(No Model.)

J. KUBITZKI.

SHOVEL.

No. 487,534. Patented Dec. 6, 1892.

Fig. 4.

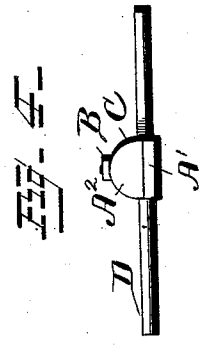


Fig. 3.

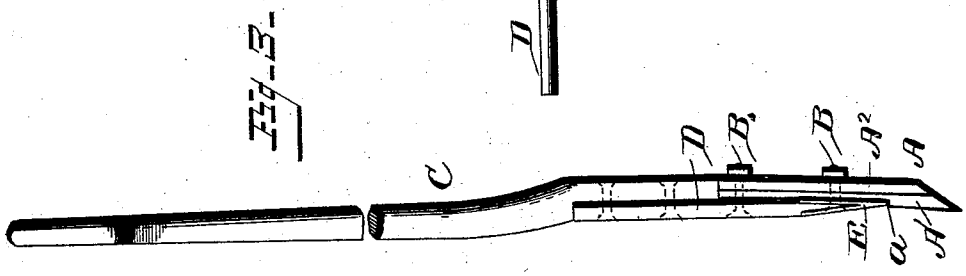


Fig. 2.

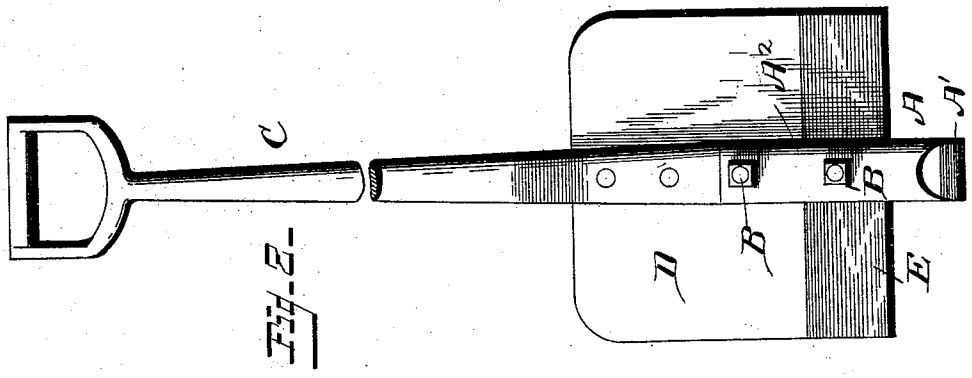
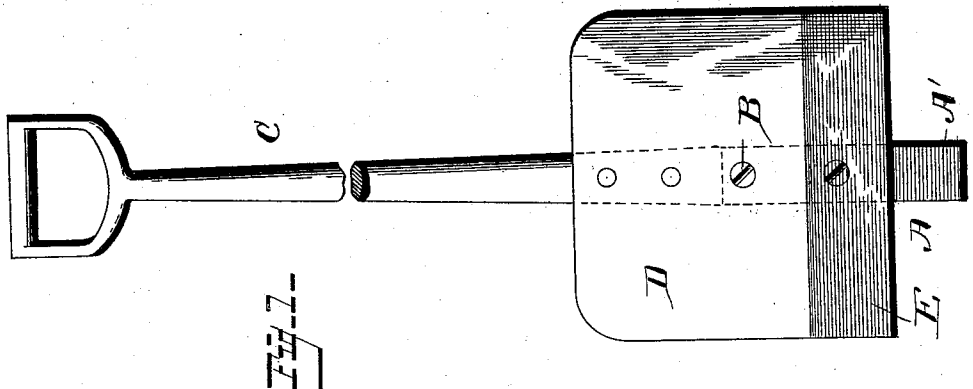


Fig. 1.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHANN KUBITZKI, OF LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN.

SHOVEL.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 487,534, dated December 6, 1892.

Application filed July 21, 1892. Serial No. 440,860. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHANN KUBITZKI, a citizen of the United States, residing at La Crosse, in the county of La Crosse, State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in 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.

My invention relates to shovels which are especially adapted for use in connection with railway-crossings to facilitate the removal of snow, dirt, and other foreign matter from the cracks between the rails and the planking. The shovel in its construction is also adapted for ordinary uses, and particularly as a snow-shovel, on the removal of the tongue which is provided to clear the space between the rails and planking.

The improvement consists of the novel features and the peculiar construction and combination of the parts, which will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed, and which are shown in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a front view of a shovel embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is a rear view of said shovel. Fig. 3 is a side or edge view, and Fig. 4 is an end view, of the shovel shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

The shovel comprises the handle C and the blade D, which are of usual construction. The tongue A is secured to the rear side of the blade and projects beyond the edge thereof a proper distance and terminates in a square edge. This tongue is composed of two parts: a blade A′, which tapers slightly in thickness throughout its length, being thickest at its lower or active end, and a wooden reinforce A^2, which is located in the rear of said blade A′. A shoulder *a* is provided near the lower end of the tongue or the blade portion A′ to receive the lower edge of the shovel-blade D. The portions A′ and A^2 are secured together and to the shovel-blade by means of bolts B, in such a manner that the said tongue A may be readily removed from the said shovel-blade and attached thereto when required. The upper ends of the parts A′ and A^2 form a shoulder against which the lower end of the handle C abuts, thereby forming, in effect, a continuous brace or stay on the rear side of the shovel-blade. The upper portion of the shovel-blade is preferably formed of wood, and its lower end is strengthened and reinforced by the cutting-blade E, which is divided along its upper edge to receive the tapering end of the wooden portion, the latter being constructed to enter the space between the separated parts of said cutting-blade E, as most clearly shown in Fig. 3.

It will be observed that the active or cutting head of the shovel-blade is straight and of considerable length, the same as any ordinary snow-shovel. It will be further noticed that the tongue A is located midway between the edges of said shovel-blade, and that the lower end of said tongue is beveled from the rear side to a chisel-edge. The reinforce A^2 not only strengthens the shovel-blade and the blade portions A′, but also facilitates the action of the shovel when used to remove snow and other foreign matter from the space between the planking and the rail, in that it serves as a shoe for the shovel to glide upon and form a fulcrum when using the shovel as a pry to remove said foreign matter from the space between the rails and planking. When the tongue A is removed, the shovel can be used in the usual manner.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. As an improved article of manufacture, a shovel for simultaneously removing foreign matter from the cracks between the rails and the planking and from the said planking on either side of the rail, having a tongue projected from its lower edge and terminating in a broad square edge to enter the said crack, and having the lower edge of the said shovel in a straight line and extending on each side of the said tongue at right angles thereto to touch the planking on either side of the rail, said tongue having its front side flush with the front face or bottom of the shovel, substantially as specified.

2. The herein-described shovel, composed of the blade D, having its lower end rein-

forced by a cutting-blade, a handle C, having its lower end bolted to the rear side of the shovel-blade, the tongue A, adapted to be removably attached to the shovel-blade and having its upper end abutting against the lower end of the handle and having its lower end projecting beyond the shovel-blade, said tongue being composed of a cutting-blade and a reinforce, substantially as described, for the purpose specified.

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

JOHANN KUBITZKI.

Witnesses:

JOHN JACOB ESCH,

WALTER CLARENCE WINTER.