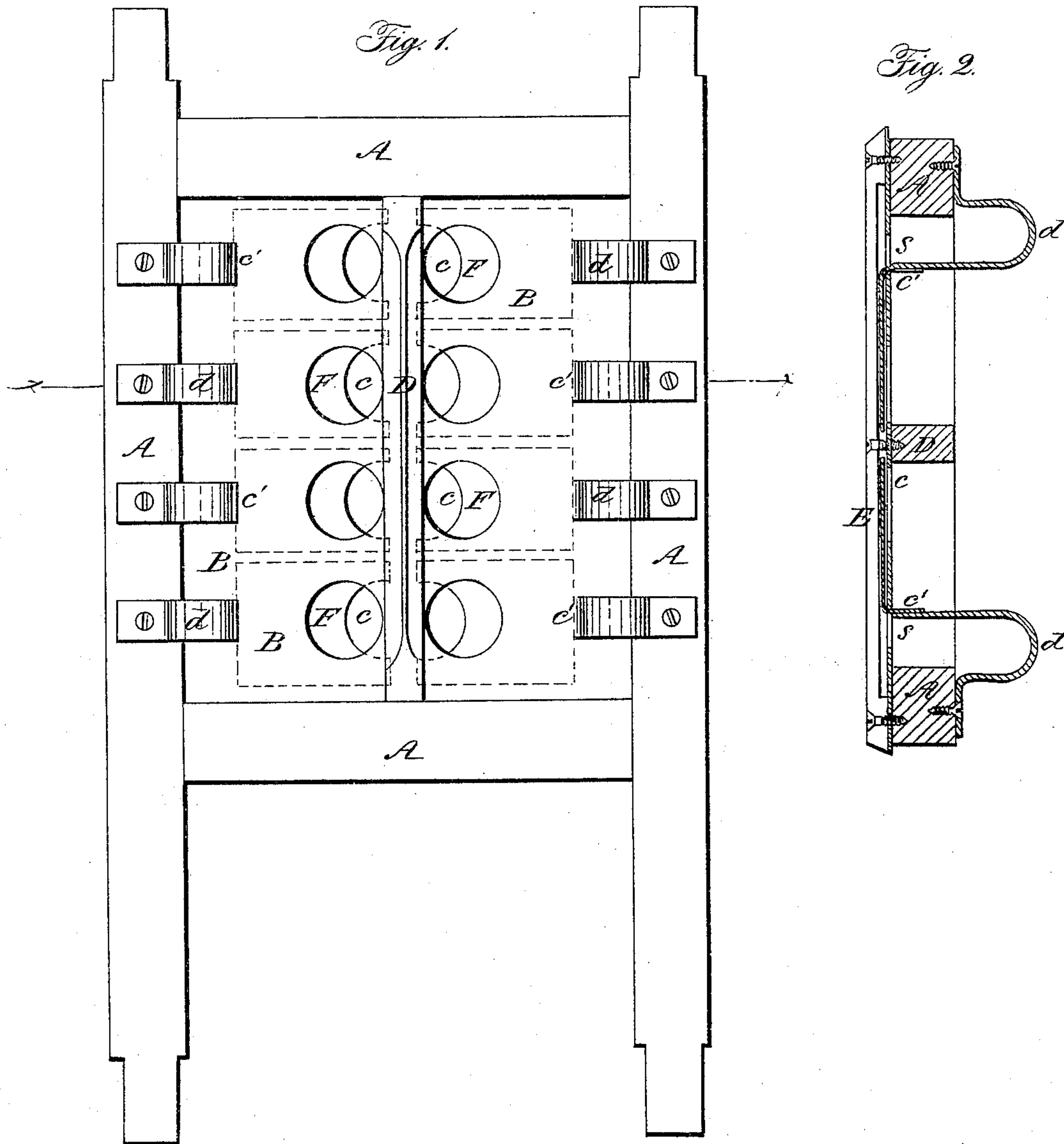


D. H. NICHOLS.

Cane-Stripper.

No. 57,557

Patented Aug. 28, 1866.



Witnesses:

W. Morris Smith
Sydney E. Smith

Inventor:

David H. Nichols.
by his Attorneys
Brown, Coombs & Co.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

DAVID H. NICHOLS, OF NEW RICHMOND, OHIO.

IMPROVEMENT IN SORGHUM-STRIPPERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 57,557, dated August 28, 1866.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID H. NICHOLS, of New Richmond, in Clermont county and State of Ohio, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Sorghum-Strippers; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, through letters of reference marked thereon, forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 represents a front elevation of my apparatus, and Fig. 2 a horizontal section of the same, taken on the line *xx* of Fig. 1.

The same letters of reference, occurring on both figures, indicate corresponding parts.

This invention consists in a novel construction of a stripper of great simplicity and consequent cheapness, and which can be adapted to any ordinary sorghum-mill at a trifling cost.

To enable others skilled in the art to understand and use my invention, I will describe its construction and operation by referring to the drawings.

A represents the frame-work of my apparatus, which is erected in front of any ordinary sorghum-mill in a vertical position and parallel with the crushing-rollers. On the inner side of this frame-work is attached a plate, B, of sheet-iron or other suitable material, covering the entire frame, which plate is provided with a series of apertures, *c*, circular in form, and are arranged one above another in two rows, one on each side of a vertical central bar, D, dividing the frame. On the inner side of this plate B are horizontal bars E between each pair of holes or apertures *c*, and above and below the top and bottom pairs, which form grooves for the reception of the sliding plates F, the inner ends of which are made semicircularly concave, so that when they are

forced back to their fullest extent their edges will correspond with the outer edges of the apertures *c*, and when partially closed the openings will be of elliptical form, as represented in Fig. 1. The outer ends of said slides are narrowed to about one-third of their width, and are bent at right angles to their face, passing through apertures or slots *s* in the plate B, as represented at *c'*.

On the side of the frame A, and in range horizontally with the centers of the apertures *c*, are arranged a series of springs, *d*, which are each attached to the frame, and each operate against the bent tail-piece *c'* of one of the slides F, to force them inward and thus contract the apertures *c*.

The operation of the machine will be as follows: The stripper being erected in front of the mill and suitably supported, the small ends of the cane are inserted in the apertures *c*, and are immediately seized by the rollers of the mill and drawn through, and as the thicker portions of the cane pass the apertures the slides F are forced back, thus allowing space for them to pass without cutting or scaling the cane, while the leaves, being of a brittle nature, will be stripped off by the edges of the aperture as the cane passes through.

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

The combination of the sliding plates F, stationary plate B, provided with apertures *c*, and the springs *d*, the whole being constructed, arranged, and operating substantially as herein set forth, for the purpose specified.

DAVID H. NICHOLS.

Attest:

P. J. NICHOLS,
J. W. MOREHEAD.