(No Model.)

B. F. KIMSEY.

BOW FACING OAR.

No. 525,269. Patented Aug. 28, 1894.

Fig. 1

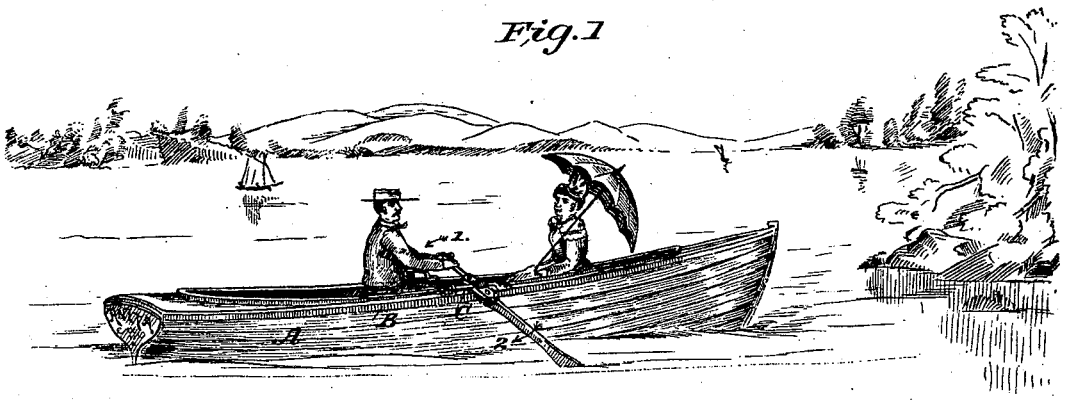


Fig. 2.

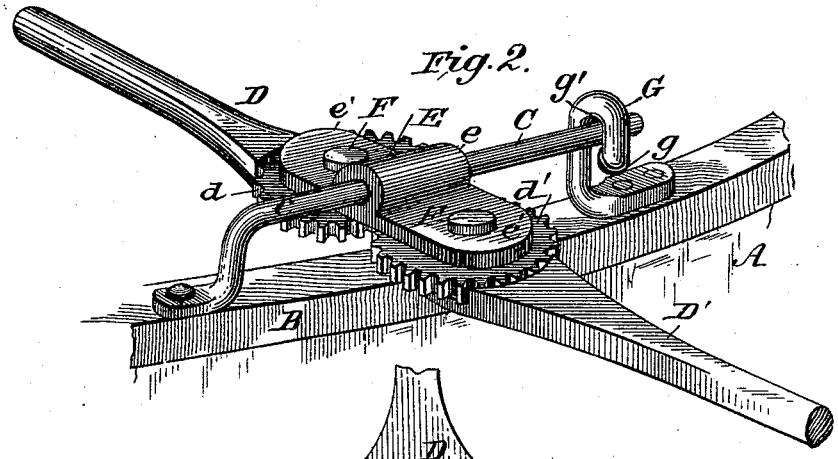
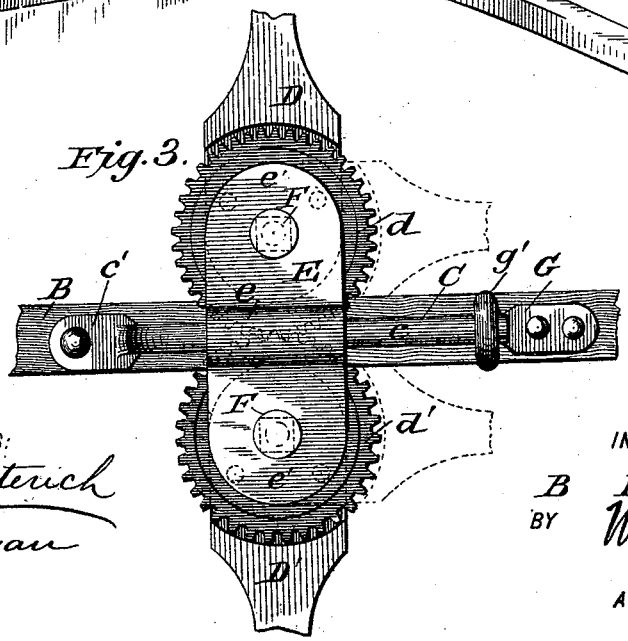


Fig. 3.



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BENJAMIN F. KIMSEY, OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA.

BOW-FACING OAR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 525,269, dated August 28, 1894.

Application filed October 27, 1893. Serial No. 489,332. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN F. KIMSEY, residing at Terre Haute, in the county of Vigo and State of Indiana, have invented a new and Improved Bow-Facing Oar, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates more particularly to improvements in rowing devices for skiffs and other small boats, and it has for its object to provide a simple and effective rowing mechanism so constructed and arranged that the rower can sit facing the bow of the boat as he manipulates such mechanism.

It has also for its object to provide a mechanism of this character in which the propelling blades can be folded up closely to the sides of the boat or the same readily detached from its guards or supports when desired.

With other minor objects in view which will hereinafter be referred to, my invention consists in such combination and novel arrangement of parts, hereinafter first described in detail and then specifically pointed out in the claims, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view illustrating my invention as applied for use. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of the gear mechanism and the guard and bearing devices therefor, and Fig. 3 is a plan view of the same, the blade and handle portions being shown thrown in, in dotted lines.

My improved rowing mechanism comprises a divided propelling blade or oar provided with a gear connection, whereby the blade portion will be reciprocated in the same directions to the movements of the handle portion, such divided oar member being pivotally journaled on the gunwale guide or support, whereby its ends are adapted for vertical movement for a purpose presently explained.

Referring now to the drawings, A indicates the boat and B the gunwale, upon which is secured the guide or lock members C. These guide members C in the practical construction may be formed of any suitably arranged horizontal guide rail mechanism held a short distance above the gunwale; I prefer however to employ a guide rail like that shown in the drawings (the detail construction of which will be presently described) for a purpose hereinafter explained.

The propelling blade or oar consists of a handle portion proper D, a blade portion D′, the intermediate gears *d d′* and a connecting plate E, which is supported on the bail C for an oscillating or rocking motion, as will be clearly understood from Fig. 2 of the drawings. By reference to such Fig. 2 it will be noticed that the connecting plate has a socket *e* formed preferably integral therewith as shown, which fits onto the bail member *c*, and its ends extended as at *e′* through which pass stud pivots F, on the lower ends of which are pivoted the gears *d d′*, which are held in place by nuts as indicated in Fig. 3; the gears *d d′* being secured to the oar sections D and D′ by dowel pins or otherwise, to turn therewith. So far as described it will be noticed that when the handle member is moved in the direction indicated by the arrow No. 1 toward the oarsman, the outer or blade section will also be moved in a direction toward such oarsman, as indicated by arrow No. 2. Thus the propelling or blade section can be operated by the back pull of the oarsman, as he sits facing the bow as shown in Fig. 1. By pivoting the connecting blade E in the manner stated, the oar sections are held to be oscillated or rocked on their lock bearing, which enables the oarsman to raise and lower the blade out of, or into the water in the usual manner, such result being effected in a simple and inexpensive manner.

To provide for a longitudinal adjustment of the oar on its lock or guide whereby to adjust it conveniently to the arm lengths of different persons, the guide C is made of a greater length than the connecting or rocker plate E, to allow such plate to be shifted on the guide, to or from the oarsman as desired.

As before stated the guide may be in the nature of a simple guide rail, I prefer however to construct it of a rail portion proper *c* and a foot portion *c′* pivotally connected to the gunwale whereby such member can be swung laterally.

It will be noticed that by providing a pivoted guide, the rocker plate E can be quickly slid onto or off the guide, to permit the oars being readily detached from the boat when desired. To hold the guide in place a keeper G is secured to the gunwale, having a slot or way *g* through which the end of the guide C

can be inserted (by springing such end down) which end rises into the eye proper g' and is securely held therein.

From the foregoing taken in connection with the drawings the advantages of my improved rowing mechanism will be apparent. The same is of a very simple construction, can be easily operated, and connected with or disconnected from the boat in a moment's time.

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

1. A propelling mechanism for small boats, comprising an oar formed in two sections, having gears at their adjacent ends held to mesh, a bearing member joining said gears, and a supporting guide secured to the boat, said bearing member being held on the said guide for a rocking movement and adapted to be moved laterally thereon, all arranged substantially as shown and described.

2. A propelling mechanism for small boats, comprising a sectional propelling member or oar, the sections having gear connections, a connecting plate having stud bolts or pivots adapted to receive the gears of such gear connections, said plate having an eye portion, and a guide rail adapted to be secured to the boat, and to form a bearing member to receive such eye portion, all substantially as shown and for the purposes described.

3. An improved propelling mechanism for small boats, comprising a guide rail, a socket plate longitudinally movable and held to rock thereon, said plate having projecting portions formed with stud bolts, gears journaled thereon and held to mesh, and oar sections secured to the said gears to turn therewith, all arranged substantially as shown and described.

4. In a propelling mechanism for small boats, in combination, a guide or lock member having a pivotal connection with the boat, and a free end adapted to be swung outward, and a divided oar having gear connections, a joinder plate forming a bearing for its gears, such plate having a socket portion adapted to be slipped onto the free end of the guide, and a keeper for such guide to receive and lock the free end in place, all arranged substantially as shown and described.

5. As an improvement in propelling mechanisms for small boats, the combination with the laterally movable guide C, and the keeper G, of the connecting plate E, mounted to rock on such guide C, said plate having apertured projecting members e', the bolts F held therein, gears d d' journaled on such bolts, and the oar sections D D′ secured to such gears d d' all arranged substantially as shown and for the purpose described.

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