

J. A. Bausel,
Making Plug Tobacco.

N^o 24,187.

Patented May 31, 1859.

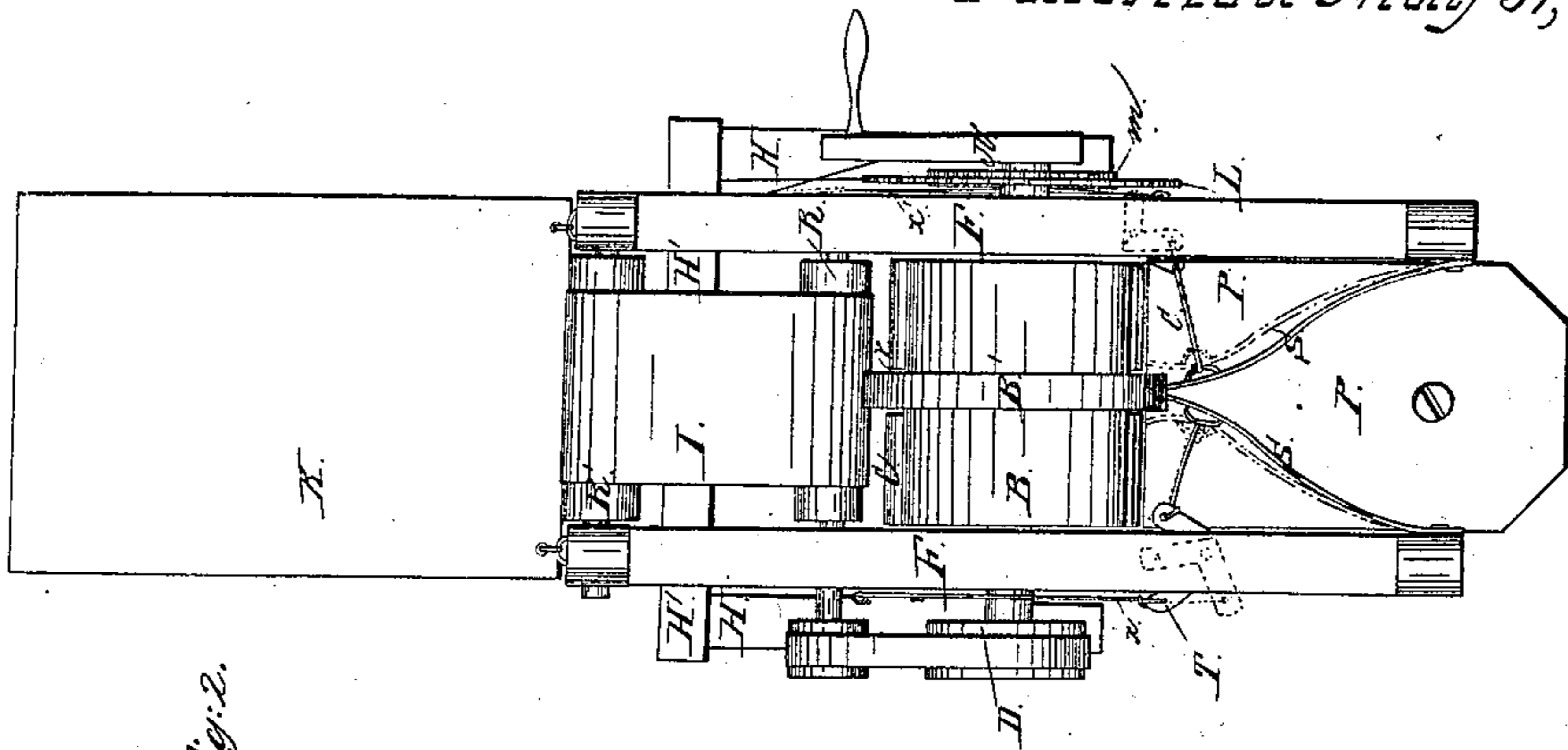


Fig. 2.

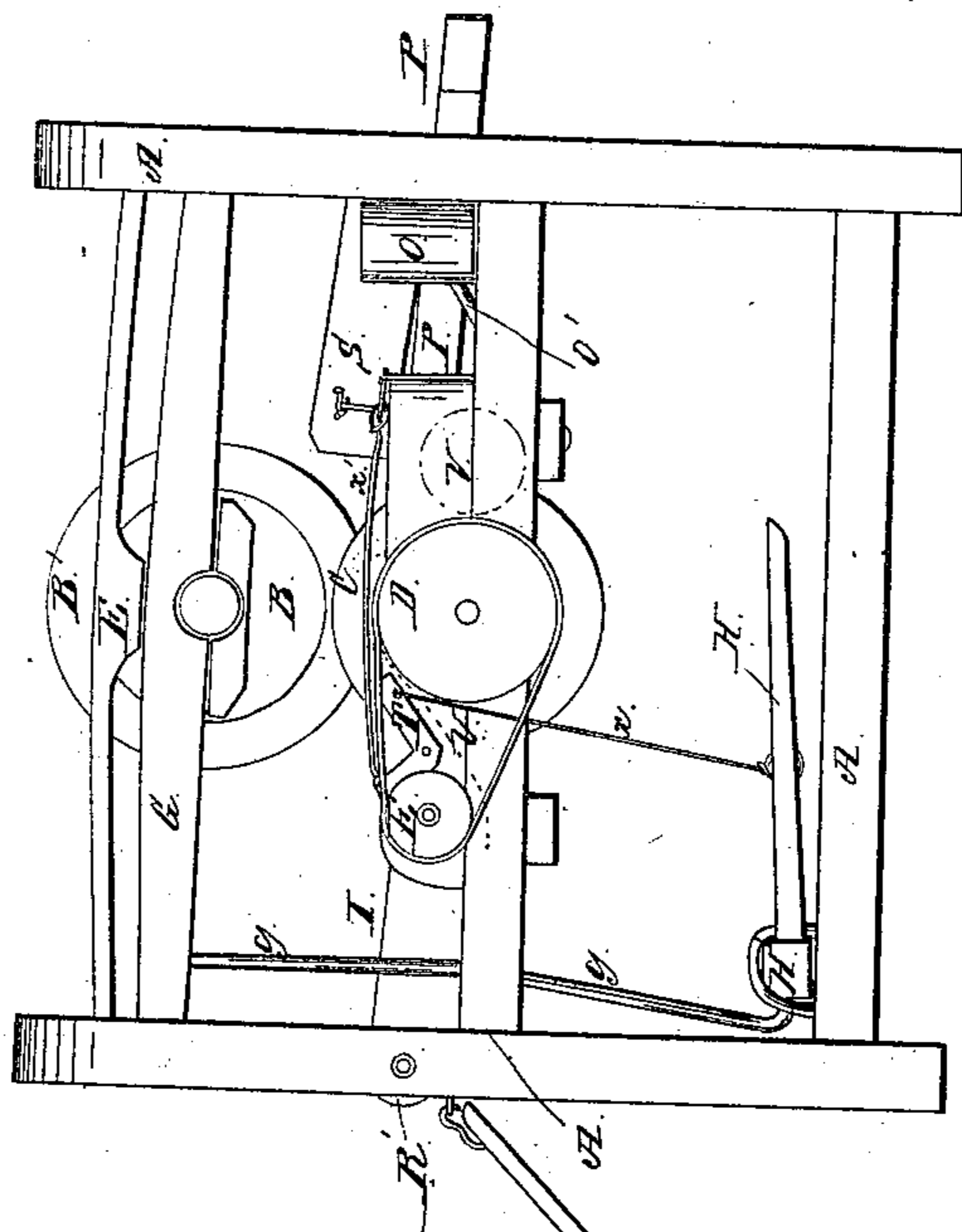


Fig. 1.

Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN A. BAWSEL, OF POWHATAN COURT-HOUSE, VIRGINIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN TOBACCO-PRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 24,187, dated May 31, 1859.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN A. BAWSEL, of Powhatan Court-House, in the county of Powhatan and State of Virginia, have invented a new and Improved Machine for Straightening and Pressing Tobacco; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon.

In preparing tobacco for packing into hogs-heads, the leaves or bundle of leaves require straightening, after which they are laid in a pile and pressed, or "struck," as it is called. Usually the leaves are straightened by drawing them through the hand, or through a hole in a board, or through a section of an ox-horn. In some places a narrow box with a lever and a piece of board have been used as a rude press to squeeze and straighten the small bundles of tobacco preparatory to their being struck. All these operations are very slow and laborious, and the object of my machine is to perform the same work with dispatch and in a better manner.

My invention consists in an improved machine for pressing and straightening small bundles of tobacco preparatory to their being pressed or struck in mass for packing.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a side view of my machine. Fig. 2 is a top view of the same.

Upon the frame A are arranged two rollers, B and C. The upper roller, B, has a projecting rim or follower, B', which fits into a corresponding groove, *r*, in the lower roller, C. This groove *r* and follower B' are intended for straightening the tobacco-leaves, which are to be passed between the two rollers through the groove. The shaft of the lower roller carries a cog-wheel, *m*, and that of the upper carries a larger cog-wheel, L. The lower roller and cog-wheel *m* may be set in motion by the crank N, when the wheel *m* will give motion to the wheel L and roller B. The shaft of the lower roller also carries a band-wheel, D, which transmits motion to the small wheel E, and to the roller R, which in turn moves the apron I, running over a second roller, R'. The leaves of tobacco, in small bundles of from seven to ten leaves, are fed into the machine upon the table P, and passing between the rollers they escape upon the apron I, and are carried for-

ward until they slide upon the receiving-board K. This apron I moves fast enough to keep the tips of the leaves straight as they leave the rollers, and the board K receives the bundles without materially disturbing the compact form in which they leave the rollers.

Above the table P are arranged two springs, S, which may better be made of wood, to avoid the hard metallic surface, which is more likely to cut or break the leaves. These springs are connected with a treadle, H, by means of rods and elbows T. By pressing the treadle down the ends of springs S are separated, as shown in red lines, Fig. 2, so that the bundle of tobacco can be put between the springs directly into the groove *r*, where it is caught by the revolving rollers. The large end of the tobacco-leaves or the butt-end of the bundle is inserted foremost. As soon as the bundle is caught by the rollers the springs S are allowed to press upon it, and it is drawn through the springs into the groove *r*, thus straightening the leaves before they are pressed. One end of the bars G, which support the upper roller, B, have some play up and down in the post of the frame, and the bar G and the roller B are both pressed downward by the springs F. From these bars G extend two connecting-rods, *g*, to the treadle-roller H'. By this arrangement, when the treadle H is depressed to separate the springs S, the bars G and roller B are slightly elevated, so that the bundle of tobacco-leaves can readily be entered between the rollers. These springs F might be arranged under the platform, so as to move the lower roller instead of the upper. Either one or two treadles may be employed, as one or two persons attend the machine.

Under the apron I, and in the groove *r*, is placed a scraper, just fitted to the groove, for removing any tobacco which might otherwise adhere to the roller C and clog the machine. The position of this scraper is seen in dotted lines at U, Fig. 1. An oil-roller is also placed in the groove *r*, in order constantly to lubricate the groove, and thus slightly to oil the tobacco. This oil-roller is shown in Fig. 1 in dotted lines at V. It is better to cover the oil-roller with cloth or other similar substance. The oil is supplied to the roller from a cup, O, through a small tube, O'.

I am aware that most of the separate devices employed in my machine are not new.

Therefore I confine my claims to the use of these devices as improvements in tobacco-machines. I also know that tobacco has been passed through a hole formed by two grooved or fluted rollers placed opposite each other.

Having thus fully set forth my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

1. The use of the follower B', fitting into the groove of the opposite roller, substantially as set forth.

2. The springs S, as constructed and operated, for guiding the tobacco and straightening the leaves as they pass between the rollers, substantially as described.

3. The use of the treadle H, in combination with the springs S and with the rollers B and C, operating substantially as described, for separating the springs S, and also for separating the rollers, as set forth.

4. The oil-cup O and roller V, in connection with groove r, for oiling the groove and the tobacco, substantially as described.

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Witnesses:

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