

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WAHNER, OF ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORN-STALK-CUTTING IMPLEMENTS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **198,579**, dated July 24, 1877; application filed December 13, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN WAHNER, of Ellsworth, in the county of Pierce, and in the State of Wisconsin, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Corn - Cutters; and 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, making a part of this specification.

The nature of my invention consists in the construction and arrangement of a corn-stalk cutter, 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 drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my corn-stalk cutter, showing the same applied to the leg and foot of the operator. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are detailed views of parts thereof.

A represents a wooden bar of any suitable dimensions, hollowed out or made concave on its inner side, to fit the contour of the leg. At or near the upper end of the bar A is a strap, B, attached to it for the purpose of fastening the bar to the leg. The lower end of the bar B is provided with a metal plate, C, which extends along the side and under the lower end of the bar, and from the bottom of said plate extends a forked ear, D, as shown in Fig. 2.

In this forked ear is pivoted a bar, E, which extends along the outer side of the foot, and has a spring-band, G, secured to its front end. This spring-band passes over the top of the foot, as shown in Fig. 1, and the ends of the spring-band are bent to form grooved lips *a a*, which pass under the sole of the boot or shoe, and grasp the outer ends of two plates, *b b*, which are fastened to the under side of the sole, as seen in Fig. 4.

To the bar E is fastened an L-shaped bar or hook, H, the horizontal part of which passes

under the foot immediately against the front side of the heel, forming a bearing for the same. This end of the hook H is, by a short strap, I, connected with a ring, J, at the other side of the foot.

K is a strap connecting this ring J with the upper end of the hook H, and passing around the back of the foot.

L L are straps attached to the ring J and upper end of the hook H, and buckling together around the ankle to hold the device fast to the foot.

P represents the curved cutting-knife, provided with a flange, R, at its inner end, which is fastened to the outer side of the bar A, at the lower metal-faced end, by means of two bolts, *d d'*, having a plate, *f*, passed over their ends and nuts *e e'* screwed on them to tighten the parts. The upper bolt *d* passes through a curved slot, *x*, in the flange R, so that the knife P can be set at any angle desired.

With this invention a man may go through a corn-field, and cut off the stalks very rapidly and with great ease.

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

1. The combination of the bar A, secured to the leg, the knife P, provided with the flange R, having curved slot *x*, the bolts *d d'*, plate *f*, and nuts *e e'*, all substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

2. The combination, with the bar A, carrying the adjustable knife P, of the leg-strap B, hinged bar E, spring-band G, with grooved lips *a a*, the plates *b b*, L-shaped hook, heel-strap K, and straps I and L L, all constructed and arranged substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of November, 1876.

JOHN WAHNER.

Witnesses:

C. W. BROWN,
E. S. KINNE.