W. COOPER.

Ox Yoke.

No. 82,922. Patented Oct. 13, 1868.

Fig. 3

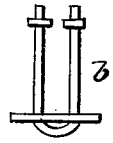


Fig. 2

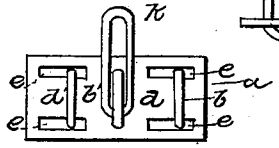
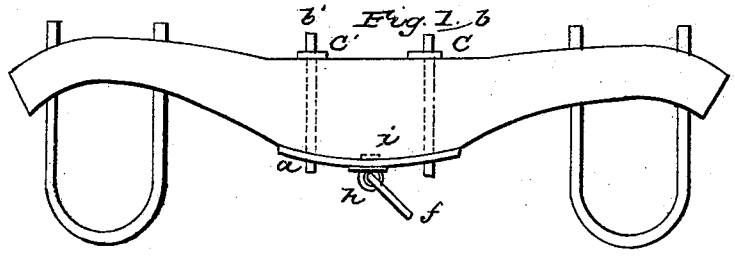


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES

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United States Patent Office.

WILLIAM COOPER, OF PARIS, MAINE.

Letters Patent No. 82,922, *dated October* 13, 1868.

IMPROVEMENT IN OX-YOKES.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM COOPER, of Paris, in the county of Oxford, and State of Maine, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Ox-Yokes; and I hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others to make and use my invention, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side view of a yoke, with my improvement thereon.

Figure 2, a view of the slotted sliding plate.

Figure 3, a view of one of the staples, to hold the plate.

This invention has for its purpose to regulate the leverage of the yoke of a pair of oxen, so as to give one or the other ox the advantage, as one is stronger or weaker than the other.

I am aware of patents 33,003, granted in 1861, 24,096, in 1859, and 21,087, in 1858, each of which aims to accomplish the same purpose as mine; and I do not, therefore, claim, broadly, a yoke which can be adjusted to the different strength of two oxen of a yoke, but desire to claim the devices shown in this application, which are different from those referred to. A particular description will illustrate my invention.

a shows a sliding slotted plate, placed on the under side of the yoke, as seen in fig. 1.

b b' are staples, passing up through the yoke, and held by adjusting-nuts, *c c'*.

The manner in which the curved parts of the staples hold the sliding plate, is seen in figs. 2 and 3, passing over the parts *d d'*, and up through the two sets of parallel slots, *e e'*.

When the adjusting-nuts *c c'* are fully set or screwed up, the plate *a* is held tightly pressed up against the under edge of the yoke; when loosened, the plate can be slid from one to the other side, to the extent of the slots *e e'*.

f is the ring, to attach the yoke to the shaft of the cart. This ring *f* is held in a looped stud, *h*, which swivels in its hole in the plate *a*, and is held by being headed up on the upper side, so as to form a washer. (See *i*.)

Now, it will be seen that, as the plate is shifted from one to the other side of the centre of the yoke, it carries the ring *f*, and so gives one or the other of the cattle the longest arm of the lever formed by the yoke.

This has, as I have before remarked, been done in different ways before, but I claim the devices for effecting the purpose, as herein shown.

The free motion of the stud *h*, turning in the plate *a*, gives freedom to the motion of the cattle, when they do not travel evenly, as where one travels a little in advance of the other, or if they alternate, as most teams do, first one and then the other of them stepping a little ahead.

k is a ring, to which, if desired, a front yoke can be attached.

My device can be easily applied to yokes made as common, and with little expense or trouble.

I do not claim two plates of metal having teeth and grooves corresponding to each other, the under one having lips to lap over the edge of the yoke, as a means of rendering the point of draught adjustable on the yoke, as shown in patent of J. H. Riggs, No. 21,087, August 3, 1858; neither do I claim placing the attaching-rings of neck-yokes upon bars, with racks passing on each side of a pinion, movable upon the main bolt, in order to admit of the longitudinal movement of the rings.

Disclaiming previously-patented devices,

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The sliding slotted plate *a*, held by staples *b b'*, and adjusting-nuts *c c'*, and carrying the shaft-ring *f*, as and for the purposes set forth.

WILLIAM COOPER.

Witnesses:

WILLIAM H. CLIFFORD,
HENRY C. HOUSTON.