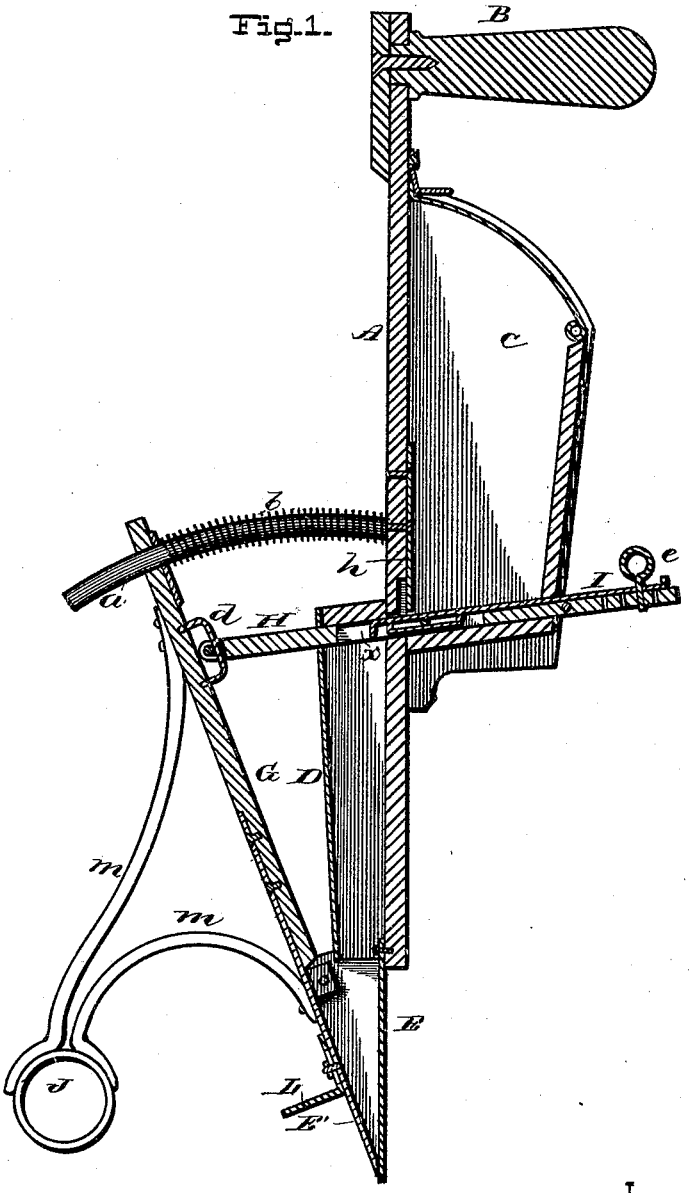
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

J. DOWNING.

HAND CORN PLANTER.

No. 181,825. Patented Sept. 5, 1876.

Fig. 1.



WITNESSES:

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

J. DOWNING.

HAND CORN PLANTER.

No. 181,825. Patented Sept. 5, 1876.

Fig. 2.

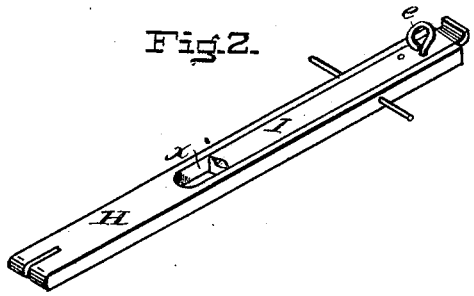


Fig. 4.

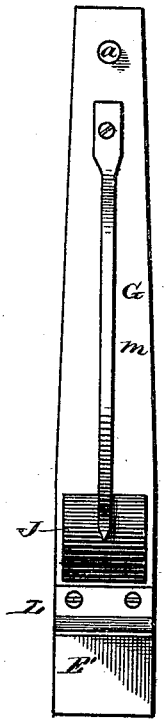


Fig. 3.

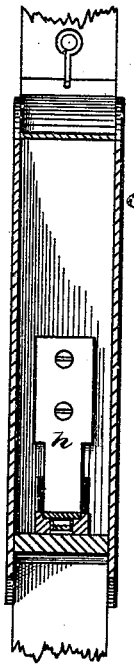


Fig. 5.

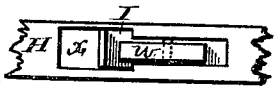
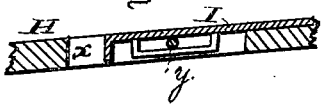


Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JASON DOWNING, OF NEW MADISON, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN HAND CORN-PLANTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **181,825**, dated September 5, 1876; application filed April 20, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JASON DOWNING, of New Madison, in the county of Drake and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hand Corn-Planters, of which the following is a specification:

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a walking corn-planter, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawings, which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section of my corn-planter. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the dropping-slide. Fig. 3 is a section of the grain-box, and Fig. 4 is a front view of the machine. Fig. 5 is a bottom view of the adjustable slide I, showing the loop *w* attached thereto. Fig. 6 is a longitudinal section of the same.

A represents a staff, with a handle, B, at the top, for carrying in the hand of the operator, walking along the ground somewhat in the manner of carrying a cane. C is the grain-box attached to the staff A, and having its sides made of thin sheet metal, making it both stronger and lighter than wood. D is the hollow tube, through which the corn passes from the grain-box into the shoe E at the lower end of the staff. This tube is made square, and hence fits the shoe and feed-bar better than if made round, as is usually the case. E′ is the front plate of the shoe, attached to a lever, G, which is pivoted between the sides of the shoe. On the front of the staff A is secured a curved rod, *a*, which passes through a hole in the upper end of the lever G, and has a spiral spring, *b*, around it, between said lever and staff, to throw the upper end of the lever forward and close the shoe. On the inner side of the lever G is an elongated staple, *d*, on which is attached the dropping-slide H, passing through bottom of the grain-box C. This slide or feed-bar H has an aperture, *x*, to receive the corn within the box, and convey it and discharge it into the tube D, said aperture being adjustable—that is, can be enlarged or diminished, as required, to plant more or less corn in a hill—by means of a movable slide, I, fastened by a pin, *e*, through its rear end into any one of a series of holes in the feed-bar. The pin *e*, holding this adjusting-slide, cannot slip and change the feed, which is often the case where screws are used to regulate similar feed-bars. The adjustable slide I is provided with a loop, *w*, which receives the pin *y*, and holds the same in position. On the inside of the seed-box C is a brass spring, *h*, used in place of rubber or brush for a cut-off, which spring divides the corn better, and is not liable to get out of order. To the front of the lever G are attached two curved arms or braces, *m m*, to the front ends of which is secured a brass ferrule or tube, J, as shown, which is much lighter than the wooden balls of the same size.

The planter is operated by walking as with a cane, the brass ferrule, tube, or ball J being pressed firmly until the spiral spring *b* becomes folded. The planter is then raised quickly, when the spring closes the shoe again, and so on for every step. On the front plate E′ of the shoe is a gage, L, to regulate the depth of planting.

This planter may be used for planting broom-corn and cane seed, as well as ordinary corn, in a perfect and correct manner.

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

1. The combination of the curved rod *a*, surrounded by a spiral spring, *b*, with the staff A and lever G, substantially as shown and described.

2. The adjustable slide I, provided with a loop, *w*, which receives the pin *y* of the feed-bar H, substantially in the manner and for the purposes set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JASON DOWNING.

Witnesses:

PETER DEITZ,

JOSEPH SNODGRASS.