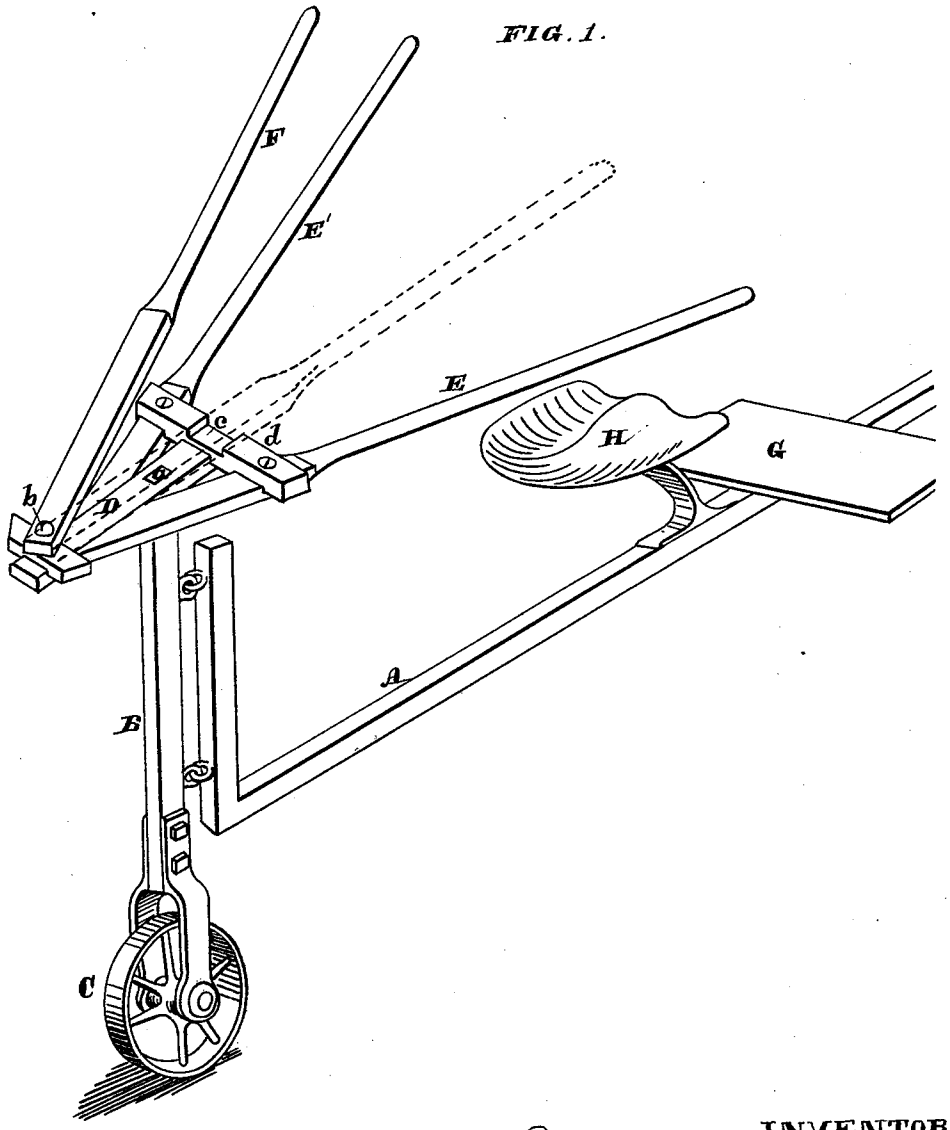
J. STEVES.

Apparatus for Guiding Headers.

No. 222,210. Patented Dec. 2, 1879.

FIG. 1.



WITNESSES

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JOSHUA STEVES, OF STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN APPARATUS FOR GUIDING HEADERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **222,210**, dated December 2, 1879; application filed September 9, 1879.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSHUA STEVES, of Stockton, county of San Joaquin, and State of California, have invented an Apparatus for Guiding Headers; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to certain improvements in headers; and my improvements refer more particularly to a means of operating the caster or guiding wheel by which the movements of the header are directed.

In the ordinary headers, at the rear end of the beam or pole, is placed a vertical post, to which is attached, by means of pins or staples, the upright, on the lower end of which is the caster-wheel, supporting the rear end of said pole. At the upper end of this upright is a horizontal tiller or guiding-bar, for turning the wheel so as to direct the machine in a straight line or turn it around.

The driver usually stands on a board on the pole, so that the tiller comes between his legs, and then he can operate the tiller by the movements of his body, and use his hands in moving the levers controlling the cutters.

It happens frequently that in turning sharp corners or curves the driver will have to push the tiller way off to one side, and at the same time have to stop to operate the lever, both operations being difficult to do at once. The tiller is then so far off to one side, and has to be held there, that the man must lean over to that side to manage it, and at the same time operate the lever. Moreover, with the tiller made and worked in this way, the driver cannot sit, but must at all times stand up.

I have devised a means of guiding the header by which the driver may sit and operate the lever and tiller at once without inconvenience.

The figure is a view of my device.

Let A represent the beam or pole, and B the upright or post, on which the caster-wheel C is journaled, the upright being swiveled to the beam in any desired manner.

At the upper end of the upright is a frame or head, D, which is secured to the upright or post by means of a bolt, *a*. From this head extend two radial arms or tillers, E E′, which are secured to or form part of said head, as shown. Between these arms or tillers is another swinging arm or tiller, F, pivoted, as shown at *b*, to the rear end of the head, and which may drop into the slot *c* in the cross-bar *d* of the head when in a position exactly midway between the two radial tillers or arms. By lifting it out of the slot it may be swung on its pivot in either direction without operating the wheel, post, or upright B. When dropped into the slots, however, it acts as a tiller, by turning the head, upright, and wheel. On the beam or pole is a foot-board, G, and seat H, as shown.

In case the driver desires to stand, he can straddle the center bar or tiller F in the ordinary way, and guide the header by the movement of his body. Where a sharp curve or turn is to be made, he can throw his leg over the center tiller and, lifting it out of the slot, push it over in line with the outer one of the two radial arms. Then by pushing on the proper arm the wheel is guided properly, since when the wheel is at a decided angle to the beam the fixed arm will be in line with the beam.

When sitting down the swinging tiller F is pushed to one side, and the arms extend on each side of the driver, who can use either one to steer, as most convenient. By moving either one toward or from him the header is guided accordingly. In thus sitting, he can operate the lever with one hand and the tiller with the other, since in no case is the tiller or guiding-bar off to one side out of convenient reach.

The device will be found of very great convenience in guiding headers, since it overcomes one of the most serious difficulties in this class of agricultural implements. The driver may sit comfortably in his place, and not be compelled to stand in a confined space for the whole day. If he stands, with the vertical swinging tiller between his legs, for a distance, when he comes to a turn he may throw said tiller to one side, stand or seat himself, as he likes, and turn the header with either of the other arms, and operate the lever at the same time. Either of the three tillers can thus be used in guiding the header, according to the way it is wished to be turned.

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

In combination with the upright or post B, carrying the caster-wheel C of a header, the head D, provided with the two fixed radial arms or tillers E E′, and the central swinging tiller F, adapted to fit in the slots *c* in said head, whereby the movements of the header may be controlled by either of the tillers which is nearest in line with the beam, substantially as herein described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

JOSHUA STEVES.

Witnesses:

CHAS. G. YALE,

FRANK A. BROOKS.