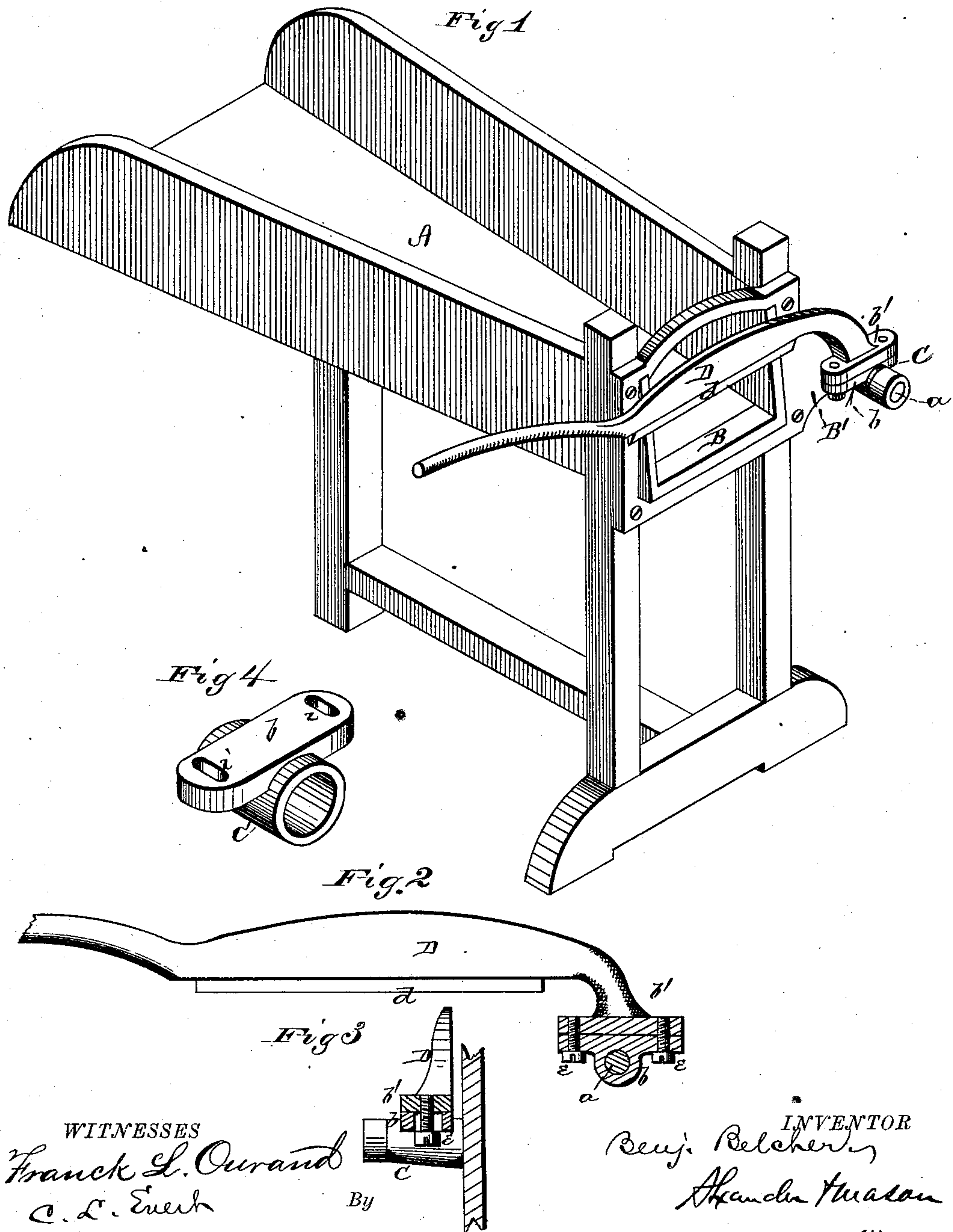


B. BELCHER.  
Straw-Cutter.

No. 163,724.

Patented May 25, 1875.



WITNESSES  
Frank L. Ourand  
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By

INVENTOR  
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Attorney

# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

BENJAMIN BELCHER, OF CHICOPEE FALLS, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR OF  
ONE-HALF HIS RIGHT TO JOHN W. BELCHER, OF SAME PLACE.

## IMPROVEMENT IN STRAW-CUTTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **163,724**, dated May 25, 1875; application filed  
May 6, 1875.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN BELCHER, of Chicopee Falls, in the county of Hampden and in the State of Massachusetts, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Hay-Cutters; and do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, making a part of this specification.

My invention relates to that class of feed-cutters in which the cutting-knife is attached to a lever pivoted to one side of the mouth of the box through which the straw or hay is fed; and the nature of my invention consists in adjusting the lever to or from the mouth of the box at a point removed from the pivot, and preferably situated between the pivot and the knife, as will be hereinafter more fully set forth.

In order to enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, I will now proceed to describe its construction and operation, referring to the annexed drawing, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a feed-cutter embodying my invention. Figs. 2, 3, and 4 are detached views of parts thereof.

A represents the feed-box supported upon a suitable frame or legs, and provided at its mouth with a metallic frame, B, having an extension or arm, B', at one end, from which the pivot *a* projects forward. On this pivot is placed a sleeve, C, formed or provided with a cross-bar, *b*, extending a suitable distance on both sides of the sleeve. D represents the lever, to which the cutting-knife *d* is attached in the usual manner. The inner end of the lever D is curved, as shown, and upon said end is formed a flange or cross-bar, *b'*, corresponding with the cross-bar *b* on the sleeve C. These two cross bars are then connected by

means of screws *e e*, passing through slots *i i* in the bar *b* into the bar *b'*. By this means the lever and cutting-knife can easily be adjusted as required, and the point of adjustment is removed from the pivot.

It will readily be seen that, with this device, the lever can be cut at any point between the pivot and the knife, and by means of the slots *i* in the flange or cross-bar *b* get both lateral and angular adjustment. By this means, also, a solid immovable pivot is obtained, thus making a firmer and more substantial machine at less expense. The pivot *a* is to be cast on a chill, thus leaving it smooth to save the expense of trimming, and also to give a hard surface to save wear of the pivot.

In place of the flanges and cross-bars other equivalent devices may be used, the essential feature of my invention being to have the point of adjustment of the lever removed from the pivot.

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

1. The combination, in a straw-cutter, of the stationary pivot and the knife, adjustably independent of the pivot, either at an angle or on a straight line, at a point away from said pivot with respect to the throat of the box, as set forth.

2. The combination, in a lever feed-cutter, of the stationary pivot *a*, sleeve C, with slotted flange *b*, and the lever D, with flange *b'*, connected to the flange *b* with screws, substantially as and for the purposes herein set forth.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 15th day of April, 1875.

BENJAMIN BELCHER.

Witnesses:

C. L. EVERT,  
E. T. PAIGE.