

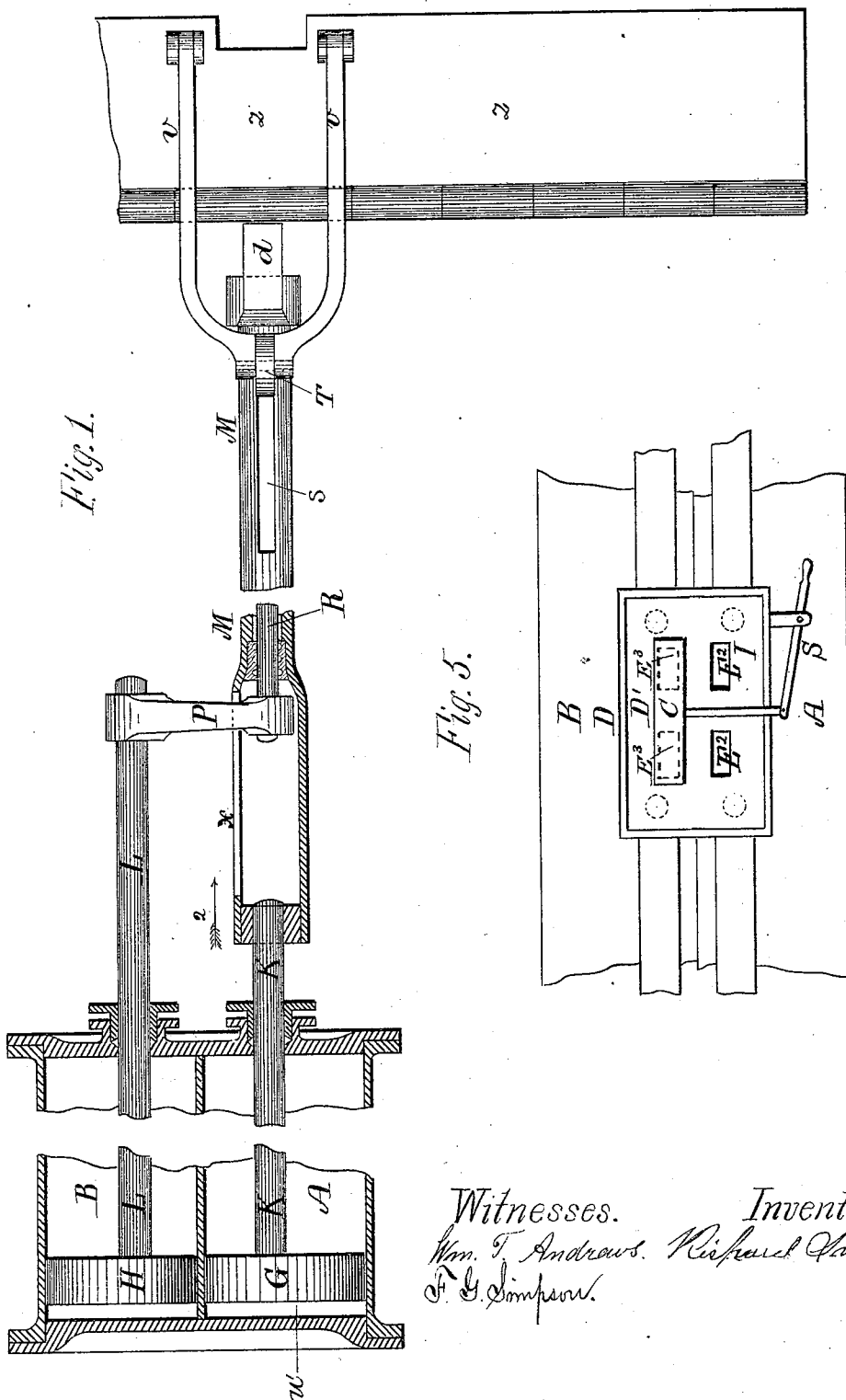
(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 1.

R. SMITH.
Vibrating Propeller.

No. 242,567.

Patented June 7, 1881.



Witnesses.
Wm. T. Andrews. Richard Smith
G. G. Simpson.

Inventor.

(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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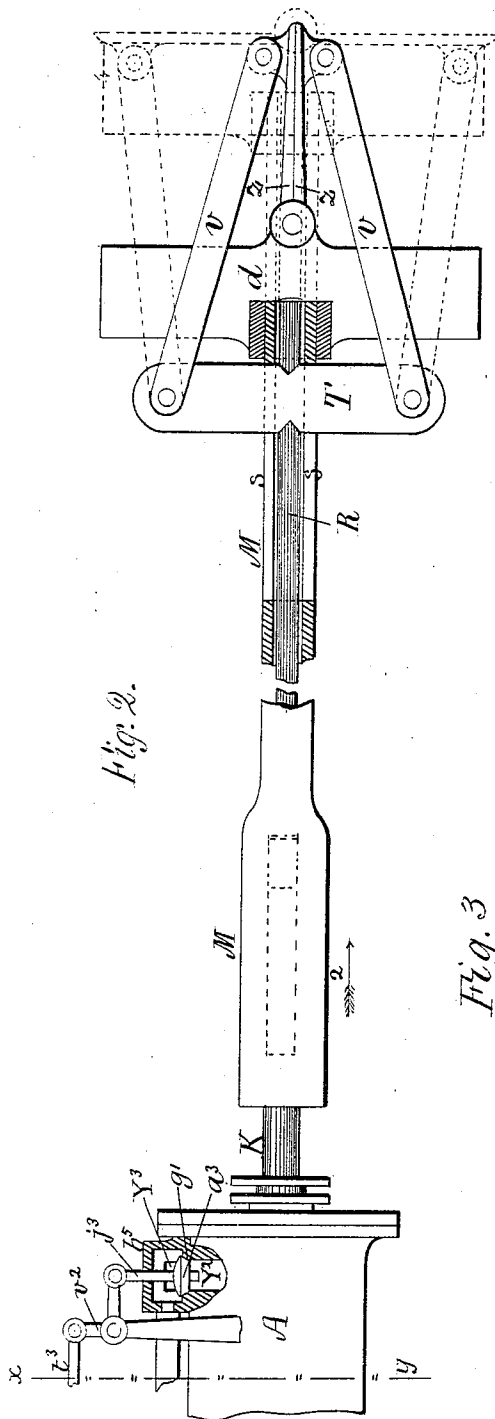


Fig. 2.

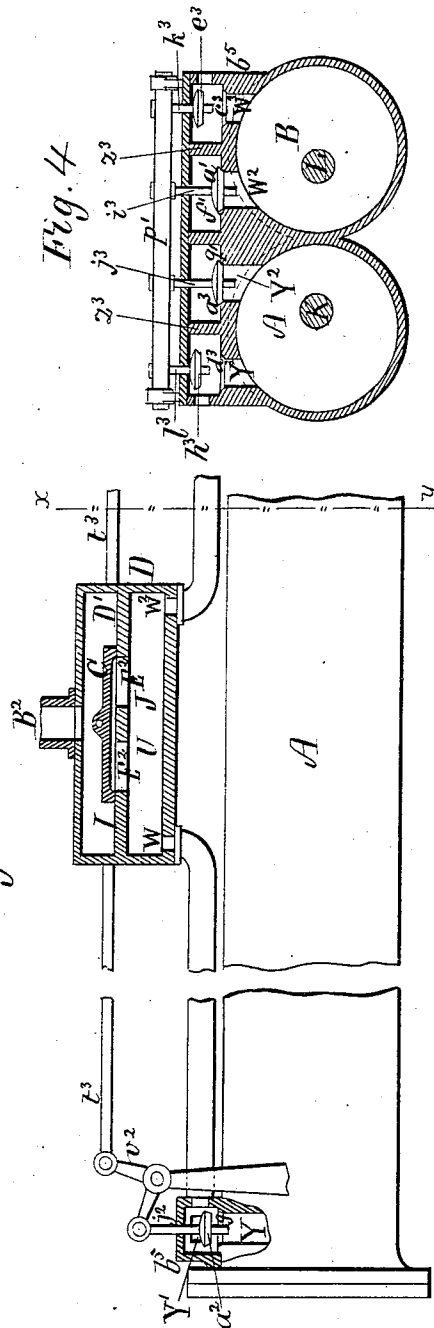


Fig. 3.

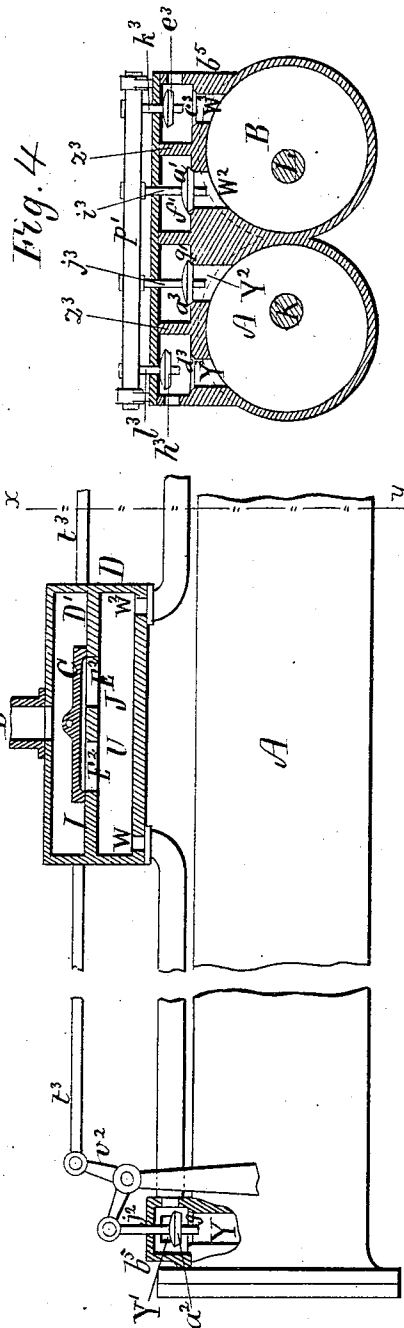


Fig. 4.

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Fig. 7.

Cylinder Shortened.

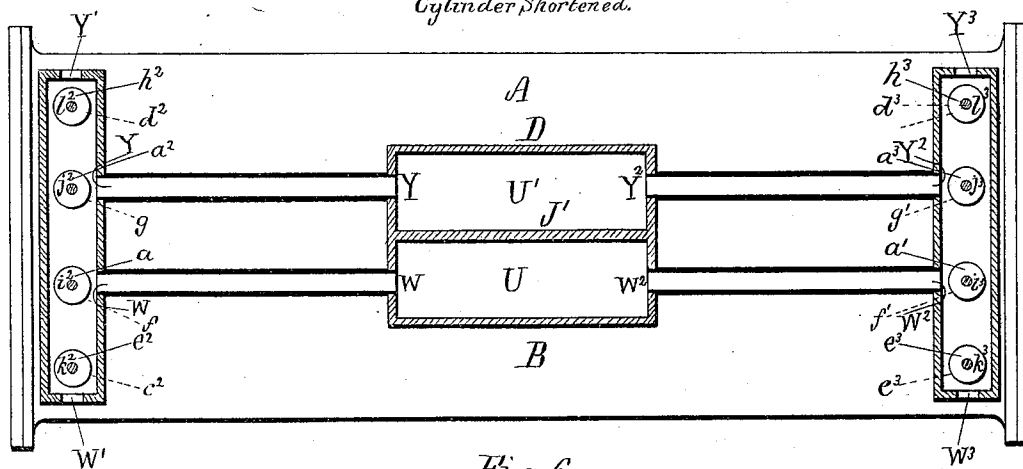


Fig. 6.

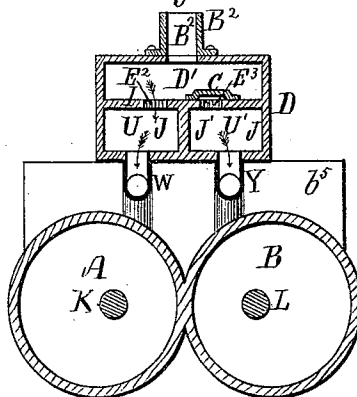
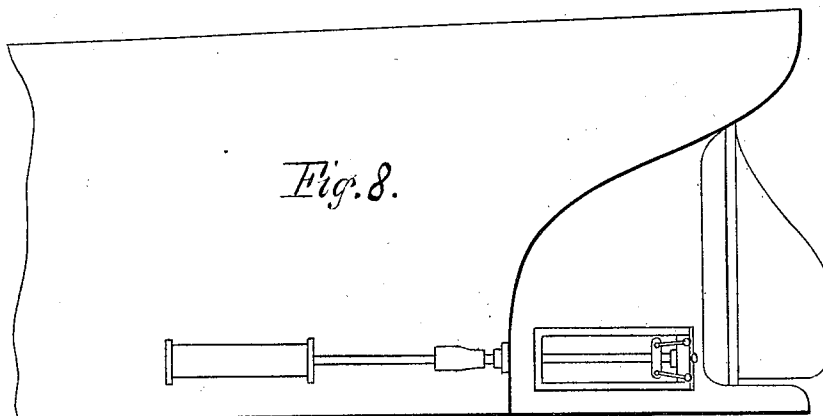


Fig. 8.



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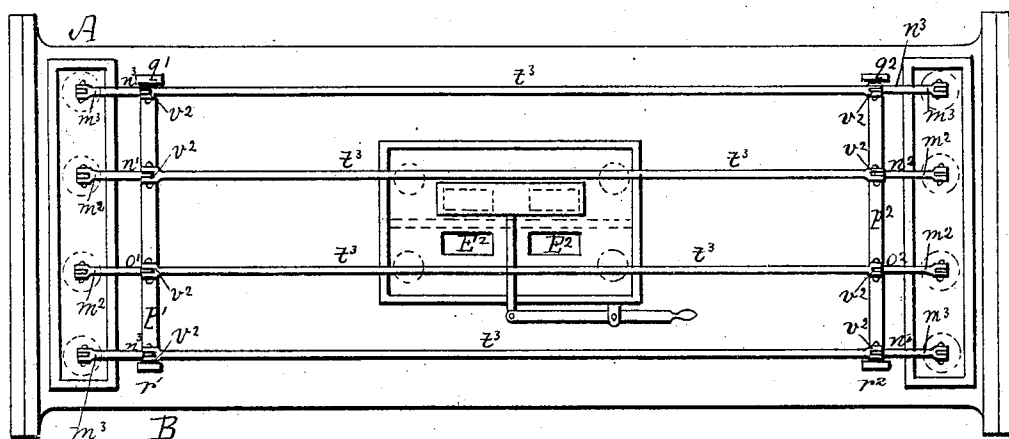


Fig. 9.

Witnesses.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RICHARD SMITH, OF SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC, CANADA, ASSIGNOR TO JOHN ROACH, TRUSTEE, OF NEW YORK, N. Y.

VIBRATING PROPELLER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 242,567, dated June 7, 1881.

Application filed October 29, 1880. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RICHARD SMITH, a citizen of the Dominion of Canada, residing at Sherbrooke, in the Province of Quebec, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Reciprocating Propellers for Vessels; 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to propellers having hinged blades; and it consists, chiefly, in a pair of longitudinally-reciprocating shafts having a pin-and-slot connection with each other, and connected, respectively, with the pintle and with the sides of said blades, for the purpose hereinafter set forth.

It also consists in the combination, with the above, of two independent engines and ports and valves for shifting power from one shaft to the other.

It also consists in certain minor though valuable improvements, which will hereinafter be set forth and claimed.

The drawings accompanying this specification represent, in Figure 1, a horizontal section; in Fig. 2 a sectional side elevation of a part of my mechanism; in Fig. 3 a similar view of another part; and in Fig. 4 a vertical cross-section of a device or mechanism containing my invention, taken through the cylinder-valves; while Fig. 5 is a plan of the valve and valve-seats. Fig. 6 of the drawings is a cross-section of the cylinders and valve-chest, and Fig. 7 a plan of the lower chamber of said chest. Fig. 8 represents the propeller as applied to a vessel. Fig. 9 represents a plan of the cylinder-valves.

In the drawings, A B represent two horizontal steam-cylinders, preferably of equal length and capacity, arranged side by side, and containing each a piston, G or H, and piston-rod K or L, while upon the top of the combined cylinders is a closed steam-chest, D, which is divided horizontally by a partition, I, into two chambers, D' and J, the first and upper one,

D', being the valve-chest, and the lower one, J, constituting an intermediate chamber between the valve-chest and cylinders. In opposite sides of the partition or valve-seat I, I create two ports or sets of ports, E² E² E³ E³, leading to the chamber J below, and operating with these ports I dispose, within the valve-chamber D', a flat valve, C, of sufficient area to cover one opening or set of openings, the valve being provided with a lever, S, fulcrumed to the adjacent part of the steam-chest, by which such valve may be moved laterally upon its seat and changed in position from one opening to the other, at the will of the engineer.

The chamber J of the steam-chest is divided longitudinally by a vertical partition, J', into two inclosures, U U', one inclosure, U, communicating with the cylinder A, and the other, U', with the cylinder B. In opposite corners, upon one side of each inclosure U U', I create a live-steam port, W W² or Y Y², the ports W W² leading to opposite ends of the interior of the cylinder A, and the ports Y Y² to the corresponding parts of the cylinder B.

The valve-chamber D' being always open to entrance of live steam by its inlet-port B², it follows that when the valve C is over and covering one port or set of ports—say E³ E³, as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings—steam is excluded from the inclosure U' and cylinder B, with which these ports communicate, while the ports E² E² are open and permitting live steam to pass to the inclosure U and the cylinder A, and vice versa.

In lieu of governing the ports which control admission of steam to the cylinder directly by the primary valve C, as is usual in steam-engines, I proceed as follows: At the point where each live-steam port W W² or Y Y² enters its respective cylinder I form a valve-seat, *f f'* and *g g'*, and upon this seat I place a puppet-valve, *a*, *a'*, *a*², or *a*³. (See Figs. 4 and 7.) Furthermore, I create in the substance of each end of the cylinders, or in a box, *b*², placed on the cylinders and alongside the valve-seats *f f'* of the cylinder A and *g g'* of the cylinder B, ports W' W³ and Y' Y³, these latter ports being exhaust-ports and leading to the atmosphere and separated from the others by partitions Z³. The port W' has a seat, *c*², the port

W³ has a seat, c³, the port Y' has a seat, d², and the port Y³ has a seat, d³. The port W' has a valve, e², the port W³ has a valve, e³, the port Y has a valve h², and the port Y³ a valve, h³.

The stems of the valves, taken in order with the numerical arrangement of the valves, as above, are shown—those valves of the live-steam ports W W² at i² i³, of the live-steam ports Y Y² at j² j³; those of the exhaust-ports W' W³ at k² k³, and of the exhaust-ports Y' Y³ at l² l³. The stems of the live-steam valves are each connected at their upper ends to the extremity of the lower and horizontal arm, m², of a bell-crank lever, n' n² or o' o², these cranks being of like size and shape, and the two of each set being pivoted at their angles or corners to a horizontal rod, p' or p², these rods being supported at each end in posts or standards q' q² or r' r², erected upon the outside of the cylinder. The stems of the exhaust-valves are also each secured at its upper end to the extremity of the lower arm, m³, of a bell-crank lever, n³, these cranks being of like size and shape as the first, and the two of each set likewise being pivoted to or upon the rods p' p². Furthermore, each bell-crank lever is formed with a vertical arm, v², and the upper extremity of the arms of one set of levers are connected to those of the opposite set by horizontal rods t³, &c., in such manner that as the valves at one end of the cylinder rise and open their ports those of the other end close upon their seats, each pair of valves thus connected being independent of the others, and their bell-crank levers turning freely upon their respective supports.

To operate the bell-crank levers and the valves at each traverse of the piston in the respective cylinders I erect upon each piston-rod, outside of the cylinder, arms, which are to be so situated as to intercept the levers.

I do not in any sense limit myself to the above-described means of operating the pistons G H, as various mechanical devices may be employed for the purpose. My object in representing and describing them is to illustrate one means of accomplishing the result.

The essential feature of my invention is the construction and operation of the folding propeller, and these I will now describe.

To the outer end of the piston-rod K, I secure a tubular hub or shaft, M, which I term the "propeller-shaft," since it drives the propeller rearward to force the vessel forward, and to the outer end of this shaft, and at right angles to its axis, I affix a vertical cross-head, d, which slides at top and bottom in ways or guides in the stern of the vessel. (See Fig. 8 of the drawings.)

To the center of the cross-head d, and in axial alignment with the axis of the shaft M, I hinge or pivot the inner edges of two flat wings or blades, z z, which together constitute the body of the folding propeller, the length and width of these blades being governed by the

character and capacity of the vessel to which they are applied.

As the piston-rod K and propeller-shaft M extend in a straight line from the cylinder A it becomes necessary, under the present construction, to divert the piston-rod L of the backing-cylinder from a straight line, in order that its outer end may enter the shaft M, and to this end I bend the said rod L by securing to its outer end a lateral yoke, P, and to the opposite end of this yoke I secure the inner end of a secondary rod or extension, R, while the end of the yoke enters and slides within the bore of the shaft M, a slot, x, being created in one side of said shaft to permit of short longitudinal play of the end of the yoke within such bore, and by and with the piston-rod L R. The yoke P serves not only as a bend to the piston-rod, but as means of compelling the pistons and piston-rods of the two cylinders to move together, as hereinafter explained.

To the outer end of the rod R, I affix a cross-arm, T, and I slot opposite sides of the adjacent part of the shaft M, as shown at s s, to permit of play of this arm by and with the rod, while to each end of such arm I pivot one end of one of two twin links, v v, the other ends of such links being pivoted, respectively, to the outer edges of the blades z, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

The operation of the above-described mechanism is as follows, premising that the parts stand in the relative positions as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings, in which the two pistons G H stand at the extreme outer ends of their respective cylinders—the propeller-blades being closed in the position in which they were left on the retreat of the propeller, and in readiness to expand on the outgoing of the pistons, and the yoke P and arm T standing at their extreme outward positions with respect to the tubular shaft M and its slots s s, and finally with the valve C over and closing the ports E³ E² of the valve-chamber D—the ports E² E² open and the live-steam valves a a² being open and a' a³ closed: Steam being let on enters chamber U, thence passes by the open port W into the adjacent end of the cylinder A and drives its piston G and its rod K, and the shaft M, with its cross-head d, outward, or in the direction of the arrow 2, the piston H and its rod L, with the rod R and arm T, remaining for the time stationary, the result being that the wings z z are opened by the advance of the shaft M and its cross-head, and when the shaft has advanced over and about the rod R a sufficient distance to open the wings to a flat plane, the inner boundary of the slot x lying up against the yoke P, while at the same time the inner boundaries of the slots s s lie up against the arm T, and the piston H, with its rods L and R and arm T, keep company with the piston G and its adjuncts until the traverse of the latter is completed, the piston G being in advance of the piston H a distance equal to the length of the slot x, minus the

thickness of the yoke P, and the exhaust-steam escaping by the port Y³. As the piston G completes its stroke (followed by the piston H a short distance in rear, as stated) the valve e³ remains open and permits steam to exhaust from the cylinder. The exhaust-valve e³ now closes and the opposite exhaust-valve, e², opens, while the valve a closes, and a' opens and permits of entrance of live steam to this end of the cylinder, thus driving the piston G, with its adjuncts, in the opposite or return direction a distance equal to the length of the slot x, (minus the thickness of the yoke P,) thereby closing the blades z z. The piston G, with its adjuncts, now completes its stroke and returns to the starting-point, the piston H and its connections following, the folded propeller being in the act drawn inward to its full extent in readiness for a second advance.

The action of the propeller in retreating, as last explained, is not altogether a neutral one. As the blades close they tend, as a natural consequence, to crowd the water from between them. Hence they exert a certain amount of resistance against the water, which aids in forging the vessel ahead; while, as the remainder of the retreat movement of the propeller is accomplished very rapidly, owing to the slight resistance to the water, the vessel loses little headway if but a single propeller be employed. I propose, however, to employ upon vessels of considerable size duplicate propellers operating alternately.

It will be seen that as the blades of the propeller open prior to the latter starting on its outward traverse the outer edges of the blades remain stationary, while the inner edges or hinge are pushed outward; consequently a pushing action is by this movement exerted upon the water, which tends to drive the vessel ahead.

It is important that the ends of the links be pivoted to the extreme outer edges of the blades, for the reason that by so doing the whole surface of the blade swings outward and exerts a pushing action upon the water. If the ends of the links were pivoted at a distance from the edges of the blades, the portions of such blades outside of the pivots would exert a drawing action upon the water, and neutralize the beneficial action of the portions inside of such pivots.

As I have stated, the cylinder A and piston G are for driving the vessel ahead, and I have explained above how they exert this function in connection with the propeller.

I have also stated that the cylinder B and piston H are to be employed for reversing or backing the vessel, and I will now explain how this is accomplished. The valve C is moved laterally upon its seat in the steam-chest D, by means of its lever, from over the ports E³ E³ of the cylinder B, and so as to ex-

pose these ports, while the ports E² E² of the cylinder A are closed, thereby rendering the said cylinder A passive by excluding steam from it. Steam being admitted into cylinder B behind its piston H, in manner as described with cylinder A, said piston H is forced outward or forward (the yoke P standing at the outer boundary of the slot x, and the propeller-blade being already closed) until the tubular shaft M, piston-rod K, piston G, and the folded propeller are driven the full length of the stroke, when the live steam is admitted into the opposite end of the cylinder B, forcing the piston H in the reverse direction until the yoke P brings up against the inner boundary of the slot x and actuates the shaft M and its connections, when the piston H and its adjuncts complete their stroke, followed by the piston G and its connections, the result being that the open propeller is drawn inward and exerts its action upon the water to back the vessel, the direct and exhaust valves of the cylinder B operating precisely as those of the cylinder A, before described.

Having thus explained the nature and operation of my invention, I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent the following:

1. In reciprocating propellers for navigable vessels, two steam-cylinders, pistons, and rods, in combination with the two propeller-blades hinged together at their inner edges, one piston-rod being connected with the hinge of the blades and the other with the outer edges of such blades, and the whole operating substantially as explained.

2. In combination with the hinged blades, a cross-head serving to carry, guide, and brace the said blades, said cross-head bearing against the backs of said blades when they are forced against the water.

3. In combination with the hinged blades and two interlocking reciprocating shafts, a pair of engines and devices for shifting the power from one to the other, substantially as described, whereby only one engine is operated at a time as the motor, though either engine may be so operated, according to the desired forward or backward direction of motion.

4. In combination, the rod K, with its outer tubular portion or propeller-shaft M, cross-head d, and the wings z z, hinged at their bases to such cross-head, the rod L, bent and entering the tubular shaft M and provided with the stop or yoke P, to regulate the slip between the two rods, and bearing the arm T, connected by links with the outer edges of the wings z z, the whole being substantially as stated.

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

RICHARD SMITH.

Witnesses:

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H. E. LODGE.