(No Model.)

J. B. DENNING.

TONGUE FOR VEHICLES.

No. 260,545. Patented July 4, 1882.

Fig. 1

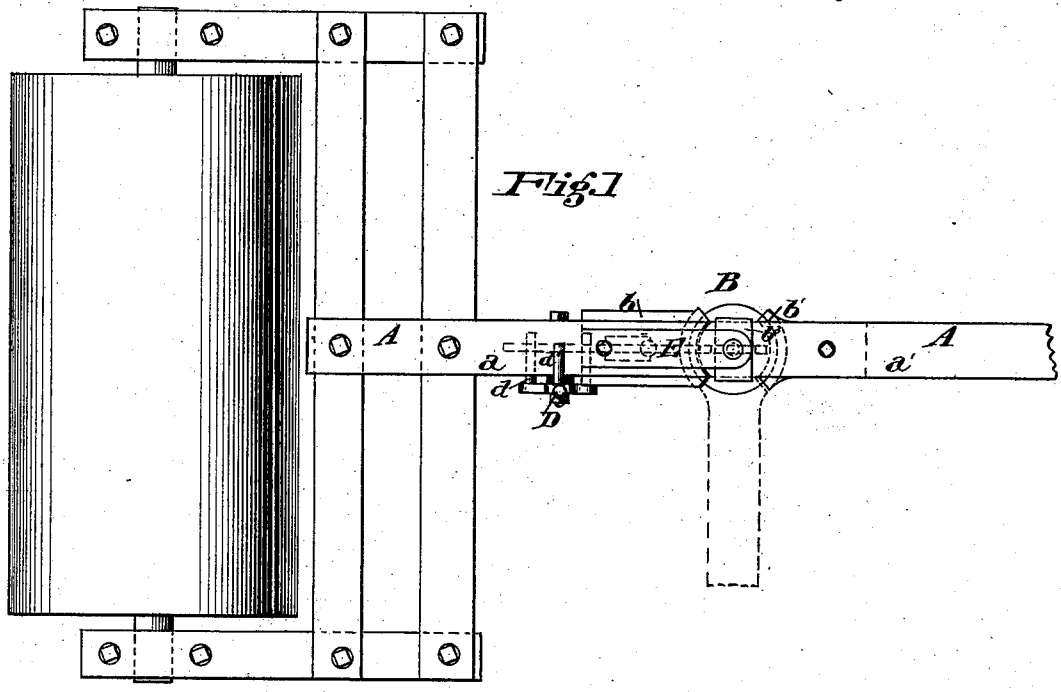


Fig. 2

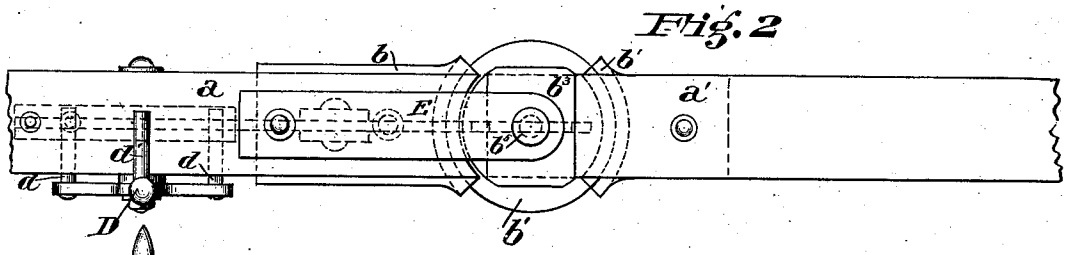


Fig. 4

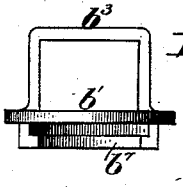


Fig. 3

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN B. DENNING, OF MIAMI, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO GEORGE WABUITZ, JR., OF SATER, OHIO.

TONGUE FOR VEHICLES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,545, dated July 4, 1882.

Application filed April 18, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN B. DENNING, of Miami, in the county of Hamilton and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tongues for Wheeled Vehicles, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is in the nature of an improvement upon draft-tongues for wheeled vehicles, land-rollers, &c.; and it consists in jointing the tongue at the point where the double-tree is usually attached in such a manner that at the will of the driver it may be bent, either to the right or left, at a right angle, so that the strain of turning the vehicle shall be mutually borne by both horses of the team instead of mainly by one horse, as with the stiff tongue. When the tongue is straightened up it is retained in this position by a spring bolt or catch, which is withdrawn by means of a hand or foot lever when the tongue is to be turned.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a plan of a land-roller containing my improved tongue. Fig. 2 is an enlarged plan of the joint. Fig. 3 is a sectional elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 2, and Fig. 4 is an end elevation of the upper member of the joint.

Similar letters of reference indicate similar parts.

A is the tongue, consisting of the rigid part *a*, firmly attached to the front running-gear of the vehicle, and of the movable part *a'*, attached to the rigid part *a* by means of the joint B. This joint consists of the lower plate, *b*, attached by means of bolts to the part *a* of the tongue, and of the upper plate, *b'*, attached by bolts to the part *a'* of the tongue. The upper plate, *b'*, is provided with a staple, b^3, preferably cast a part of the plate, for the reception of the butt of the movable part *a'* of the tongue, and the lower plate, *b*, is provided with a fulcrum, b^2, in which the lever or arm C is pivoted.

D is a hand-lever pivoted to the part *a* of the tongue and provided with pins *d d*, so that a pull or a push on the lever will elevate the rear end of the lever or arm C and withdraw from their respective sockets the bolts or catches *c c*.

b^4 b^4 are the sockets for the bolts, consisting of mortises or notches in the plates *b b'*, which match when the two portions of the tongue A are in line, and through which the bolts *c c* pass to secure the movable part *a'* of the tongue in a straightened position.

d' is a pin in the side of the lever D, by means of which the lever may be operated by the foot of the driver.

E is the customary brace, which laps over the double-tree, (not shown,) and through which the pin b^5 passes to secure the double-tree to the tongue, which pin also serves as a pivot for the two members or parts *b* and *b'* of the joint B.

By reference to Fig. 3 it will be observed that the plates *b* and *b'* are provided with grooved flanges b^6 and b^7, which receive the circular ends of the opposite plates—that is, the circular end of the plate *b'* rotates in the groove or channel of flange b^6, and the circular end of the plate *b* rotates in the groove or channel of the plate b^7. By means of these flanges additional strength is imparted to the joint B.

A spring, *c'*, fastened at one end to the under side of the rigid part *a* of the tongue and pressing at the opposite end upon the rear arm of the lever C, forces the bolts *c c* into the sockets b^4 b^4 of the joint whenever said sockets in the respective plates *b* and *b'* register—that is, when the movable part *a'* of the tongue is brought into line with the rigid part *a*.

The plates *b* and *b'*, lever C, and hand-lever D may be made of cast or malleable iron, as preferred, and the joints B may be fitted up as an independent manufacture to be applied to vehicle-tongues now in use.

The application of a tongue of this character is limited only by the kinds of wheeled machines made, and is absolutely indispensable with heavy land-rollers, trucking-wagons, plows, cultivators, and, in fact, all vehicles or draft-machines requiring a team of two or more horses.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. The combination, with a tongue composed of rigid and movable parts *a a'*, united by a swiveled joint, B, of a horizontal lever, C, pivoted intermediate its ends and provided at its forward portion with means to lock the mova-

ble part of the tongue, and a device for tilting said lever on its pivot to depress its forward end, substantially as described.

2. The combination, with a tongue composed of rigid and movable parts *a a'*, united by a swiveled joint, B, of the horizontal lever C, pivoted intermediate its ends and provided with means to lock the movable part of the tongue, and the pivoted hand-lever D, having means to elevate the rear end of the locking-lever by swinging said hand-lever either forward or backward, substantially as described.

3. The combination, with the tongue composed of the rigid and movable parts *a a'*, of the plate *b*, attached to the rigid part and provided with the grooved flange b^6, the plate *b'*, attached to the part *a'* and provided with the grooved flange b^7, both of said plates having coincident sockets b^4, the connecting-pin b^5, the locking-lever C, pivoted under the tongue, and means for tilting the locking-lever, substantially as described.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to the foregoing specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN B. DENNING.

Witnesses:
GEO. WABUITZ, Jr.,
J. R. THOMPSON.