, which is connected thereto at the opposite side from the blade 10 to facilitate the making of a close shear cut when the upper blade is lowered.

To hold the blade 16 normally and yieldably in raised position, a helical spring 18 is attached thereto adjacent to the handle and is attached also to the block 9, which is secured between the upper ends of the cleats 8.

In the operation of the topper the wagon is hauled to a shock and the sheaves are successively raised and disposed with their upper ends or tops between the shear-blades, after which the upper blade is swung downwardly to cooperate with the lower blade and cut off the tops. When the blade is released, the helical spring raises it to its normal position and holds it ready for the next operation. The tops that are cut off fall into the wagon-body and when the latter is filled may

be hauled to a bin. With this arrangement the same waste does not occur as when the tops are cut off upon the ground, while gathering of the tops after the cutting is dispensed with.

It will be understood that in practice modifications of the specific construction shown may be made and that any suitable materials and proportions may be used for the various parts without departing from the spirit of the invention.

It will be noted that the portion of the cleat that projects above the blade forms a stop which prevents the material being cut from sliding from between the shearing-blades, and the cleat may have its inner edge portion sharpened to form a supplemental blade, which will also cooperate with the blade when the latter descends.

What is claimed is—

1. A topping-machine comprising a base having cleats secured against opposite faces thereof adjacent to each end and adapted to receive the end of a wagon-body between them, the cleats at one end of the base being continued thereabove and having a connecting member, a shearing-blade disposed against and projecting above the base, attaching-bolts engaged through the cleats and base, a metallic cleat held against the sides of the base and one end portion of the blade and projecting above the latter to form a stop, said cleat having a perforation in its lower end engaged upon one of the attaching-bolts of the blade, the inner edge of said cleat be-

ing sharpened to form a cutting-blade, a third blade through which the attaching-bolt of the first blade at the opposite ends from the stop is passed, a handle attached to the third blade at the opposite end thereof from the first blade, and a helical spring attached to the second blade and to the connecting member of the upwardly-projecting cleats.

2. A topping-machine comprising a base having cleats secured against opposite faces thereof adjacent to each end and adapted to receive the end of a wagon-body between them, the cleats at one end of the base being continued thereabove and having a connecting member, a shearing-blade disposed against and projecting above the base, attaching-bolts engaged through the blade and base, a cleat held against the sides of the base and one end portion of the blade and projecting above the latter to form a stop, a second blade through which the attaching-bolt of the first blade at the opposite end from the stop is passed, a handle attached to the second blade at the opposite side thereof from the first blade, and a helical spring attached to the second blade and to the connecting member of the upwardly-projecting cleats.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

ERNEST JONES.
TOD W. CLINE.

Witnesses:

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