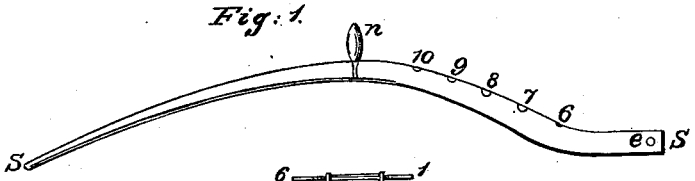
C. GOSS.

Grain Cradle.

No. 2,955. Patented Feb. 16, 1843.

Fig: 1.



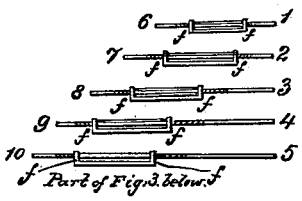


Fig: 4.

Coupling screw with rod & ferrule off & represented above.

Fig: 2.

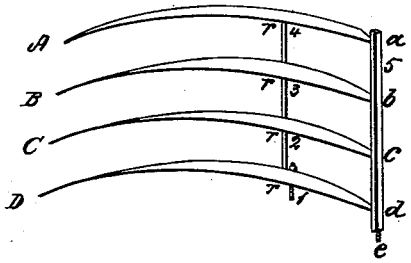
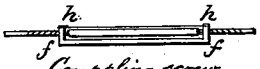
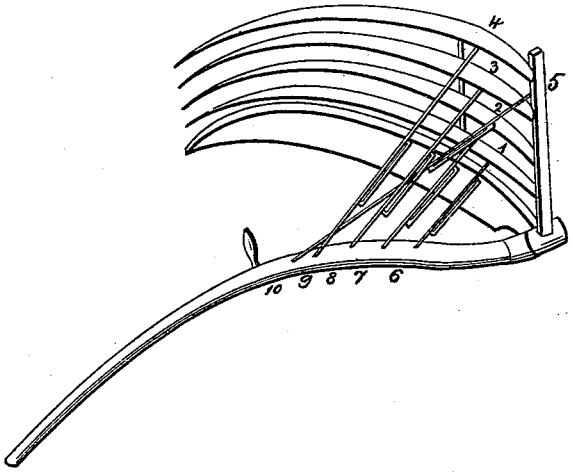


Fig: 3.



Coupling screw with Ferrule on.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHESTER GOSS, OF MADRID, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN GRAIN-CRADLES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **2,955**, dated February 16, 1843.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHESTER GOSS, of Madrid, St. Lawrence county, New York, have invented an Improvement in Grain-Cradles, of which the following is a specification.

The grain-cradles are thus constructed, to wit: The snath or handle is a stick of the size and taper of the ordinary cradle-snath, so bent with one short curve near the lower end and a large swell or curve in exactly the opposite direction from the short bend up toward the small end that the entire axis of the snath is in the same plane, and it will lie close down upon a plane surface, like a drawing upon paper, and is correctly represented by the annexed drawings, S S, Figure 1, and having such shape. The point of the scythe may be governed and made heavy or light by the means of the nib *n* in the hand. To the lower end of this snath the broad cradle-scythe is attached in the ordinary manner upon the lower side. Four (or more or less) fingers of the ordinary form (represented as A *a*, B *b*, C *c*, D *d* in Fig. 2) are fastened by means of a round tenon and pin into the head *a b c d*, and are partially supported by each other and kept in shape at proper distances from each other by a light rod, *r r r r*, passing through and fastened to each finger. The lower end of the head *e*, with a round tenon, is dropped into the snath near its lower end, *e*, Fig. 1, with a little play, and fastened by a pin, and the scythe and fingers are mutually supported by means of the ordinary brace from the scythe to the lower finger. The head and fingers are also sustained, strengthened, and kept in place by means of braces passing from the head and fingers to the snath, thus: one brace from the head *a b c d* at 5 to the snath at 10; one brace from the lower finger, D *d*, at 1 to the snath at 6; one from the second finger, C *c*, at 2 to the snath at 7; one from the third finger, B *b*, at 3 to the snath at 8; one from the fourth finger, A *a*, at 4 to the snath at 9, and in similar manner with any greater number of fingers.

In order that the position of the head and fingers together may be more easily changed, or that the relative position of any one finger may be so changed, each of the braces 5 10, 1 6, 2 7, 3 8, 4 9 is in two pieces, connected together by a coupling-screw, *f f*, Fig. 3, from two to four inches in length, with a ferrule, and seen in Fig. 4 with ferrule off, as seen in drawings.

The coupler has a nut or female screw from right to left in one end and fitted to one piece or portion of the brace and left-to-right nut in the other end, fitted to one end of the other piece or portion of the brace, as seen in Fig. 4; or it may have a nut at one end fitted to a screw upon one part of the brace and join the other part of the brace by means of a swivel, so that by turning the coupler one way the rod or brace is lengthened and by turning the coupler the other way the brace is shortened. Thus by lengthening or shortening the brace 5 10 by turning the coupler on said brace the position of the head and all the fingers is changed and made to form a greater or less angle with the plane of the scythe and snath across the fingers, and the workman is thus enabled to set the head or change the angle of the head and fingers for cutting lodged or standing grain with equal ease and without scattering—that is, if the grain is lodged, the workman turns the coupling-screw to carry out the head of the cradle or brace 5 10. If the grain stands up and is light and scattering, the brace 5 10 is to be shortened.

The use of the coupling-screw and ferrule on the finger-braces is to facilitate the cutting of heavy and light grain. Thus, if the grain is heavy and thick, the coupling-screws on the finger-braces 1 2 3 4 are to be turned in such a way as to draw the working end of the fingers, and if the grain is light and scattering the coupling-screw on the finger-braces should be turned in such a way as will fling out the working end of the fingers of the cradle, which will enable the workman to collect more grain. The use of ferrule, when adjusted on the end of the rods and within the coupling-screw, is to protect the end of the screw-braces and give a smooth surface to the brace-rods and prevent them from catching and holding the straw when the cradle is in operation.

The improvement claimed and alleged so to have been invented or discovered by the subscriber is—

1. The so constructing the brace from the head to the snath 5 10 that its length may be increased or diminished, and the position of the head and fingers thereby in a great measure controlled by the application of the coup-

ling-screw and ferrule or swivel and ferrule and screw.

2. The application of the coupling-screw and ferrule and of the screw and swivel to the braces or any of them from the fingers and head of the cradle to the snath as a means of lengthening and shortening them, and for this purpose the making said braces in two pieces each, which facilitates the workman to adjust the cradle for cutting the grain, whether light or heavy grain or lodged or standing grain.

CHESTER GOSS.

Witnesses:
JNO. HORTON,
S. H. CLARK.