

H. & A. PHELPS.

Soap Cutter.

No. 68,385.

Patented Sept. 3, 1867.

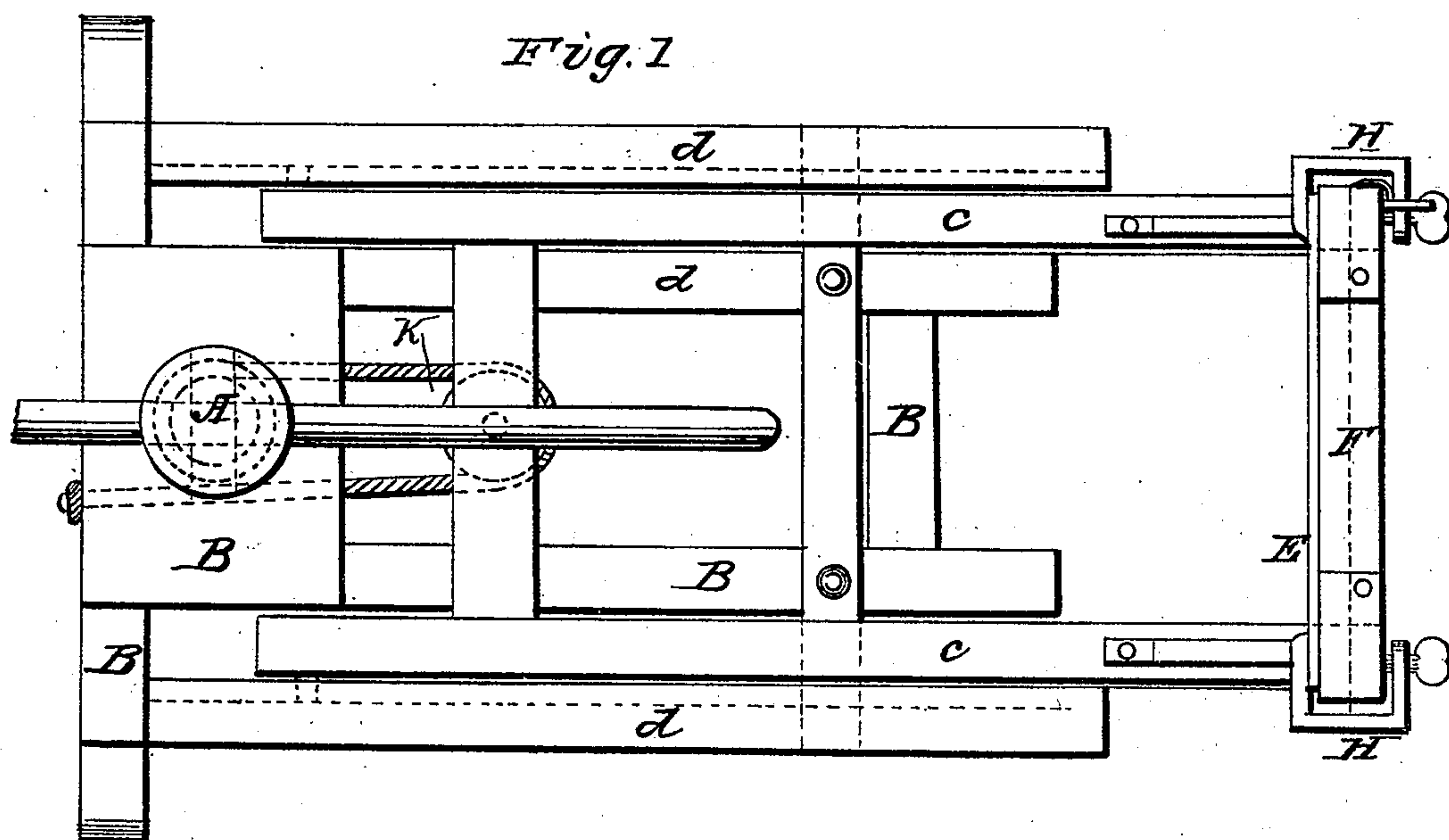
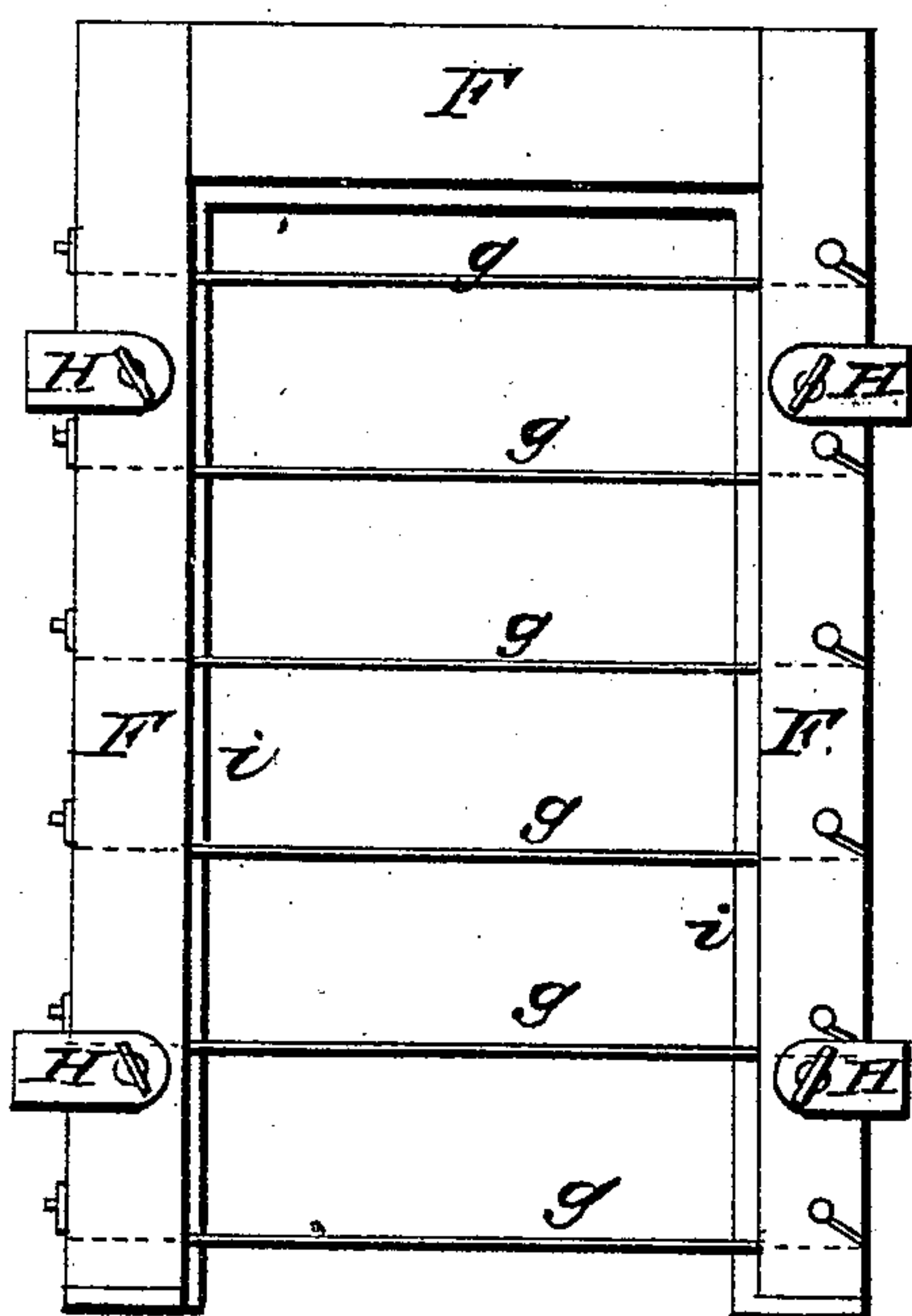


Fig. 2



Witnesses.

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HARVEY PHELPS AND ALVAH PHELPS, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

Letters Patent No. 68,385, dated September 3, 1867.

IMPROVED APPARATUS FOR SLABBING SOAP.

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

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Be it known that we, HARVEY PHELPS and ALVAH PHELPS, of the city and county of Albany, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Apparatus for Slabbing Soap; and we do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a top view of our invention, and

Figure 2 is a vertical elevation of the inverted U-shaped wire-tensioned and detachable soap-cutting frame.

The object of this invention is to "slab" soap of a more uniform thickness than has heretofore been accomplished by the employment of an inverted U-shaped frame, having wires tensioned therein horizontally, and at the required distances apart; and to admit of cutting "slabs" of various thicknesses by having corresponding number or series of attachable wire-tensioned frames applied to a strong U-shaped frame, which is secured to the outer-ends of longitudinally sliding bars, the near ends of which are provided with lateral projections or pins, which follow in fixed ways or guides. The said frame of wires is drawn through the soap-block horizontally by means of a suitable windlass.

To enable others skilled in the art to fully understand and construct the same, we will proceed to describe it as follows:

A represents the windlass; B, the main supporting frame for the windlass; *c*, the horizontally sliding bars, the near ends of which are provided with lateral projections, which are fitted to slide in fixed or stationary guide bars *d*. To the other extremity of said longitudinally sliding bars *c* is secured an inverted U-shaped iron frame, E. Now, when it is desirable to cut the block of soap into "slabs" of any required thickness, an attachable inverted U-shaped frame, F, made of wood, into which are fastened equidistant cutting wires *g*, and the same held by means of suitable pegs or keys, is readily temporarily secured to the U-shaped supporting frame E by means of the clamps H H, or their equivalents, as is shown in the drawings. The frame E is provided with flanges *i i*, which, when the frame F is attached, tend or prevent the latter from contracting while its wires are being drawn through the soap, as already indicated.

It will be readily perceived that for every varying thickness of "slab" to be cut, it will be necessary to have a corresponding number of attachable wire-tensioned frames F at hand. One end of the rope or chain of the windlass A is secured to the frame B, and passed around the sheave *k*, whose bearing is on a cross-beam of the sliding bars *c c*, thence returned and coiled round the capstan or shaft A. The frame B is stationary during the operation of cutting or slabbing the soap; but the wire-tensioned frame F is drawn through or past the soap-block by means of the windlass, as already explained.

What we claim as our invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. We claim the employment or use of the attachable and detachable frames F, constructed as described, and the same secured to the movable frame E by means of the clamps H H, or their equivalents, for the purpose specified.

2. We claim, in combination with the frames E F and clamps H, the windlass A, frame B, guide bars *d d*, and sliding bars *c c*, the whole being arranged to operate in the manner and for the purpose shown and described.

Witnesses:

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HARVEY PHELPS,
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