

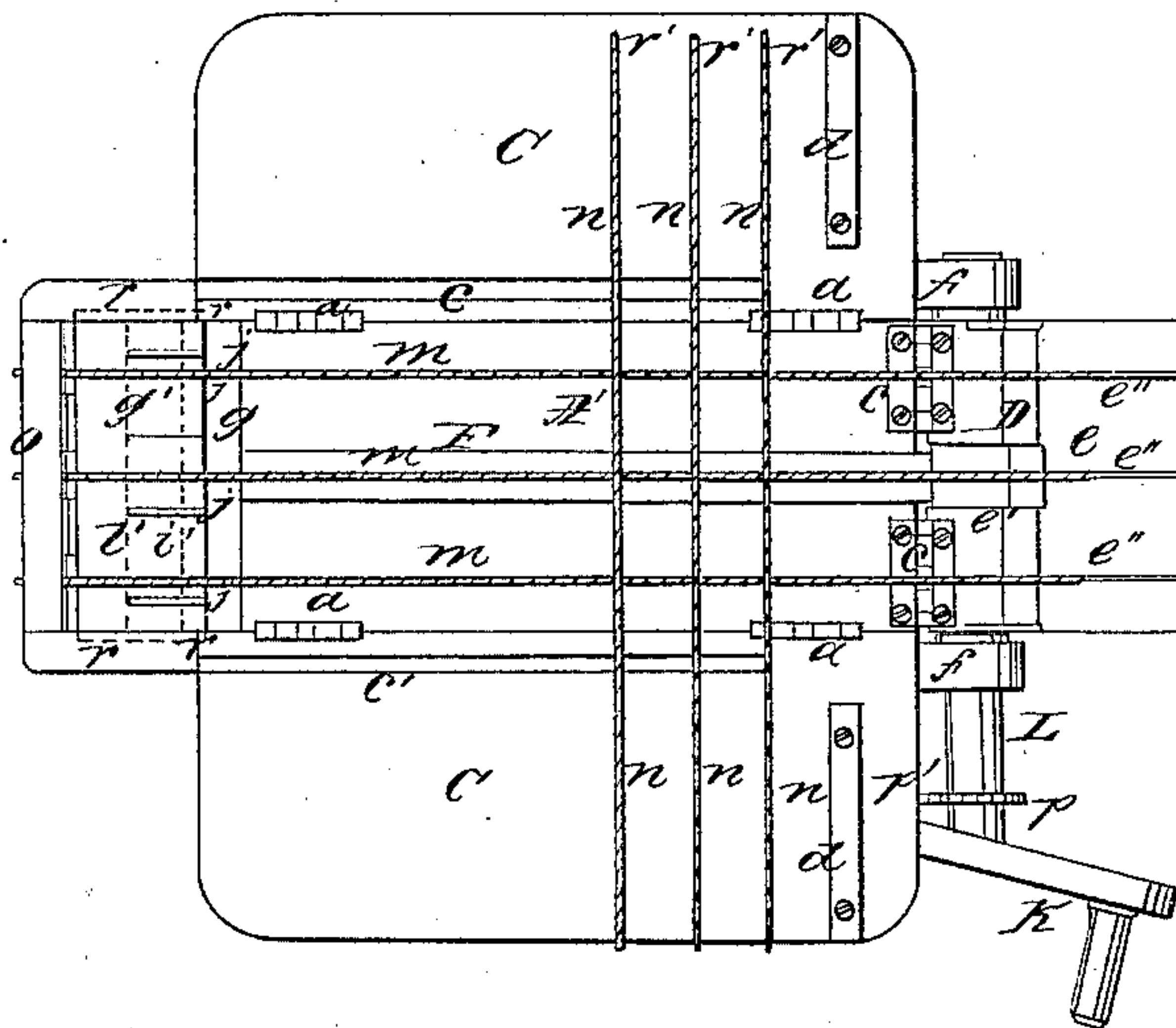
*C. W. Rudgers,*

*Wool Press,*

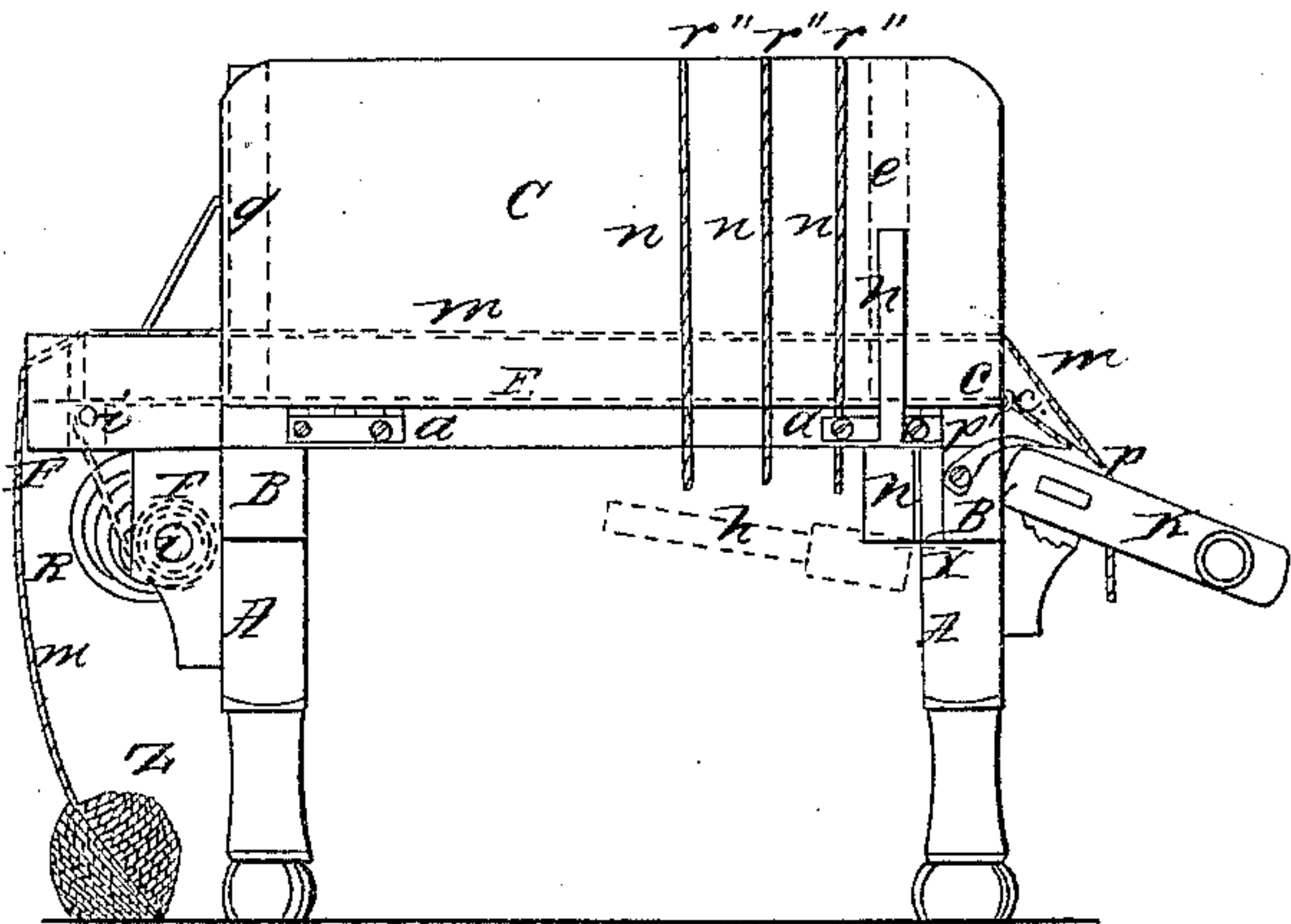
*No 50,040,*

*Patented Sept. 19, 1865.*

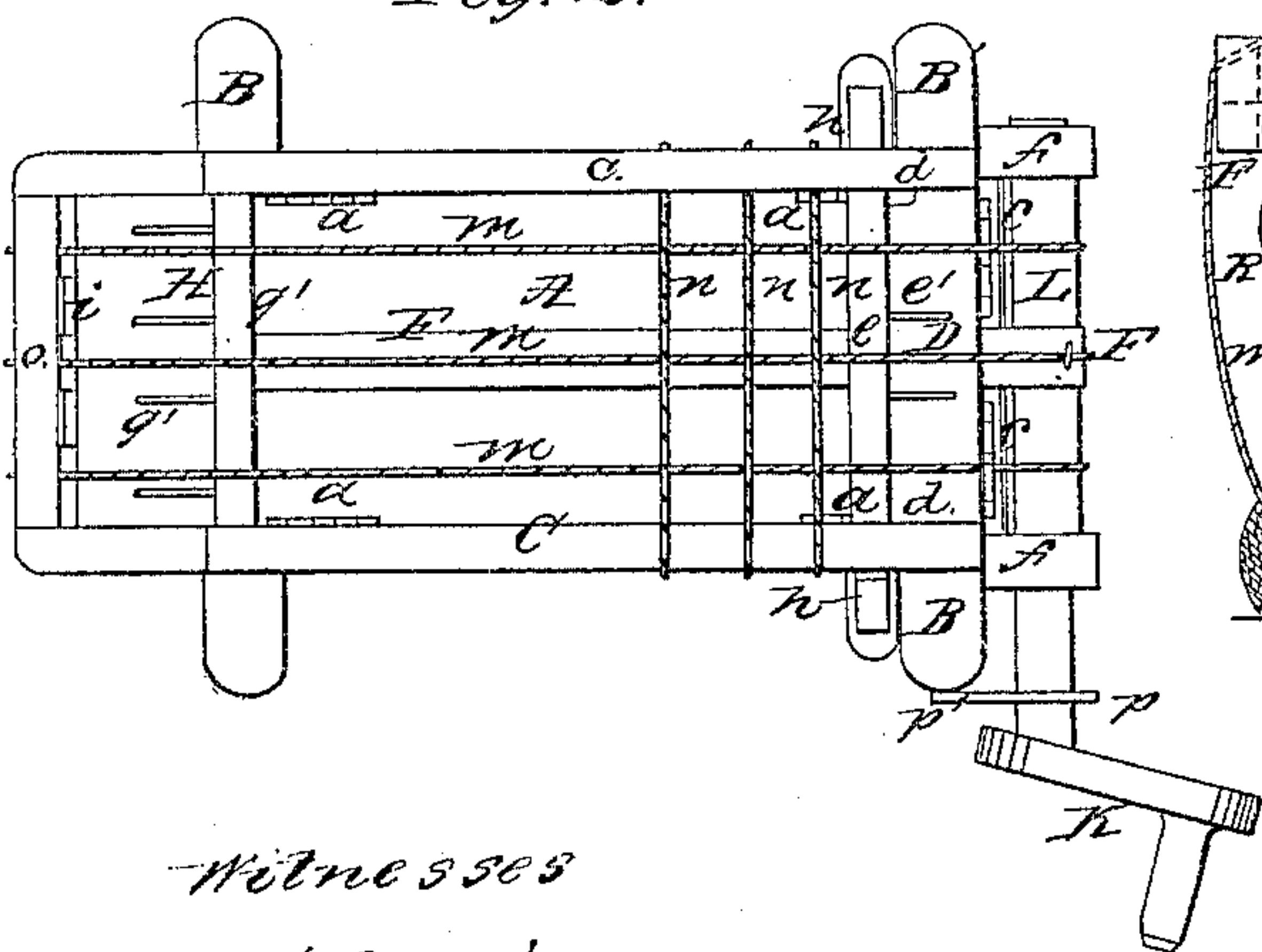
*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 3.*



*Fig. 2.*



*Witnesses*

*W. A. Burnidge,  
A. W. M. Clelland*

*Inventor*

*C. W. Rudgers*

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES W. RUDGERS, OF BRECKSVILLE, OHIO.

## IMPROVED FLEECE-FOLDER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 50,040, dated September 19, 1865.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, C. W. RUDGERS, of Brecksville, in the county of Cuyahoga and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fleece-Folders; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and complete description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figures 1 and 2 are top views of the machine in different positions. Fig. 3 is a side view.

Like letters of reference refer to like parts in the several views.

My improvement relates to the construction and operation of a machine for folding fleeces of wool, as hereinafter described.

The machine is suitably supported on standards or legs A. (Seen in Fig. 3.) A' is a table fastened on cross-pieces B B' underneath that project beyond the sides, as shown in Fig. 2, forming supports for leaves C C, that are hinged at *a* to the sides of the table.

At one end of the table is hinged, at *c c*, a head-block, D, which is made of an upright piece, *e*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and indicated by the dotted lines *e* in Fig. 3, secured at the lower end to a piece, *e'*, at right angles to it, which piece is hinged to the table, so that the head can be turned over and down, as in Fig. 1. At the other end of the table is a follower or tail-block, H, that is formed in a similar manner to the head-block, with an upright piece, *g*, and right-angled piece *g'*, which fits down and moves along on the top of the table, there being tongues *r* on the sides of the piece *g'* that fit into and move in grooves *c'* in the leaves C when they are turned up, keeping the follower in place as it is moved either way.

F is a strap or belt extending along on top of the table about the middle under the follower at one end, to which it is attached, and passes over a roller, *i*, in the end of the machine down round a shaft, *i'*, on which it winds up, as indicated by the dotted lines in Fig. 3. The other end of the strap passes down under the head-block, and is secured to a shaft, L, that has its bearings in pieces *f* of the frame, and on one end is a crank-handle, *k*, by which it is turned.

*p* is a ratchet-wheel on the shaft L, and *p'* is a pawl pivoted to the frame that catches into the wheel, whereby the shaft can be prevented from turning back. On the shaft *i'*, on one side of the strap F, is a spiral spring, R, for drawing the strap and follower back when the strap is released at the other end.

There are slots *j* in the part *g* of the follower, of which there can be any desired number, extending from the top down till near the bottom, and there are similar slots, *e''*, opposite these in the head-block, in which are put cords *m*, or twine, the cords being first put through holes at one end of the machine in the piece *o*. There are holes also (seen at *r'*, Fig. 1) in one of the leaves C, through which cords *n* are put, and there are slots *r''* in the other leaf opposite the holes, in which the cords *n* are adjusted to hold them in place while the fleece is being compressed.

It will be observed that the longitudinal cords *m* and transverse cords *n* cross each other at right angles.

*h* is a clamp hinged to the support B', as seen at *x*, Fig. 3, that can be turned up on the outside of the leaves C to secure them in the position shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

*d d* are cleats on the upper or inside of the leaves, against which the head comes when the leaves and head-block are turned up.

The manner of using this machine as constructed is as follows: In the first place the cords *m* or pieces of twine are put through the holes in the piece *o* and adjusted down through the slots in the follower and head-block, as before stated, onto the table, and the cords *n* connected to the leaves arranged across, as represented, the leaves being turned down, resting on the supports B B', and the head-block turned down, as in Fig. 1. The fleece is then spread out on the table, with the sides on the leaves and the head toward the head-block, when both sides or skirts of the fleece are folded over toward the center and the head part down on the body, when the head-block D is turned up and the strings *m* drawn forward through the slots. The leaves C of the table are next folded up, as in Figs. 2 and 3, and secured by turning up the clamp *h*. The butt end of the fleece is then folded up toward the head-block, when, by turning the crank R, the follower H, by means of the strap



F, is moved upon the table toward the head-block until the fleece is compressed between the follower and head-block and leaves into the desired size for a bundle, when the longitudinal strings are brought up and tied, and then the transverse strings *n*. In this manner the fleece is folded up and compressed, wrapped with twine crossing at right angles above and below, and when it is finished by releasing the crank the spring R causes the follower to move back at once to its former position, when the bundle can be removed and the leaves and head let down and the twine adjusted through the slots, prepared for another fleece.

The machine is fed with twine from balls Z at the side and end, there being two, three, or more at each place, according to the number of longitudinal and transverse strings required in tying the bundles, the strings having simply

to be drawn from the balls and adjusted through the slots each time.

In place of the spring R to move the follower back the belt or strap F may be extended round under the table and attached to the shaft L in front, so that by reversing the motion of the crank the follower would be drawn back; or there can be a weight connected to the table to accomplish the same purpose.

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

The hinged head-block D and adjustable follower H, in combination with the leaves C, strap F, and spring R or its equivalent, operating as and for the purpose set forth.

CHARLES W. RUDGERS.

Witnesses:

W. H. BURRIDGE,

A. W. McCLELLAND.