(No Model.)

H. ALBERS.

MANURE FORK.

No. 261,894. Patented Aug. 1, 1882.

Fig. 1.

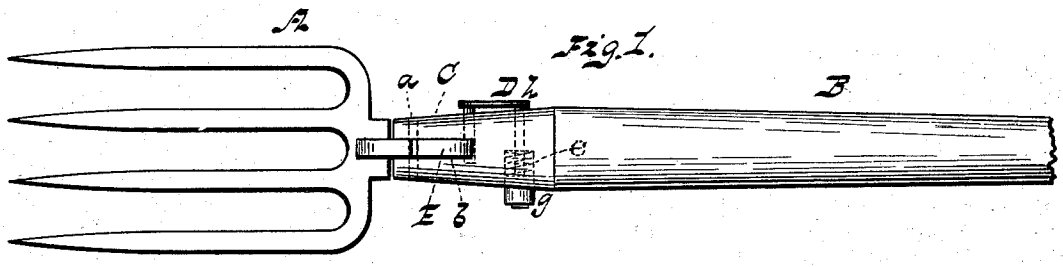


Fig. 2.

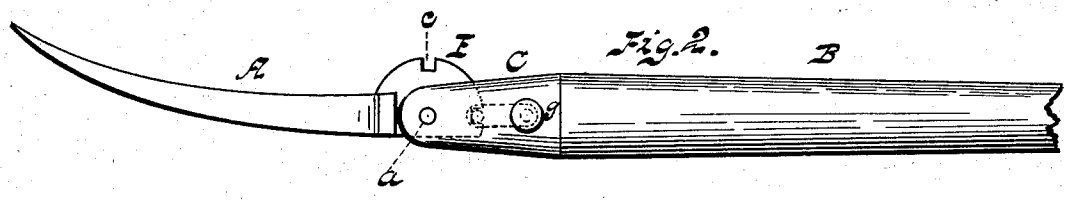


Fig. 3.

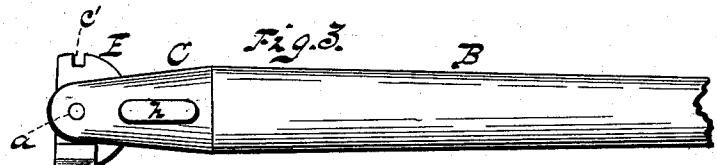


Fig. 5.

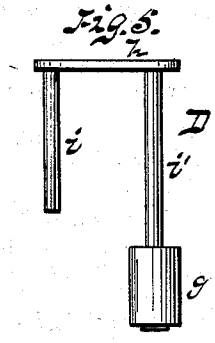
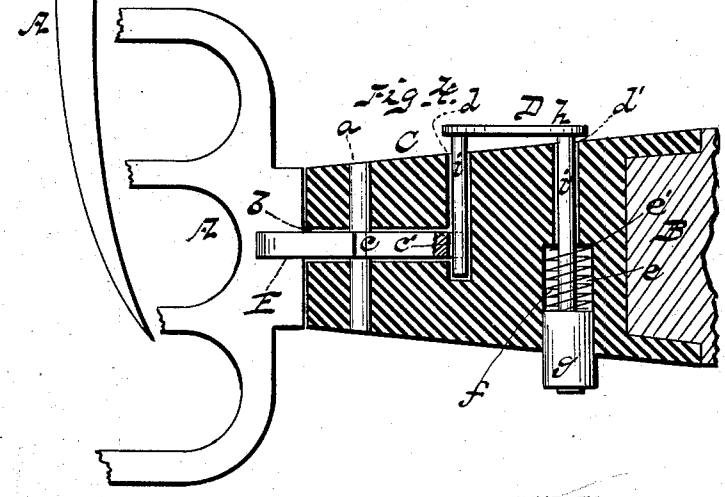


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

James J. Sheehy.

L. P. Simonds.

INVENTOR

Henry Albers.

by Wm. H. Bates & Co.

his ATTORNEYS.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HENRY ALBERS, OF NEW BREMEN, OHIO.

MANURE-FORK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 261,894, dated August 1, 1882.

Application filed June 10, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HENRY ALBERS, a citizen of the United States, residing at New Bremen, in the county of Auglaize and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Manure-Forks, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings.

This invention has relation to improvements in forks for handling manure, &c.; and it consists in the novel construction and arrangement of the same, whereby a fork may be converted into a rake, all as will be hereinafter more fully explained.

The annexed drawings, to which reference is made, fully illustrate my invention, in which—

Figure 1 represents a plan view of my device, showing the same as a fork. Fig. 2 is a side view of same in a similar position. Fig. 3 is also a side view, representing the invention as a rake. Fig. 4 is a horizontal sectional view, and Fig. 5 is a side view of the push-pin or locking and unlocking device detached from the fork.

The letter A designates the fork or tines, and B the handle.

C indicates a ferrule attached securely to the handle, and provided on its end with a vertical slot, *b*, in which is pivoted a semicircular plate, E, at *a*. Said plate projects from the rear of the fork, and has notches *c c'* cut in the periphery thereof, for a purpose hereinafter set forth. The ferrule C is also provided with lateral holes *d d'*, the former communicating with the vertical slot *b* and the latter with a recess, *e*, in which is placed a spring, *f*, that operates a push-pin for locking the fork in each position.

D represents the push-pin, which is composed of a short arm, *i*, that plays freely in the hole *d*, and a long arm, *i'*, that plays in a hole, *d'*, on the end of which (the arm *i'*) is a thumb-knob, *g*, that plays in the recess *e*, and a bar, *h*, extends from one arm to the other, which connects the two to one another.

Encircling the arm *i'*, and within the recess *e*, is a spring, *f*, one end of which bears against the shoulder *e'* and the opposite end against the inner end of the thumb-knob *g*.

Having described the different parts of which my device is composed, I will now explain the operation of the parts.

Figs. 1, 2, and 4 represent the device as a fork for handling manure, hay, &c., with the arm *i* of the push-pin D engaging the notch *c'* on the plate E, thereby securing the fork in a horizontal position. At the same time the spring *f* bears against the shoulder *e'* and the thumb-knob *g*, which keep the push-pin D in engagement therewith.

In changing the position of the fork for raking purposes, as shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings, the pressure upon the thumb-knob by the operator causes the arm *i* to disengage with the notch *c'*, after which the fork is turned upon its pivot *a* downwardly until the notch *c* engages the arm *i*, when the latter is sprung therein by the action of the spring *f*, and retained by the pressure of said spring against the thumb-knob *g*.

It will thus be seen by the foregoing description that I construct a fork that can be converted into a rake, which is simple in construction and operation.

I am aware that prior to my invention pivoted forks have been used having a spring locking-pin and notched plate for adjusting and locking the fork in any desired position; but this I do not claim broadly; but

What I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In combination with a pivoted fork, the ferrule C, having the hole *d*, communicating with the vertical slot *b*, and the hole *d'*, having the recess *e* to receive the push-pin D, as shown and described.

2. The combination, with a pivoted fork having a semicircular plate provided with notches on the periphery, of the push-pin D, constructed as shown, having arms *i i'*, connected by the bar *h* and thumb-knob *g*, and operated by the spring *f*, as described, and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of the push-pin D, constructed as described, with the ferrule C, having holes *d d'*, recess *e*, slot *b*, spring *f*, semicircular plate E, having notches *c c'*, and pivoted fork A, the whole operating as shown and specified.

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

HENRY ALBERS.

Witnesses:

EDWARD ROEGNER,

FERD. LAUT.