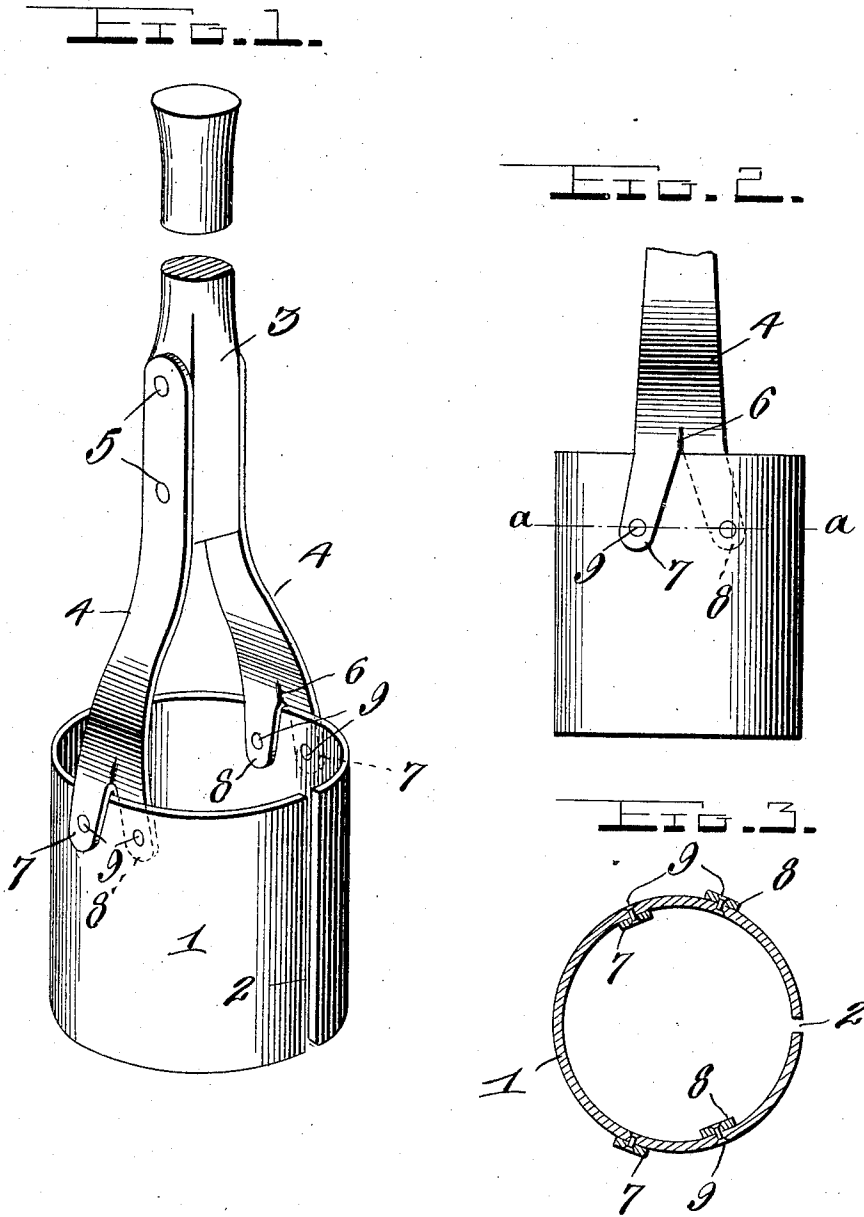


J. W. FOSTER.
HOLE DIGGER.
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1,006,642.

Patented Oct. 24, 1911.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN W. FOSTER, OF UTICA, MISSISSIPPI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO FREDERIC A. PEYTON, OF UTICA, MISSISSIPPI.

HOLE-DIGGER.

1,006,642.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN W. FOSTER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Utica, R. F. D., in the county of Claiborne and State of Mississippi, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hole-Diggers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

This invention relates to improvements in hole diggers, for digging post holes and the like, the invention consisting in the construction, combination and arrangement of devices, hereinafter described and claimed.

The object of this invention is to effect improvements in the construction of the jaws which connect the cylindrical blade to the handle and avoid the necessity of forming shoulders in the jaws which provide objectionable obstructions on the surfaces of the blade, another object being to increase the strength of the jaws.

In the accompanying drawings—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a hole digger constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the same on the plane indicated by the line *a—a* of Fig. 2.

The blade 1 of my improved hole digger is of the usual cylindrical or tubular construction, open at its upper and lower end, and also open on one side as at 2. The handle 3, is connected to the upper end of the blade by means of a pair of jaws 4. The jaws have their upper ends secured to opposite sides of the lower portion of the handle by means of rivets or other suitable devices 5. In accordance with my invention, the lower ends of the jaws are widened and bowed outwardly from each other, and are split as at 6, radially to the blade so that each jaw is provided at its lower end with a pair of forked arms 7, 8, which are out of line with each other radially. These forked arms are disposed astride of the upper edges of the tubular blade, so that one arm of

each jaw bears on the outer side of the blade, the other arm thereof bearing on the inner side of the blade. The said arms of the jaws are secured to the blade by means of rivets 9. By thus bifurcating the lower ends of the jaws, and disposing the fork arms thus produced astride of the upper edges of the tubular blade, so that one fork arm of each jaw bears on the outer side of the blade, and the other arm bears on the inner side thereof, all necessity of forming shoulders in the jaws which would produce objectionable obstructions on the surfaces of the tubular blade is avoided, and moreover, the jaws and the blade mutually reinforce one another, and a connection of maximum strength is formed between the jaws and the blade. Moreover, the simplicity of this connection enables the digger to be more cheaply produced than heretofore, so that in accordance with my invention, the cost of the digger is not only reduced, but its construction is also greatly strengthened.

I claim:—

The herein described hole digger comprising a tubular blade, a handle, jaws having their upper ends secured to opposite sides of the handle, the said jaws having their lower portions split radially with respect to the blade and thereby each provided with a pair of downwardly diverging fork arms, said fork arms being disposed astride the upper edge of the blade so that the fork arms of each jaw are out of line with each other radially, one fork arm of each jaw being on the inner side and the other being on the outer side of the blade, said fork arms being secured to the blade independently of one another.

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

JOHN W. FOSTER.

Witnesses:

A. L. PRICE,
R. F. COOK.