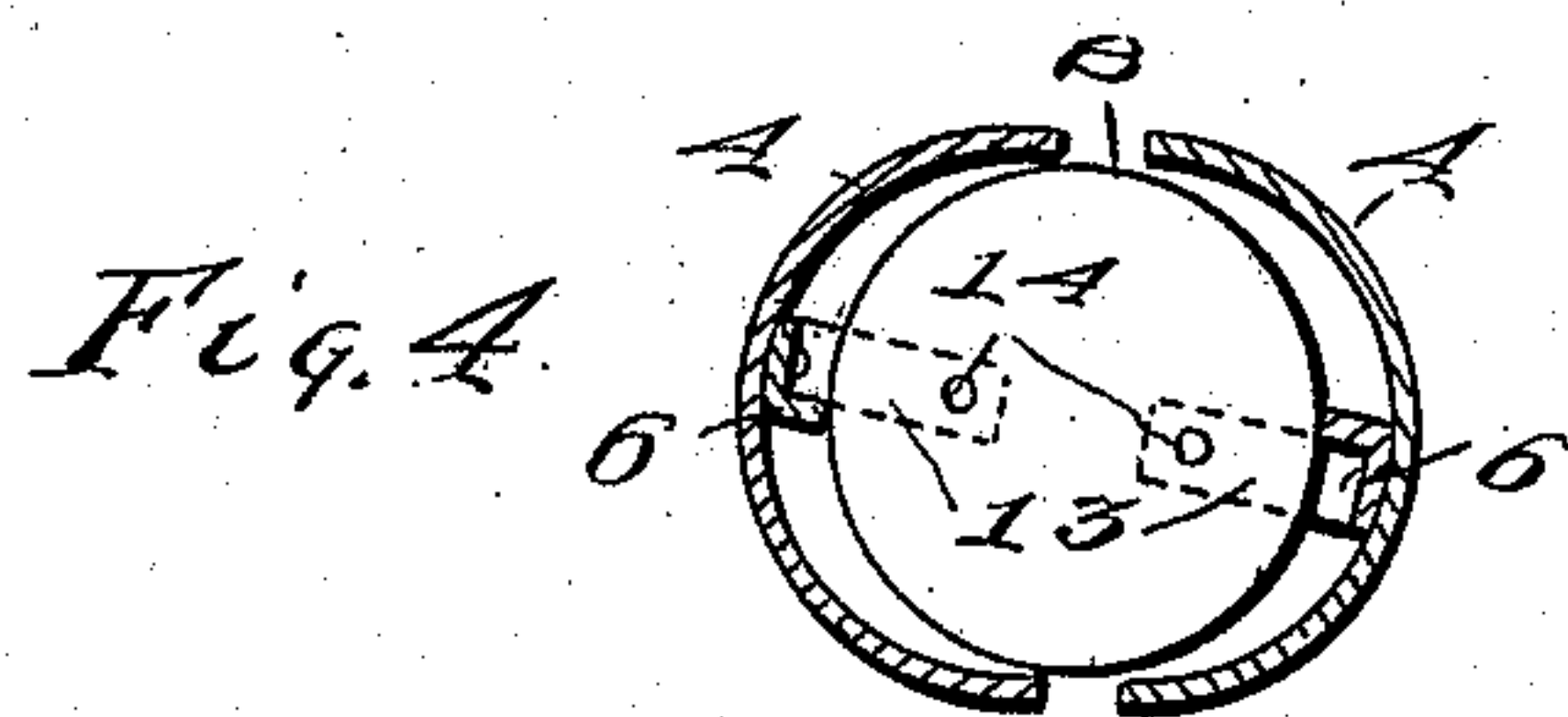
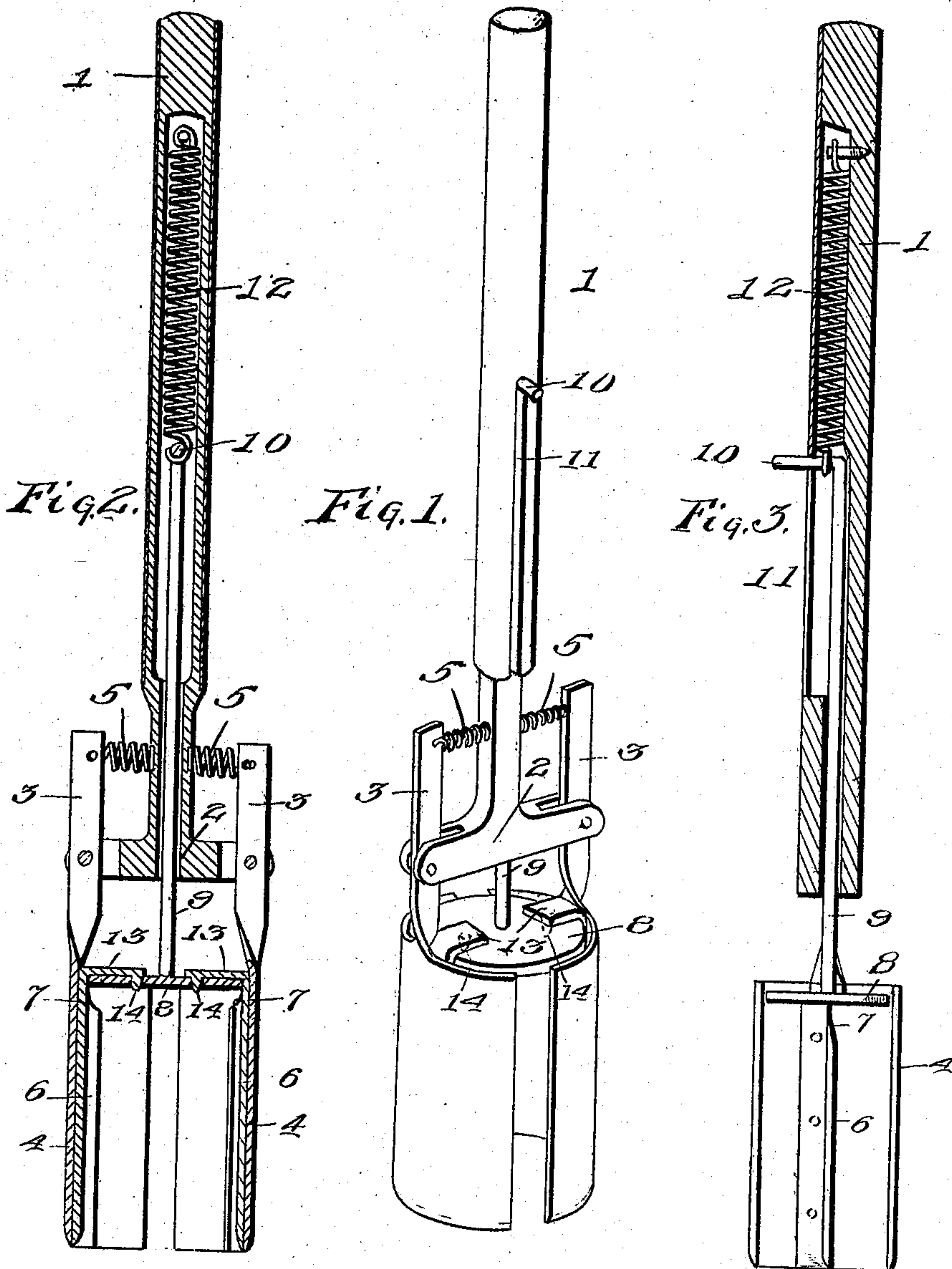


W. WININGER.
POST HOLE DIGGER.
APPLICATION FILED MAR. 28, 1908.

899,644.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WALTER WININGER, OF ALFORDSVILLE, INDIANA.

POST-HOLE DIGGER.

No. 899,644.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Sept. 29, 1908.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WALTER WININGER, citizen of the United States, residing at Alfordsville, in the county of Daviess and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Post-Hole Diggers, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to an improved post hole digger embodying novel means for locking the jaws securely in position when the device is in use, and for releasing and separating the jaws to remove the dirt therefrom.

The object of the invention is to design a post hole digger which is simple and durable in its construction and by means of which a post hole can be excavated with a comparatively small amount of labor.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a post hole digger embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional view through the same. Fig. 3 is a similar view taken on a plane at right angles to that of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view through the jaws showing the same as forced apart by the plunger which has been moved downwardly.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates the stock which is provided at one end thereof with a cross head 2. The opposite ends of this cross head are slotted and pivotally mounted within the slots are the levers 3, the lower ends of the levers terminating in the corresponding jaws 4 while springs 5 are interposed between the stock and the upper ends of the levers and operate to normally move the jaws toward each other.

Specifically describing the jaws 4 it will be observed that they are of approximately semicylindrical formation and have their lower edges sharpened to enable them to readily penetrate the earth. Extending along the inner face of each of the jaws is a longitudinal rib 6, the upper end of the rib

being beveled adjacent the upper end of the jaw as indicated at 7. Mounted to reciprocate between the jaws 4 is a plunger 8 which is carried by a rod 9 slidably mounted within the stock 1. The upper end of the rod terminates in a laterally extended arm or trip 10 which projects through a slot 11 in the stock and serves as a means for operating the plunger.

A spring 12 which is housed within the stock is connected to the rod 9 and operates to hold the rod 9 normally in a retracted position with the plunger 8 at the upper end of the jaws. This plunger is in the nature of a plate and is limited in its upward movement by stop arms 13 projecting from the jaws 4, the said stop arms being provided with projections 14 which are designed to enter corresponding openings in the plunger so as to prevent spreading of the jaws when the plunger is elevated. In the present instance it will be observed that the longitudinal ribs 6 are formed by strips of angle iron secured to the jaws, that arm of the angle iron which is secured to the jaw extending upwardly beyond the beveled end of the opposite arm and being bent inwardly to form the stop arms 13.

From the foregoing description it will be obvious that the spring 12 normally operates to hold the plunger against the stop arms 13 with the projections 14 received within the openings in the plunger. The two jaws of the digger are thus normally retained securely in position and the device can be utilized to excavate the post hole in the usual manner. Should it be desired to remove any dirt from between the jaws the desired result can be easily accomplished by pressing downwardly upon the trip 10 and forcing the plunger 8 outwardly between the jaws. As the plunger moves away from the stop arms 13 the projections 14 are withdrawn from the openings and the jaws released so as to be forced apart when the plunger engages the beveled ends 7 of the longitudinal ribs 6. This outward movement of the jaws loosens the dirt so that it is readily ejected by the plunger and as soon as the pressure upon the trip 10 is released the spring 12 again operates to draw the plunger rearwardly against the stop arms and place the digger in condition for further use.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. A post hole digger comprising a pair of

coöperating jaws provided with ribs, and a plunger coöperating with the ribs to separate the jaws and eject the dirt from the same.

2. A post hole digger comprising a pair of coöperating jaws, a plunger, and means coöperating with the plunger for locking the jaws normally in operative position.

3. A post hole digger comprising a pair of coöperating jaws, a plunger, means coöperating with the plunger to lock the jaws in operative position, and means coöperating with the plunger to separate the jaws when the plunger is operated.

4. A post hole digger comprising a pair of coöperating jaws, a plunger, stop arms carried by the jaws for engaging the plunger to lock the jaws in position, and ribs upon the jaws coöperating with the plunger to separate the same when the plunger is operated.

5. A post hole digger comprising a pair of coöperating jaws, a plunger, stop arms projecting from the jaws and carrying projections adapted to coöperate with the plunger to lock the jaws normally in operative position, and a rib carried by each of the jaws and formed with a beveled end for coöperation with the plunger to separate the jaws.

6. In a post hole digger, the combination of a stock, a pair of coöperating jaws carried by the stock, a rod slidably mounted upon the stock, a plunger carried by the rod and mounted to operate between the jaws, a trip upon the rod for operating the plunger, and means coöperating with the plunger for normally locking the jaws in position and automatically releasing the same when the plunger is moved.

7. In a post hole digger, the combination of a stock, a cross head upon the stock, levers loosely mounted upon the cross head, coöperating jaws carried by the levers, springs coöperating with the levers to move the jaws toward each other, a plunger mounted to move between the jaws, and means coöperating with the plunger for locking the jaws normally in operative position and releasing the same when the plunger is moved.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WALTER WININGER. [L. S.]

Witnesses:

GEO. WININGER,
E. MESSICK.