

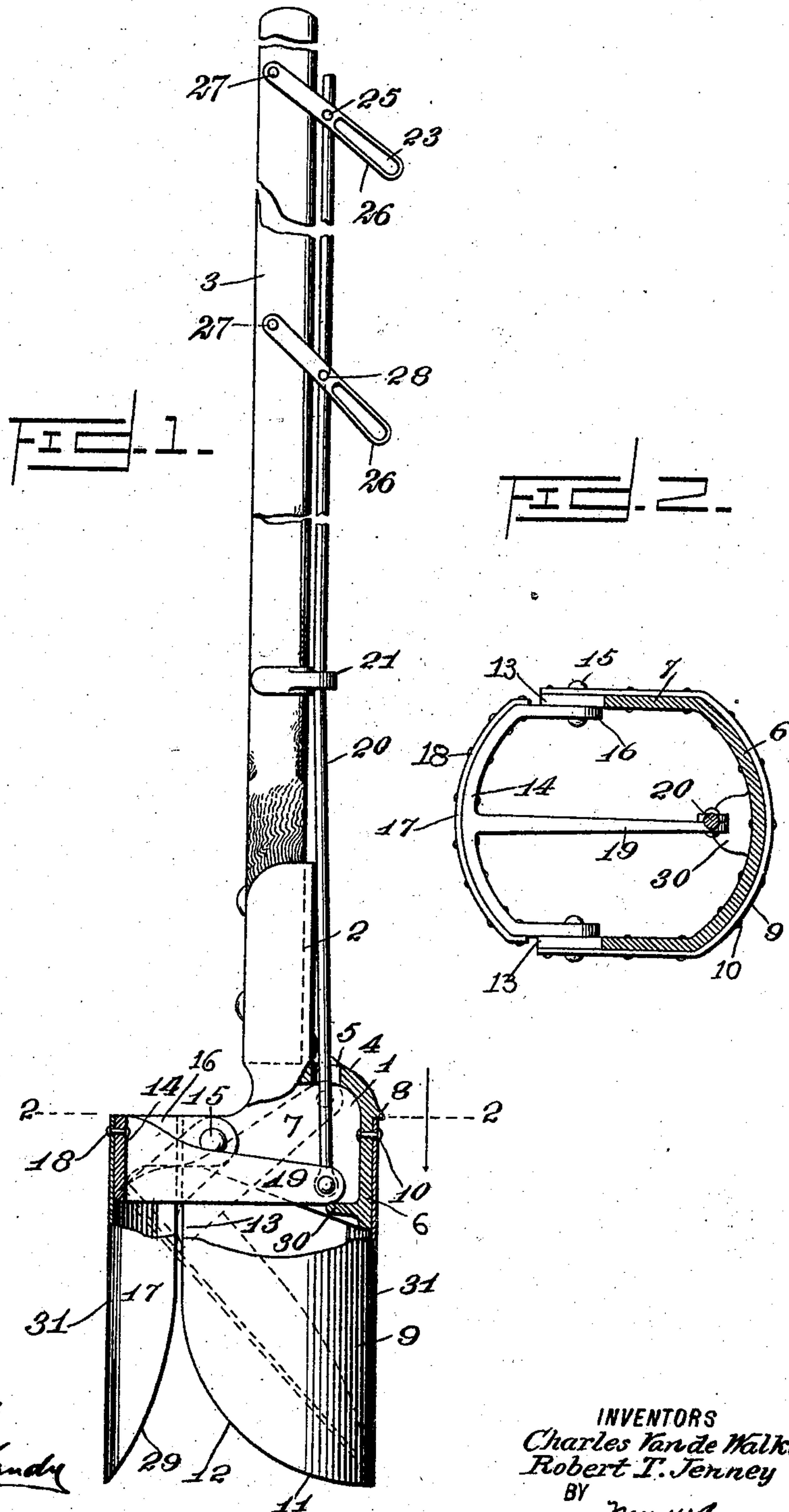
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C. W. VAN DE WALKER & R. T. JENNEY.

POST HOLE DIGGER.

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WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CHARLES W. VAN DE WALKER AND ROBERT T. JENNEY, OF TWO RIVERS,
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POST-HOLE DIGGER.

No. 815,133.

Specification of Letters Patent:

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES W. VAN DE WALKER and ROBERT T. JENNEY, citizens of the United States, and residents of Two Rivers, in the county of Manitowoc and State of Wisconsin, have invented a new and Improved Post-Hole Digger, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

10 This invention relates to tree-planters and post-hole diggers. These devices usually comprise a vertical handle provided with a scoop or cutter at its lower extremity, which is adapted to be forced into the ground and
15 enables the dirt to be removed.

The object of this invention is to provide an improved construction for the cutter and means for operating the same, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the device in raising the earth from the hole.

20 The invention consists in the construction and combination of parts to be described more fully hereinafter and definitely set forth in the claims.

25 Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts in both the figures.

30 Figure 1 is substantially a side elevation of the device, certain parts being broken away and others represented in section, as will appear; and Fig. 2 is a horizontal section taken substantially on the line 2 2 of Fig. 1.

35 To refer more particularly to the parts, 1 represents a bracket which is formed at its upper portion into a socket 2, which socket receives the lower extremity of a vertical handle 3. Near the lower portion of the
40 socket 2 the material of the bracket is offset outwardly, so as to form a shoulder 4, having a centrally-disposed opening 5, as shown. As indicated in Fig. 2, the body of this bracket presents a rounded or circumferen-
45 tially-disposed wall 6, which is formed integrally at the sides with forwardly-projecting cheeks 7, which are substantially flat, as indicated. At a point below the shoulder 4 the outer side of the bracket is formed with
50 an outwardly-projecting bead 8. This shoulder 8 constitutes an abutment for the upper extremity or edge of a main fluke or cutter 9. This cutter is preferably formed of sheet

metal bent as indicated in Fig. 2, so as to conform substantially to the outline of the
55 bracket, and these parts are permanently secured together by rivets 10, as indicated. Thus it will be seen that the cutter 9 constitutes a shell, the lower edge 11 whereof constitutes a cutting edge and is preferably
60 rounded off at 12, so as to constitute a continuation of the side edges 13 of the main fluke.

Near the forward edges 13 of the cheeks 7 a yoke 14 is pivotally attached by means of
65 rivets 15, as indicated. This yoke comprises a curved body which is substantially similar to the curved portion of the bracket in outline, and this body is formed at its sides with integral ears 16, which project inwardly and
70 through which the aforesaid rivets pass, as shown. To the curved body of the yoke an auxiliary fluke or cutter 17 is attached by rivets 18, as shown. Preferably near its central portion the inner side of the yoke 14 is
75 formed with an inwardly-projecting arm 19, an extremity whereof lies adjacent to the opposite wall of the bracket 1. To this arm attaches pivotally a link 20, which passes up through the opening 5, as indicated, the body
80 of said link lying adjacent to the edge of the aforesaid handle 3. At a suitable point a guiding-eye 21 is attached to the handle, so as to maintain the link in the relation shown.

Near the upper portion of the handle 3 one
85 or more hand-levers 26 are attached, which are pivoted at 27 to the handle, as indicated. At a suitable point the hand-levers are provided with slots 23, through which the workman's fingers may be thrust to operate the
90 tool. These hand-levers are pivoted to the link 20 by pivot-pins 25 and 28, as shown. The tool would be provided with one hand-lever when used for ordinary work. Where
95 holes of great depth are to be made, as in electric construction work, the handle 3 would be longer than usual, and more than one hand-lever would be employed.

From the arrangement described it should be understood that the link 20 affords means
100 for controlling the position of the auxiliary fluke or cutter 17. The lower edge 29 of this cutter 17 constitutes a continuation of the side edges thereof, so that this fluke is formed very similarly to the fluke 9 aforesaid. On
105 the inner face of the curved wall 6 of the

bracket 1 a lug 30 is provided, which projects into the path of the extremity of the arm 19 and constitutes a stop therefor, as will be readily understood. This stop limits the outward movement of the auxiliary fluke or fin 17, and when the arm is against the lug the outer elements 31 of the two flukes are substantially parallel, as indicated in Fig. 1.

In operating the device the parts are held in this relation as the cutter is forced down into the earth. By seizing either of the hand-levers 26 as the device is raised the fin or auxiliary fluke 17 will be forced over in the direction of the main fluke 9, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 1. In this way the dirt which has passed into the body of the cutter will be firmly held, and the lower portion of the device having been withdrawn from the hole the hand-levers, or one of them, will be operated so as to release the earth.

The device described is evidently of very simple construction and readily operated in an efficient manner.

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

1. In a device of the class described, in combination, a bracket having an offset shoulder with an opening therethrough, a fluke rigidly carried by said bracket, a movable fluke having a rigid arm projecting toward said bracket, a link passing through said opening and attached to said arm, and hand-levers attached to said handle and making a jointed connection with said link.

2. In a device of the class described, in combination, a handle, a fixed fluke carried thereby, a movable fluke carried by said handle, said movable fluke having an arm, a lug on the inner side of said fixed fluke and constituting a stop for said arm, hand-levers carried by said handle, and a link connecting the said hand-levers and said arm.

In testimony whereof we have signed our names to this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES W. VAN DE WALKER.
R. T. JENNEY.

Witnesses:

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