No. 801,557. PATENTED OCT. 10, 1905.

L. STRITTER.

POST HOLE SHOVEL.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 24, 1905.

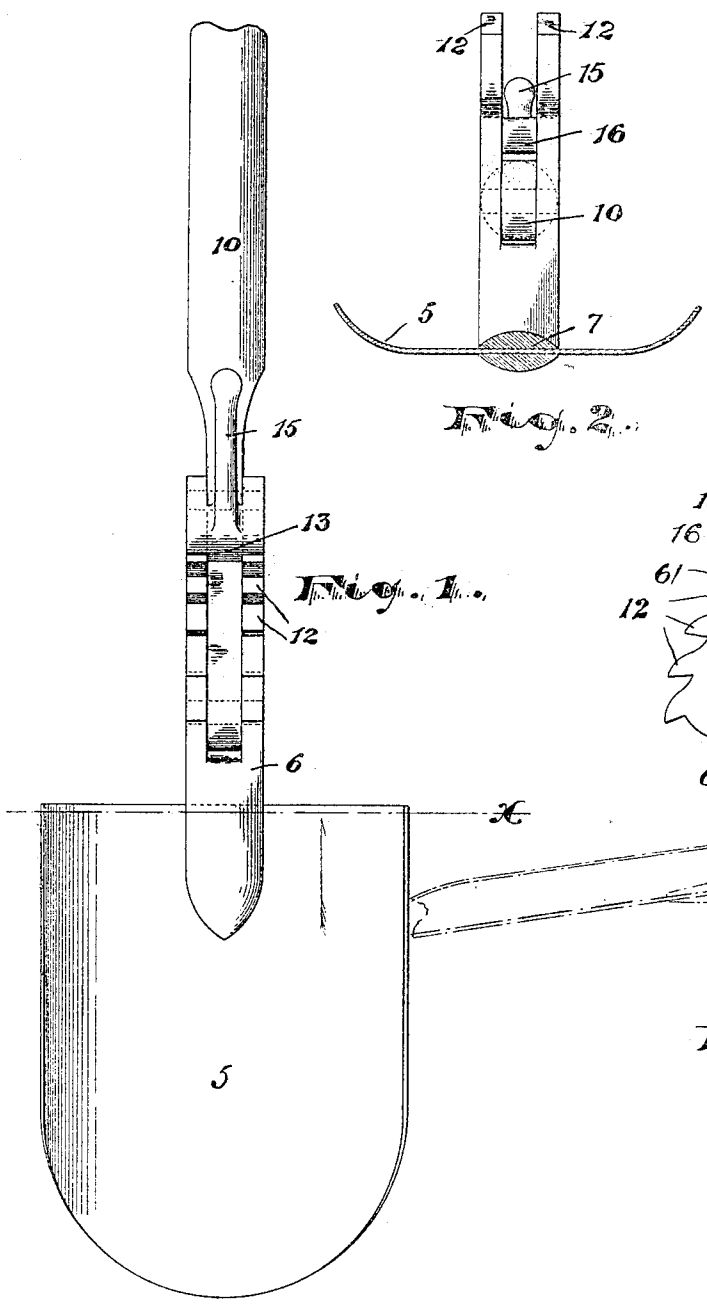

Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

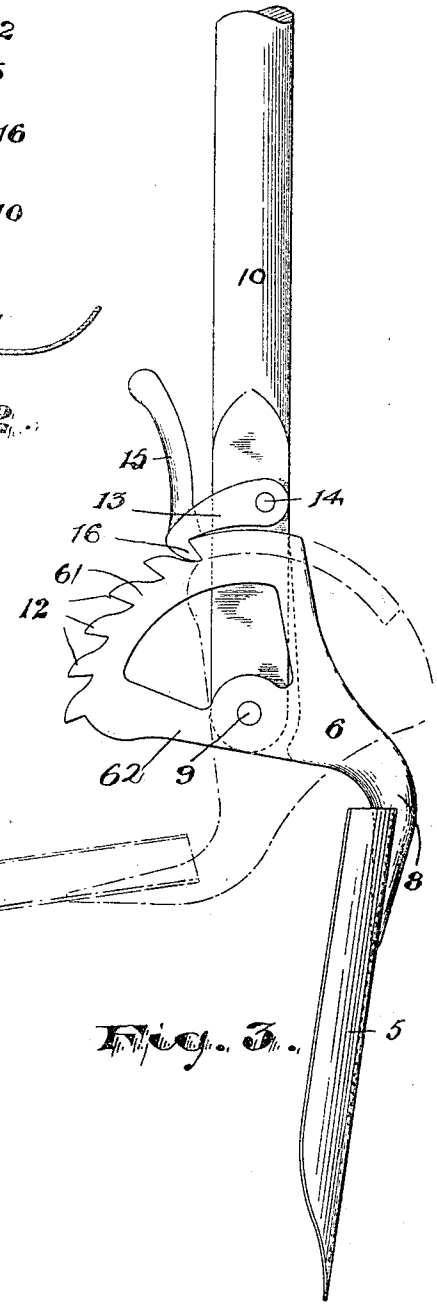

Fig. 3.

WITNESSES:

Ralph Lancaster

Russell M. Everett.

INVENTOR:

Louis Stritter.

BY

Charles H. Pell,

ATTORNEY.

ANDREW. B. GRAHAM CO., PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHERS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LOUIS STRITTER, OF EAST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY.

POST-HOLE SHOVEL.

No. 801,557. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 10, 1905.

Application filed May 24, 1905. Serial No. 262,023.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LOUIS STRITTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at East Orange, in the county of Essex and State of New Jersey, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Post-Hole Shovels; and I 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to numerals of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

The objects of this invention are to facilitate the operation of digging post-holes and to enable the work to be performed with greater ease and to secure other advantages and results, some of which may be referred to hereinafter in connection with the description of the working parts.

The invention consists in the improved shovel for digging post-holes and the like and in the arrangements and combinations of parts of the same, all substantially as will be hereinafter set forth, and finally embraced in the clauses of the claim.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which like numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in each of the figures, Figure 1 is a front elevation of the improved shovel. Fig. 2 is a section of the same on line *x*, and Fig. 3 is a side elevation.

In said drawings, 5 indicates the blade of the shovel, having a ratcheted shank 6 fastened thereto or formed integrally thereon, said shank extending up beyond the upper extremity of the blade. Clear above and away from said upper extremity of the blade, so as not to permit any interference therewith by the dirt piled upon said blade, said shank is provided with a segmental portion 61, on the curved edge of which are the ratchet-teeth 12, as hereinafter referred to.

I prefer that the ratcheted shank shall have the construction illustrated more clearly in Fig. 2, in which the said shank is shown provided with a slot 7 at its lower turned end 8, in which slot the blade 5 is inserted and held by welding, rivets, or other suitable means. Forward of the slotted portion thus described the said shank is enlarged and given the form of a segment of a circle which lies in a plane at right angles to the blade. Near the lower or forward edge of the enlargement or segment, between the ends thereof, is a pivotal bearing 9, adapted to receive a handle 10, and at its upper segmental end concentric with said pivotal bearing 9 the said shank is provided with a series of ratchet-teeth 12, adapted to be engaged by a pawl 13, pivoted to the handle 10, as at 14, and having a handle projection 15, extending in a direction approximately parallel with the said handle 10. The weight of the pawl at its free toothed extremity is ordinarily sufficient to cause the tooth 16 to enter into holding relation with the ratchet-teeth. The wide ratcheted part of the shank is centrally slotted or recessed in a direction parallel with the plane of the said wide part, and in said slot or recess is inserted the handle 10, which is reduced in width to enter and work in the said slot.

As will be seen in Fig. 3, the turned slotted end 8, to which the blade is fixed, lies substantially at right angles or perpendicular to the edge 62 of the segment lying toward the blade, and thus the segment does not lie on or overhang the blade, and so interfere with the digging operation by occupying a portion of the dirt-supporting surface of the shovel, and the dirt is prevented from interfering with the pivotal movements of the handle or the operation of the pawl.

The parts thus described are so disposed as that when the blade of the shovel is in position to enter the ground the handle will lie in a position parallel or approximately parallel with the said blade, and the ratcheted edge of the said shank will lie forward from said blade. The blade being pressed into the ground, the handle is turned forward on its pivot so that the pawl-tooth 16 will engage a forward tooth 12, after which downward pressure on the handle will cause the said blade to assume an approximately horizontal position, and thus support and carry more or less of the dirt or earth at the bottom of the post-hole vertically upward as the handle is drawn from the hole.

Having thus described the invention, what I claim as new is—

1. The improved shovel, having a blade with a projecting and ratcheted shank the ratchet-teeth of which are up and away from the upper edge of the blade, a handle pivoted on said shank and having a pawl thereon adapted to engage the ratchet-teeth of the said shank.

2. The improved shovel, having a blade with a forwardly-projecting shank having a slotted and ratcheted enlargement lying in a plane at right angles to said blade, and a handle pivoted on said shank and having a pawl pivoted

thereon adapted to engage the ratchet-teeth of the said shank.

3. The post-hole shovel herein described, comprising a blade, a segmental shank with a lower end to which the blade is fastened, the edge of the segment lying toward the blade being perpendicular to said turned end and lying up and away from the upper edge of the blade, said shank having teeth, a handle pivoted on said segment and a pawl pivoted on said handle and engaging said teeth.

4. The improved shovel herein described, comprising a blade, a shank having a segment lying in a plane perpendicular to the plane of said blade, the curved edge of said segment having ratchet-teeth, and said segment being centrally slotted in a plane parallel with the sides, a handle extending into the central slot of said segment and pivoted to said segment, and a pawl pivoted on said handle and having a handle extending approximately parallel with the handle, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of May, 1905.

LOUIS STRITTER.

Witnesses:
CHARLES H. PELL,
RUSSELL M. EVERETT.