(No Model.)

J. J. JOHNSTON.

POST HOLE DIGGER.

No. 265,825. Patented Oct. 10, 1882.

Fig. 1.

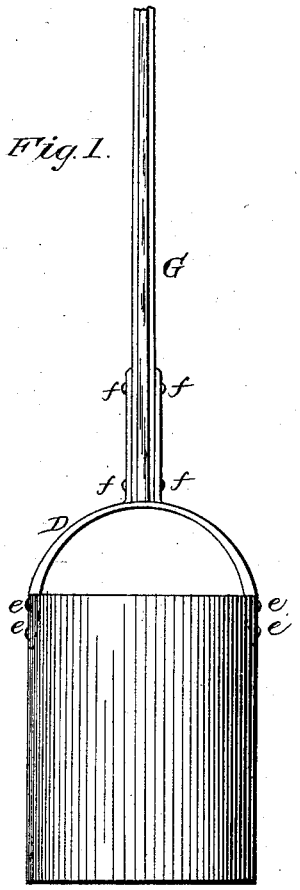


Fig. 2.

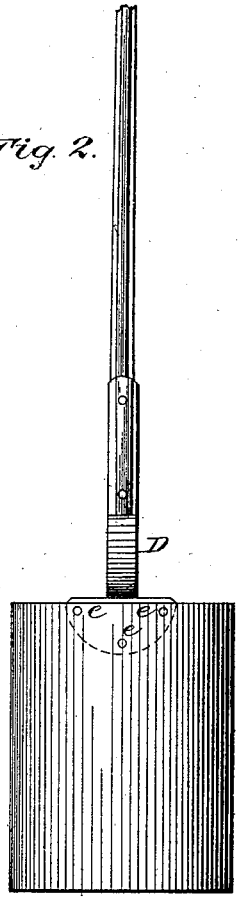


Fig. 3

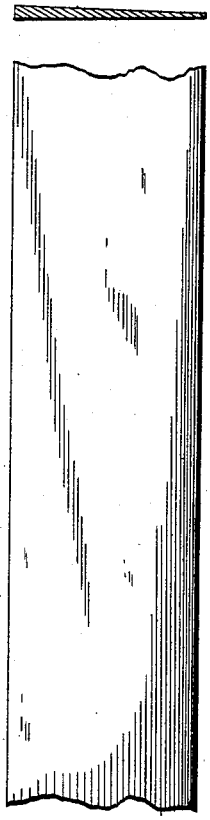


Fig. 4

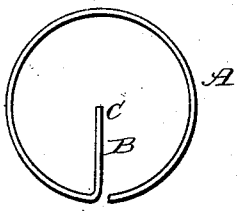
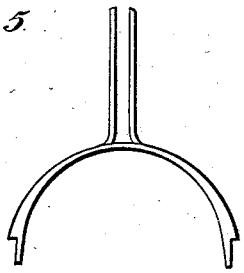


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

Fred. G. Dieterich.

Jno W. Hockett.

INVENTOR.

James J. Johnston

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES J. JOHNSTON, OF COLUMBIANA, OHIO, ASSIGNOR TO THE UNITED STATES IMPROVEMENT COMPANY, (LIMITED,) OF SAME PLACE.

POST-HOLE DIGGER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 265,825, dated October 10, 1882.

Application filed February 11, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES J. JOHNSTON, of Columbiana, in the county of Columbiana and State of Ohio, have invented a certain new and useful Improvement in Post-Hole Diggers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

My invention consists in forming the digging-barrel of a post-hole digger of a single piece of steel rolled so as to form a bar or sheet, straight on one side and slightly bevel on the other, said barrel being tubular in form, having a portion turned in on a line radiating from the axis of the barrel, leaving an opening in the wall of said barrel, thereby allowing the walls of the barrel in the operation of digging to have a slight spring, and the turned-in portion to cut up the earth from the axis of the barrel to its outer diameter.

To enable others skilled in the art with which my invention is most nearly connected to make and use it, I will proceed to describe its construction and operation.

In the accompanying drawings, which form part of this specification, Figures 1 and 2 are side elevations of my improvement in post-hole diggers. Fig. 3 represents a bar or sheet of steel rolled into the proper form for forming blanks for the construction of the digging-barrel. Fig. 4 is an end view, in cross-section, of the digging-barrel. Fig. 5 is a side elevation of the metal portion of the handle.

Reference being had to the accompanying drawings, A represents the digging-barrel, which is bent into the form shown in Fig. 4, with the portion B extending on a radial line from the periphery of the barrel to the axis C thereof. To the upper end of the barrel A is attached by means of rivets *e* the metal portion D of the handle, in which is secured by rivets *f* a wooden handle, G. The part D of the handle may be constructed of malleable cast-iron, which will greatly reduce the expense of constructing it. The portion B of the barrel A in the process of digging will cut up the core formed by the barrel A, thereby greatly facilitating the operation of digging the post-hole. When a sufficient amount of the earth is cut and loosened up the operator, by a strong downward stroke of the barrel, will, by means of the bevel of the inner wall, pack the earth in the interior of said barrel, the portion B of the barrel greatly assisting in holding the loosened and packed earth therein. The operator then withdraws the barrel from the hole being dug, and, striking the barrel at an incline sidewise against the earth, discharges the contents of it, and proceeds with the digging, as before described.

A post-hole digger constructed as hereinbefore described will be found to be very efficient for that purpose, and may be manufactured with great facility and at diminished cost.

Having thus described my improvement, what I claim is—

A post-hole digger constructed of a single piece of steel bent in the form shown, with the portion B extending on a radial line to the axis of the barrel A, and having its inner walls beveled from its cutting-edge to the upper end of said barrel, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

JAMES J. JOHNSTON.

Witnesses:

A. C. JOHNSTON,

T. D. D. OURAND.