C. J. BINGHAM.

FOLDING PLOW.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 8, 1912.

1,040,263.

Patented Oct. 8, 1912.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

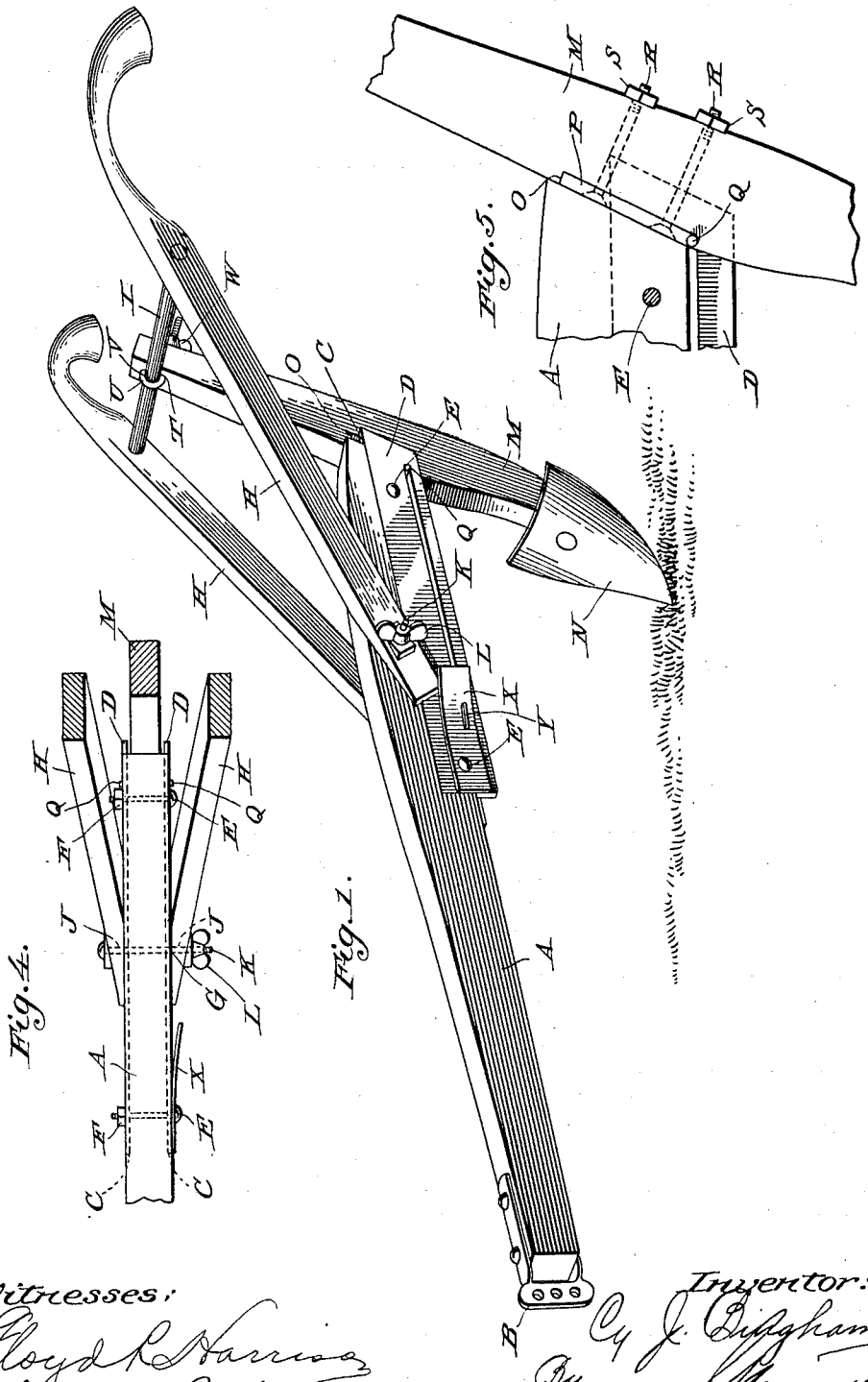

Fig. 1.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

Witnesses:

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

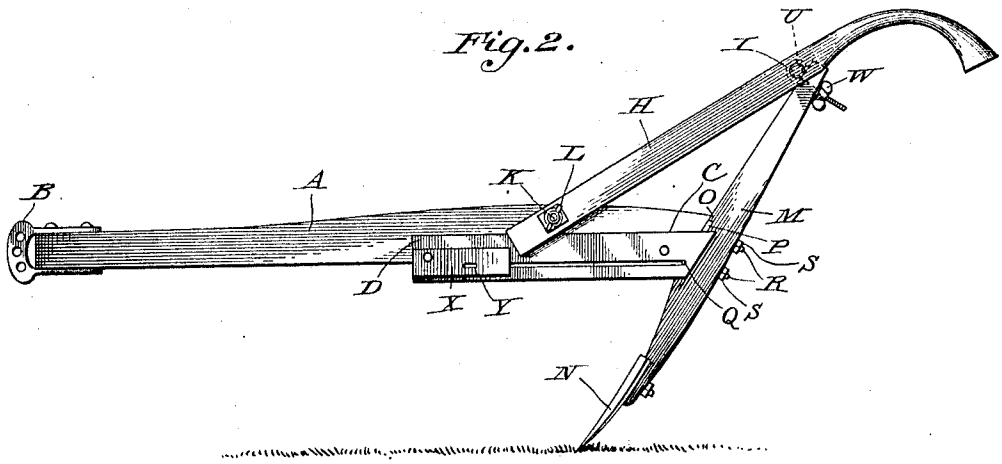
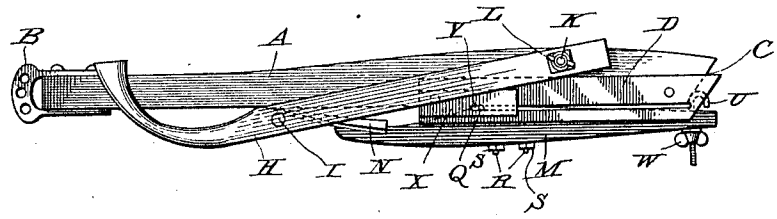


Fig. 3.



Witnesses:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING PLOW.

1,040,263. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Oct. 8, 1912.

Application filed June 8, 1912. Serial No. 702,635.

(DEDICATED TO THE PUBLIC.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CY J. BINGHAM, a citizen of the United States of America, and an employee of the Department of Agriculture of the said United States, residing at John Day, in the county of Grant, State of Oregon, (whose post-office address is John Day, Oregon,) have invented a new and useful Improvement in Folding Plows.

This application is made under the act of March 3, 1883, chapter 143 (22 Stat. 625), and the invention herein described and claimed may be used by the Government of the United States, or any of its officers or employees, or by any person in the United States, without the payment of any royalty thereon.

My invention relates to folding plows.

The object of my invention is to provide a plow that is simple in construction, easy of operation and adapted to be readily unloaded and conveniently carried or transported.

My device is designed for use in fighting forest fires, as the same is so arranged that it can be compactly folded and two or more of the plows packed on the back of a horse and conveyed to any locality in which a fire is raging, where they can be removed from the horse and set up and employed for running furrows around the fire. The ordinary method employed for preventing the spread of forest fires is to grub out a fire break with hand tools. This work is exceedingly laborious as it usually requires the services of a large number of men and considerable time to construct such a firebreak. The reason for following this apparently crude method of intercepting the progress of a forest fire is because such fires frequently occur in remote and inaccessible parts of the forest where implements suitable for successfully combating the progress of the fire cannot be carried. My invention is intended particularly to overcome the difficulties so encountered.

The object, characteristic features and scope of my invention will be more readily understood from the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, forming a part hereof, wherein:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of my plow, Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the mechanism, Fig. 3 is a side view of the plow in a locked position, Fig. 4 is a top view of the plow in a closed position, and, Fig. 5 is a sectional view of the standard and beam in working position.

Referring to the drawings, A, represents the plow beam, having a clevis, B, secured thereto. To the lower part of the sides of said beam, A, in mortises, C C, I adjust slotted plates, D D. These plates, D D, may be constructed of iron, steel or other material, and are so arranged in said mortises that their slotted portions extend below the bottom of the plow beam, and their rear ends extend somewhat beyond the end of the plow beam for the purpose of forming guides for the standard hereinafter referred to. The plates, D D, are secured to the plow beam, A, by means of threaded bolts, E E, passing through openings in said plates and beam and engaging threaded nuts, F F. G, designates an opening in said plow beam and H H represent the divergent handles, provided with a cross piece, I. The handles, H H, have holes or openings, J J near their lower ends, and are movably adjusted to the plow beam, A, by passing the threaded bolt, K, through the openings, J J and G, and engaging the thumb screw, L. The standard, M, is provided with a plow shovel, N, which may be secured to its lower end in any suitable manner. In the mortise, O, cut in the center of the standard, I place a brace plate, P, provided with integral extensions, Q Q. This brace plate may be made of hard steel or other suitable material, and is secured to said standard by threaded bolts, R R, which pass through openings in said brace plate and said standard and engage the threaded nuts, S S. The standard, M, is adjusted to the plow beam, A, by fitting the extensions, Q Q, in the slots of the plates, D D. When so adjusted and the plow is in a closed position, the standard, M, is adapted to slide back and forth in response to pressure, horizontally with said beam.

T, indicates a hole in the standard, M, through which passes a hook, U, having a threaded end. The purpose of the hook, U, is to hold the standard, M, in a fixed position when the plow is arranged for operation. This object is effected by hooking the cross piece, I, at the ridge, V, with the hook, U, and adjusting the thumb screw, W, to said hook until the standard is held rigid against said cross piece.

Secured to one of the slotted plates, D D, is a detent, X, having an opening Y. This detent, X, is provided for locking the standard, M, when the plow is folded. The locking is accomplished by permitting one of the extensions, Q Q, to enter the opening, Y, and then pressing the detent inwardly.

In arranging the plow for operation I release the standard, M, from its locked position, slide it backward and raise the same to a vertical position. The handles, H H, are turned rearward until the hook, U, comes in contact with the cross piece, I. Then I place the hook, U, over said cross piece, and adjust the thumb screw, W, to the threaded end of said hook until the standard becomes rigid. After adjustment of the parts in this manner the plow is ready for use. When it is desired to fold the plow it is only necessary to loosen the thumb screw, W, disengage the hook, U, then turn the standard, M, backward from its upwardly inclined position until it is parallel with the beam, A, and shove it forward until one of the extensions, R R, enters the opening Y. The detent, X, is pressed inwardly and locks the standard. The handles, H H, are pushed down against the beam, A, thus completing the folding operation.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:

1. In a folding plow, comprising a plow beam, divergent handles having a cross piece, said handles movably adjusted to said plow beam, slotted plates mortised in the sides of said plow beam, a standard provided with a plow shovel, a brace plate mortised in said standard and having integral extensions entering the slots of said plates, a hook for adjusting said standard to said cross piece, substantially as specified.

2. In a folding plow, comprising a plow beam, divergent handles movably adjusted to said beam, slotted plates, openings in said beam and plates, bolts for entering said openings and securing said plates to said beam, a standard provided with a plow shovel, a brace plate having integral extensions, openings in said brace plate and standard, bolts for entering said openings and securing said brace plates to said standard, said extensions adapted to enter and move in the slots of said plates, an opening in the top of said standard, a hook having a threaded end for entering said opening, a thumb screw for engaging the threaded end of said hook, said hook holding said standard in a rigid position by means of hooking said cross piece and adjusting said thumbscrew, and a detent secured to the side of said beam for locking said standard, substantially as specified.

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

CY J. BINGHAM.

Witnesses:
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S. A. ANDERSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."