(No Model.)

M. CHASE.

OAR AND OAR LOCK.

No. 260,370. Patented July 4, 1882.

Fig. 1

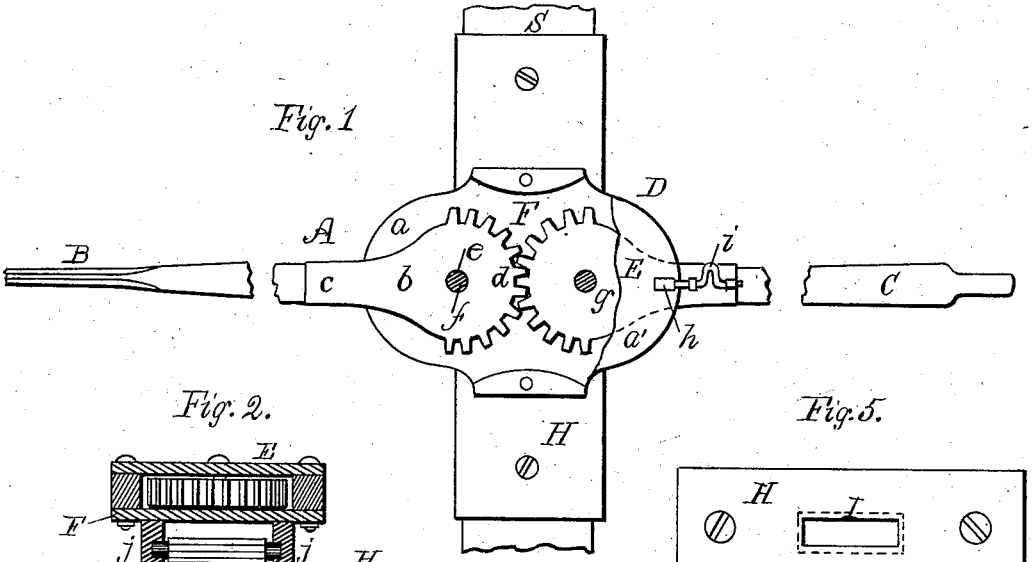


Fig. 2.

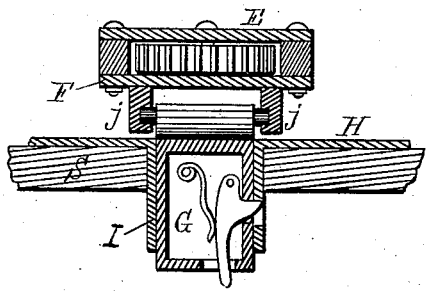
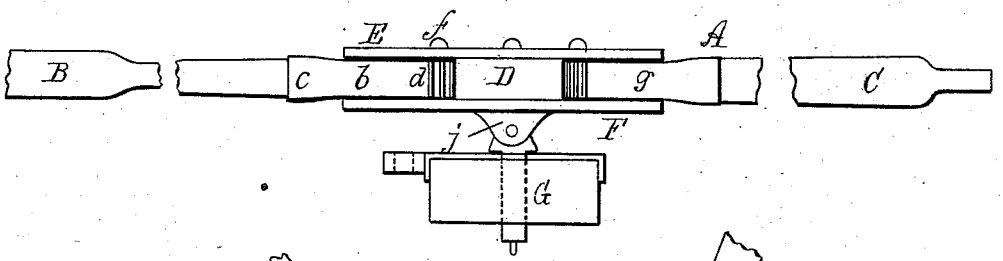


Fig. 5.

Fig. 3.



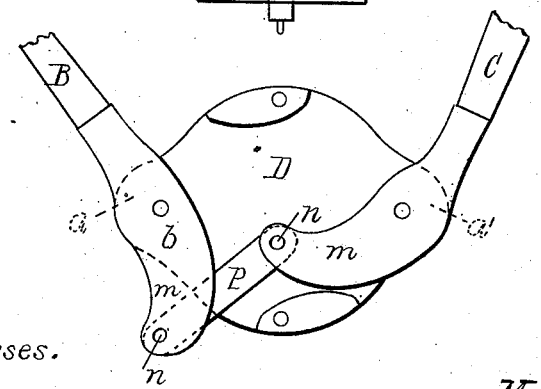


Fig. 4.

Witnesses.
H. E. Lodge
F. G. Dillingham

Inventor.
Moses. Chase.
F. Curtis, Atty.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MOSES CHASE, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

OAR AND OAR-LOCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,370, dated July 4, 1882.

Application filed March 16, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MOSES CHASE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Boston, in the county of Suffolk and State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Bow-Facing Oars; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to oars which are divided and geared in such manner as to allow the rower to sit with his face to the bow, though pulling with the ordinary motion.

The said invention consists in the construction and combination of devices hereinafter set forth, whereby such oars are conveniently attached to and detached from the boat and locked and unlocked at will.

The drawings accompanying this specification represent, in Figure 1, a plan of an oar and its operative parts, the top plate being removed. Fig. 2 is a vertical cross-section, and Fig. 3 a side elevation, of an oar containing my invention. Fig. 4 is a plan (top plate removed) of a modified form of construction, and Fig. 5 a detail plan view of the gunwale-plate.

In these drawings, A represents an oar consisting of two parts—B the blade, and C the inboard portion—and these parts are divided in about the same relative proportions as the oar would have when resting in an ordinary rowlock. The plate or yoke D, to which these respective portions B and C are fastened or pivoted, consists of a metal casting composed of malleable iron galvanized, or of brass, which is preferable. The general form of this plate or yoke is cylindrical, with two ears or lobes, *a a'*, projecting in axial alignment with the beam of the boat, these ears or lobes giving more length to the plate D, and consequently greater bearing-surface and stability to the segmental geared plates, hereinafter to be described, and to which the two portions of the oar proper are to be attached. Said plate D consists of an upper and lower casing, E F, suitably connected, and between which the individual parts B C of the oar A move or play in effecting the propulsion of the boat.

To the inner end of the blade portion B of the oar A, I attach a suitable metal connection or joint, *b*, and this joint (in the drawings referred to) is a flat semicircular plate having a cylindrical tongue or projection, *c*, this latter portion to be cast of the proper size to receive the inner end of the blade portion, to which it is firmly and securely fastened.

At the center, or approximately thereto, of the semicircular portion *d* is formed a bolt-hole, *e*, and through this hole is passed a bolt forming the pivot *f*, also passing through both upper and lower casing and secured thereto. The outer or blade portion of the oar swings upon this pivot. The outer periphery of this semicircular plate has gear or spur teeth formed or cast thereon, and extending for a distance of one hundred and eighty degrees, or thereabout, and enabling the two portions to be closed, so as to lie parallel with each other and also with the heel of the boat, thereby obviating the difficulty or necessity of unshipping the oar when coming alongside of a vessel, wharf, or landing, the blade of the oar being so swung inboard as not to extend beyond the side of the boat to which it is attached, and still have the two peripherally spurred or geared portions remain in contact ready for future operations.

The inboard portion C of the oar proper, A, has a similar plate or yoke, *g*, to which it is suitably attached, the plate being pivoted in a similar manner to the corresponding plate, *b*, of the blade portion of the oar, said plate being likewise provided with spurs or teeth on its circular periphery, into which the teeth of its twin plate *b* lock, thereby causing similar motions of the blade with the inboard portion.

To the top side of the inner lobe or projection, *a'*, of the upper plate or casing is attached a small ring, *h*, or other suitable device, into which a pin or key, *i*, attached to the upper part of the inboard portion C passes, thereby locking the parts B C by means of the intermeshing teeth to the plate or yoke proper, D, and making a unit of the whole. The oar, with its plate, can then be easily removed from the boat and carried away without the objection of the two portions swinging about.

I will now proceed to describe the device by

which the plate or yoke D, with its operating-oar A, is attached to the boat.

To the under side of the lower casing, F, at a suitable distance apart, I attach two ears or projections, *j j;* or they may be cast integral with the lower plate, and these ears are in axial alignment with the long axis of the plate D, or at right angles to the beam of the boat. To the extremities of the ears I pivot an oblong rectangular pin, G, with an arrow-shaped head, the latter acting not only as a bearing-surface, but preventing the further entrance of the pin G into a metal plate, H, securely fastened to the gunwale. This plate H, attached to the gunwale, has a projecting ear, *k*, with a hole bored therein to receive an ordinary rowlock, if necessary. In the center of this plate H is cast or formed a hollow oblong rectangular piece, I, projecting down through the gunwale to the inside of the boat. Into this metal piece I is thrust the rectangular pin G, above described, which snugly fits thereto. Said pin G is hollow, and has a dog, N, pivoted within it and pressed outward by a spring, *n*. On the side of this dog a nose is formed, which is forced by said spring to protrude through slot *g'* in the side of said pin and into a slot, *i*, in piece I, so as to lock the said pin in said piece. The lower end of said dog is provided with a handle which extends through slot *g* in the bottom of said pin, so that it can be grasped by the occupant for releasing the pin from its attachment to the boat.

A modified form of construction is shown in Fig. 4, in which the same form of plate or yoke is used; but instead of the segmental gears shown in Fig. 1, I form the secondary connecting-plate or joint *b'* (pivoted in the same manner as the segmental gears) with a quarter-twist or elbow, *m*, the blade portion being turned in the direction of the stern and the inboard portion toward the bow, their extremities being provided with pins or bolts *n n*, to which is pivoted a suitable connecting joint or rod, *p*, whereby the same movements of the two portions B C are effected as with the segmental gears before described.

My invention is simple, inexpensive, and readily applied, and does not prevent the use of ordinary rowlocks and oars in case they are preferred, and is especially adapted for wild-fowl shooting, as the sportsman can face his game, row quietly and steadily, and when the opportune moment comes release the oars, which do not slip or slide away, nor be obliged to unship his oars, thereby discommoding him, but they remain in position ready to be again grasped when occasion requires.

What I desire to claim, and secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The divided oar, in combination with the upper and lower plates or casings, E F, the latter having lugs *j* formed on the under side thereof, the hollow pin G, having an arrow-head which is pivoted between said lugs, and a spring-pressed dog pivoted within said pin and engaging with an attachment of the boat, as set forth.

2. The plate H, attached to the gunwale, and having the downwardly-extending hollow piece I, which is slotted at *i*, in combination with hollow pin G, which is constructed with slots *g g'* in its bottom and side, and pivoted spring-pressed dog N, arranged within said pin, and provided with a locking-nose which protrudes through slots *g' i*, and a handle which extends down through slot *g*, substantially as set forth.

3. The upper plate, E, provided with eye or socket *h*, in combination with the oar provided with a bolt, and having its divided middle part located between plates E and F, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

MOSES CHASE.

Witnesses:
H. E. LODGE,
F. CURTIS.