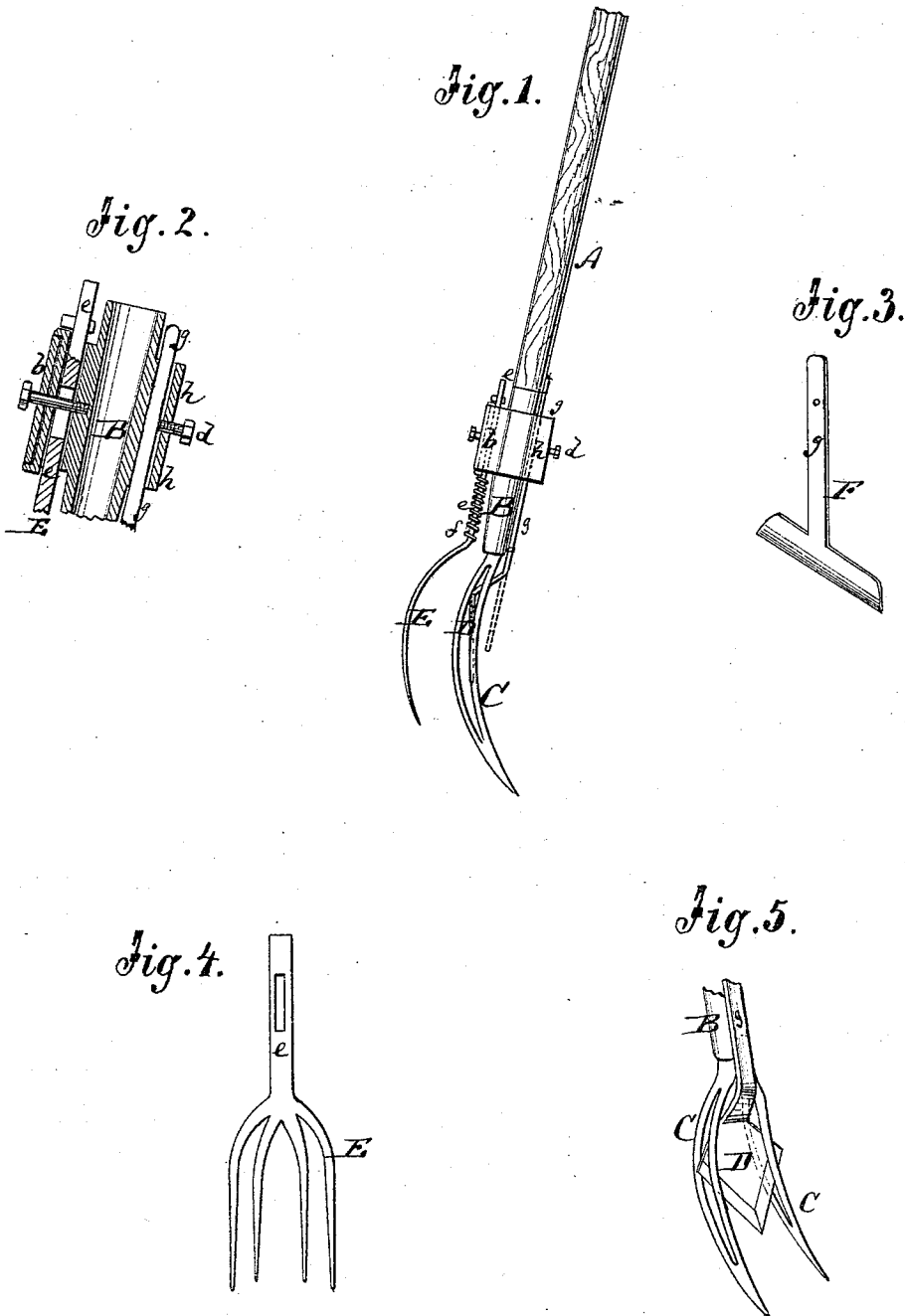


DAVID ARNOLD.

Improvement in Band-Cutting Forks.

No. 125,926.

Patented April 23, 1872.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID ARNOLD, OF WEST LODI, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN BAND-CUTTING FORKS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 125,926, dated April 23, 1872.

Specification describing a new and Improved Band-Cutting Fork, invented by DAVID ARNOLD, of West Lodi, in the county of Seneca and State of Ohio.

Figure 1 represents a side view of my improved band-cutting fork. Fig. 2 is a detail longitudinal section through the holding ferrule. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the plain knife attachment; Fig. 4, a face view of the lower spring-fork; and Fig. 5, a perspective view of the main fork and cutter.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

This invention relates to an improved fork which has an attachment for cutting the bands of grain-sheaves, and other attachments for holding the cut band and the sheaf while the same are on the fork. In feeding sheaves of wheat, &c., to thrashing-machines it is important to have the bands cut promptly prior to the entry of the sheaf into the machine. This object I attain by the use, on the main fork, of a knife and yielding fork, and also by a peculiar kind of main fork.

A in the drawing represents the handle, B the ferrule, and C C the prongs of a pitch-fork. D is a V-shaped knife, whose shank, *d*, is fitted through an ear, *h*, that projects from the ferrule, and is held there by a clamp-screw, *d*, or other means. The knife D is broader than the distance between the prongs C, and fits, by preference, through slots in the prongs, as is clearly shown in Fig. 5, though it may, if desired, rest close upon the upper or lower sides of the prongs, or in the position shown at Fig. 1 in dotted lines. In an ear, *b*, of the ferrule, or otherwise, is also held the shank *e* of a smaller close-pronged fork, E, which is be-

low the main fork C, as shown. I prefer to make the small fork E yielding against a spring, *f*, so as to adjust itself to the size of the sheaf. The detachable knife may have the form shown at F, Fig. 3, and may, as before stated, be placed above the fork C or in the position shown at D, having also either a straight or bent shank. The detachable knife may be secured to a common pitch-fork by the ear *h* and set-screw, or by other equivalent means.

When a fork made substantially like the one described—that is to say, provided with the parts C, D, and E, or E and F, attached to a common pitch-fork—is applied to a sheaf in a position to bring the knife at right angles across the band wherewith such sheaf is tied, the knife will, after the prongs C have entered the sheaf some distance, commence to cut the band. The small fork E will, at the same time, enter the band below the fork C, yielding to the progress of the cutter, though not necessarily.

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

1. The two forks C E and intermediate knife D, combined and arranged upon a common handle, A, as and for the purpose described.

2. In band-cutting forks, the fork E, provided with and supported against a spring, *f*, as and for the purpose described.

3. The detachable knife, combined, substantially as described, with a common pitch-fork, for the purpose herein set forth.

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