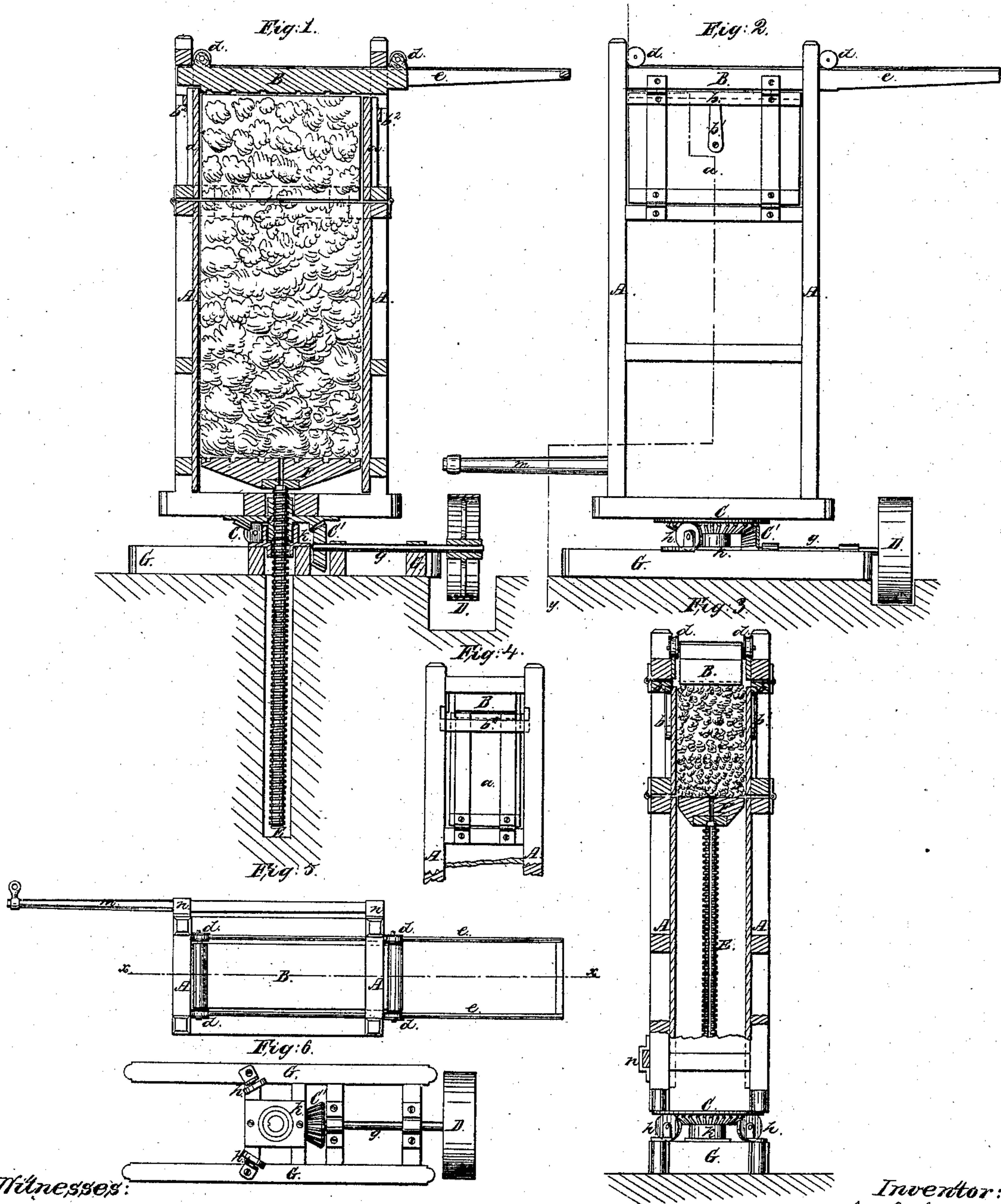


J. G. Cummings,

Cotton Press.

N^o 67,961.

Patented Aug. 20, 1867.



Witnesses:

J. A. Jackson
Wm. Brown

Inventor:
Jas. G. Cummings
Per Munroe & Co
Attorneys

United States Patent Office.

JAMES G. CUMMINGS, OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI.

Letters Patent No. 67,961, dated August 20, 1867.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON-PRESS.

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, JAMES G. CUMMINGS, of Columbus, in the county of Lowndes, and State of Mississippi, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Cotton-Press; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, which will enable others skilled in the art to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical central section of my improved cotton-press taken in the plane of the line *x x*, fig. 5, showing it in position before the cotton is pressed.

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the same.

Figure 3 is a vertical section of the same taken in the line *y y*, fig. 2, showing the press in position after the cotton has been pressed.

Figure 4 is a partial end view of one side.

Figure 5 is a top view of the press.

Figure 6 is a detached view of a part of the gearing at the bottom.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

This invention relates to improvements in the construction of a press for packing cotton and other substances in bales by horse-power or any convenient motor especially adapted to use on cotton plantations, which improvement consists in the arrangement of gearing, in connection with a long upright rectangular chest or trunk for containing the cotton to be pressed, in such manner that by the revolution of the chest on a vertical axis a follower shall rise gradually from the bottom of the chest by means of a screw until the fibre is compressed and packed into a small compass for baling in a proper compartment at the top of the chest.

A represents the rectangular packing-box or trunk constructed of wood of ordinary proportions for forming a cotton-bale, which is set up endwise upon proper foundations to be revolved by gearing underneath, as herein described. The upper end of the packing-trunk A is made with doors or flaps *a a* on all sides, hinged at the lower end so as to fall outward when opened. They are held fast by hinged clutch-bars *b b* and buttons *b' b'* on the two wider sides, and ordinary drop-bars *b² b²* on the two narrow sides. The upper head-block B is suspended upon grooved wheels or rollers *d d*, which run on the top of the rail-track *e e*, which projects from one of the narrow sides of the packing-trunk A. The packing-trunk is turned around for the purpose of pressing the cotton by means of gearing underneath. A large bevel-wheel, C, is secured to the bottom, and engages in a smaller bevel-wheel, C', on the end of a horizontal shaft, *g*, which carries a driving-pulley, D, on its outer end, and is hung on a foundation frame, G. The rim of the bevel-wheel C projects beyond the cogs to form an annular track resting on two rollers *h h*, which are hung in brackets on the frame G, and in connection with the small bevel-wheel C' form a tripod support for the trunk A. A vertical travelling screw, E, passes through and works in the hub *i* of the large bevel-wheel C, secured by a feather and groove, the lower end of which screw descends into a cavity below, as shown in fig. 1, and the upper end of which travels in the trunk A and carries on its extremity a follower, F, for pressing the cotton, as shown by fig. 3. The hub *i* sets in a step, *k*, fastened to the foundation frame G. The travelling screw E will be made with double or treble threads for plantation use where power is limited when required. The inside faces of the follower F and the head-block B are grooved transversely in the ordinary way for receiving the hoops or ropes for baling. Instead of employing gearing to work with horse or steam-power the press may be operated with manual power by means of a lever, *m*, indicated in red, run through the staples *n n* at the lower end on one side of the trunk A.

The general operation of the press is manifest and needs no explanation. When the bale of cotton has been hooped or roped and taken out of the press the flap-doors *a a* are closed and the head-block B is run out on the rail-track *e e*, leaving the top of the trunk A open, when the work of filling it for the next bale may be at once begun and performed, while the screw E travels back to the bottom.

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

1. The bevel-wheel C, provided with the projecting rim, forming an annular track resting on rollers *h h*, and having the hub *i* for the passage of the screw E, step K, which bears the bevel-wheel C, and is secured to the frame C and trunk A, when all are constructed and arranged as herein set forth for the purpose specified.

2. I claim also the shifting head-block B, in combination with the rollers *d d*, the rail-track *e e*, and the trunk A, arranged and operating substantially as and for the purposes herein described.

JAMES G. CUMMINGS,

Witnesses:

B. W. HICKMAN,

J. W. RICHEY.