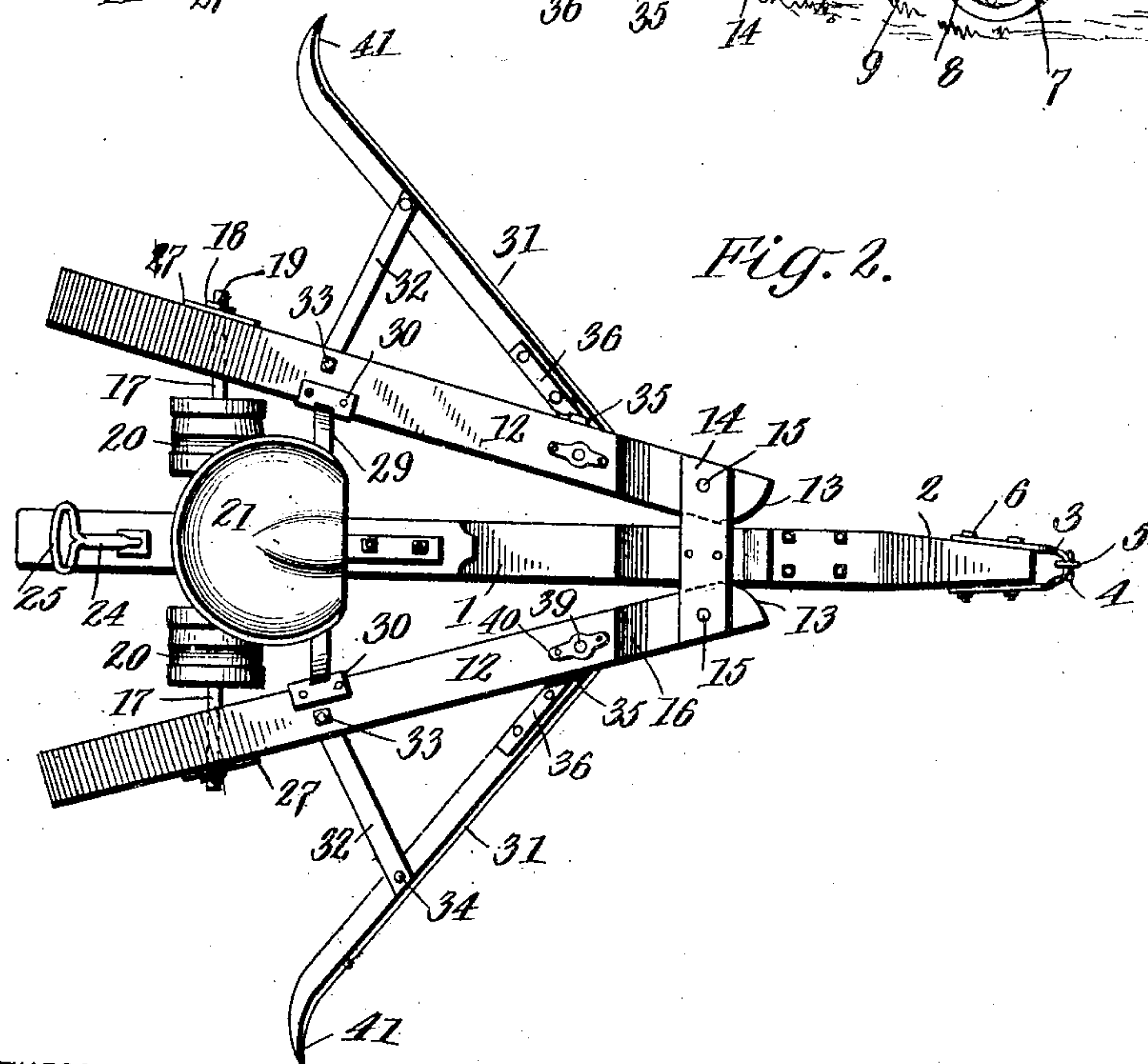
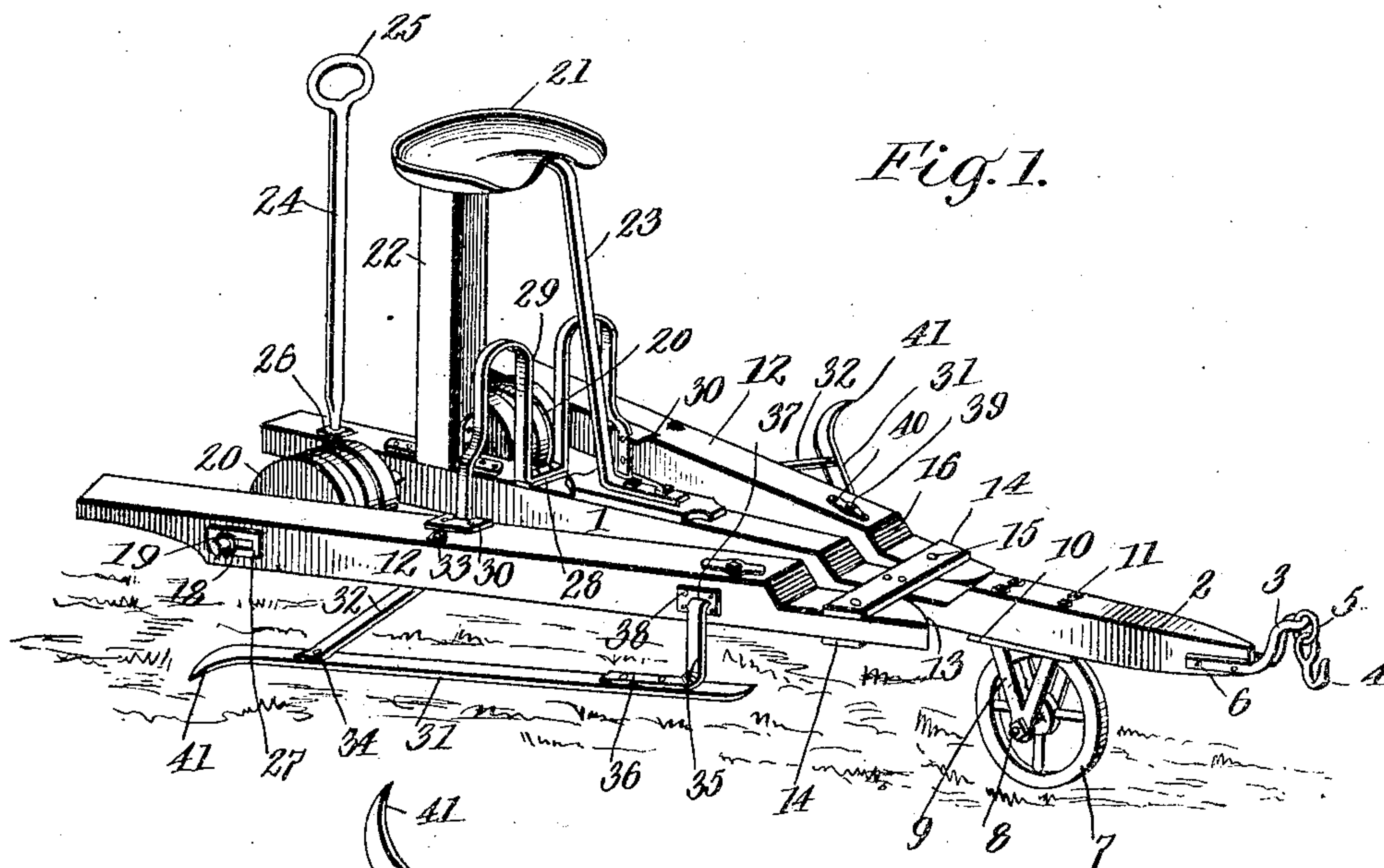


F. P. CHAPA.
STALK CUTTER.
APPLICATION FILED SEPT. 15, 1908.

912,072.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.



WITNESSES
Samuel E. Wade
C. E. Grainer

INVENTOR
FRANCISCO PENA CHAPA.
BY *Munn & Co.*
ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FRANCISCO PENA CHAPA, OF EVA, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO T. SALAZAR, OF ALICE, TEXAS.

STALK-CUTTER.

No. 912,072.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.

Application filed September 15, 1903. Serial No. 453,121.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, FRANCISCO PENA CHAPA, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Eva, in the county of Nueces and State of Texas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stalk-Cutters, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is an improvement in stalk cutters and consists in certain novel constructions and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

Referring to the drawings forming a part hereof Figure 1 is a perspective view of the improvement, and Fig. 2 is a plan view.

The present embodiment of the invention comprises a frame consisting of a central longitudinal beam 1, provided at its front end which is tapered as shown at 2, with an upward and forwardly turned loop 3, to which is attached a hook 4 by means of a ring 5, the arms of the loop being secured to the tapered portion by means of bolts 6.

A wheel 7 is journaled on a shaft 8, whose ends are supported by brackets 9, projecting downwardly in parallel spaced relation from a plate 10 which is bolted as at 11 to the beam adjacent to the front end thereof.

Beams 12 are arranged upon each side of the central beam 1, the front ends thereof having their inner corners rounded as at 13, and upper and lower plates 14 are provided for securing the beams together, the plates being bolted as at 15 to the beams.

It will be observed, that the side beams diverge at their rear end, and that the front ends of each of the beams is cut away upon its upper face as at 16. The side beams 12 near their rear end are transversely slotted, and a shaft 17 extends through the slot and through an opening in the central beam, the outer ends of the shaft being provided with washers 18, secured in place by cotter pins 19, whereby to retain the shaft in place, and rollers 20 are journaled on the shaft between the central and the side members.

A seat 21 is supported by an upright bar 22 arranged in front of the rollers, and by a brace 23, extending forwardly of the bar, and the rear end of the central beam is provided with a link 24 having a hand hold 25, the link having its lower end reduced and engaging an opening in the beam, and in a plate 26 secured thereto. Slotted plates 27

are also arranged between the washers 18 and the sides of the side beams. 55

The side and central beams are connected together in front of the rollers by means of a bar having a horizontal portion 28 secured to the central beam, the ends of the bar being bent into inverted U-shape as at 29, the free ends thereof being secured to the side beams as at 30. 60

The cutters consist of a pair of blades 31 arranged one upon each side of the frame, the front end being arranged beneath the respective side beam, and the rear end diverging outwardly therefrom as shown in Fig. 2. 65

A bar 32 has one end bolted to the adjacent side beam as at 33, and the other to the adjacent plate as at 34, adjacent to the rear end of the blade, and a bracket 35 is provided with an angular portion 36, secured to the front end of the blade, and an angular portion 37 which extends through an opening in the adjacent side beam, and a plate 38 secured thereto, and is engaged by a bolt 39 passing through registering openings in the end of the angular portion and the side beam, and a plate 40 is arranged thereabove. 70

In operation the device is driven through the field between adjacent rows of stalks which are severed by the engagement of the sharp edge of the blade therewith. It will be observed that the rear end of each of the blades is curved outwardly as at 41, so that should a stalk be pushed outwardly by the inclined portion of the blade, it will be engaged by the said outwardly bent portion. 75

The slotting of the side plates to permit the passage of the shaft 17, together with the arrangement of the inverted U-shaped members of the bar securing the beams together, permits the side members of the frame to yield inwardly to some extent, should they or the blades engage an unyielding object. The arrangement of the blades also permits their easy removal for sharpening or for inserting new blades. 80

The link and the hand-hold form a handle which is made use of for lifting the rear end of the machine when necessary as in turning corners and the like, and may also be made use of for tipping up the front of the machine to release the front wheel from trash. By pulling backward on the link, the machine will be tilted and by pushing side- 85

wise the frame will be tilted on its longitudinal axis. It will be understood that the handle is operated by the driver from the ground.

5 I claim:

1. A stalk cutter comprising a frame consisting of a central beam having at its rear end a handle, whereby to manipulate the same, and at its front end a wheel, side beams
10 hinged by their front ends to the central beam, and having their rear ends diverging, a yielding connection between the beams, the side members being provided adjacent their rear ends with transverse slots, and the central member with an opening registering
15 therewith, a shaft arranged in the opening and the slots, rollers journaled on the shaft

between the beams, and cutter blades detachably connected with the side beams and diverging outwardly at their rear ends therefrom. 20

2. A stalk cutter comprising a wheel supported frame, and cutter blades detachably connected with the sides of the frame and diverging rearwardly therefrom, said cutters being mounted to yield inwardly, and a
25 handle connected with the rear end of the frame for lifting the same.

FRANCISCO ^{his} X PENA CHAPA.
mark

Witnesses:

J. D. RIDER,
VICTORINO G. GOMEZ.