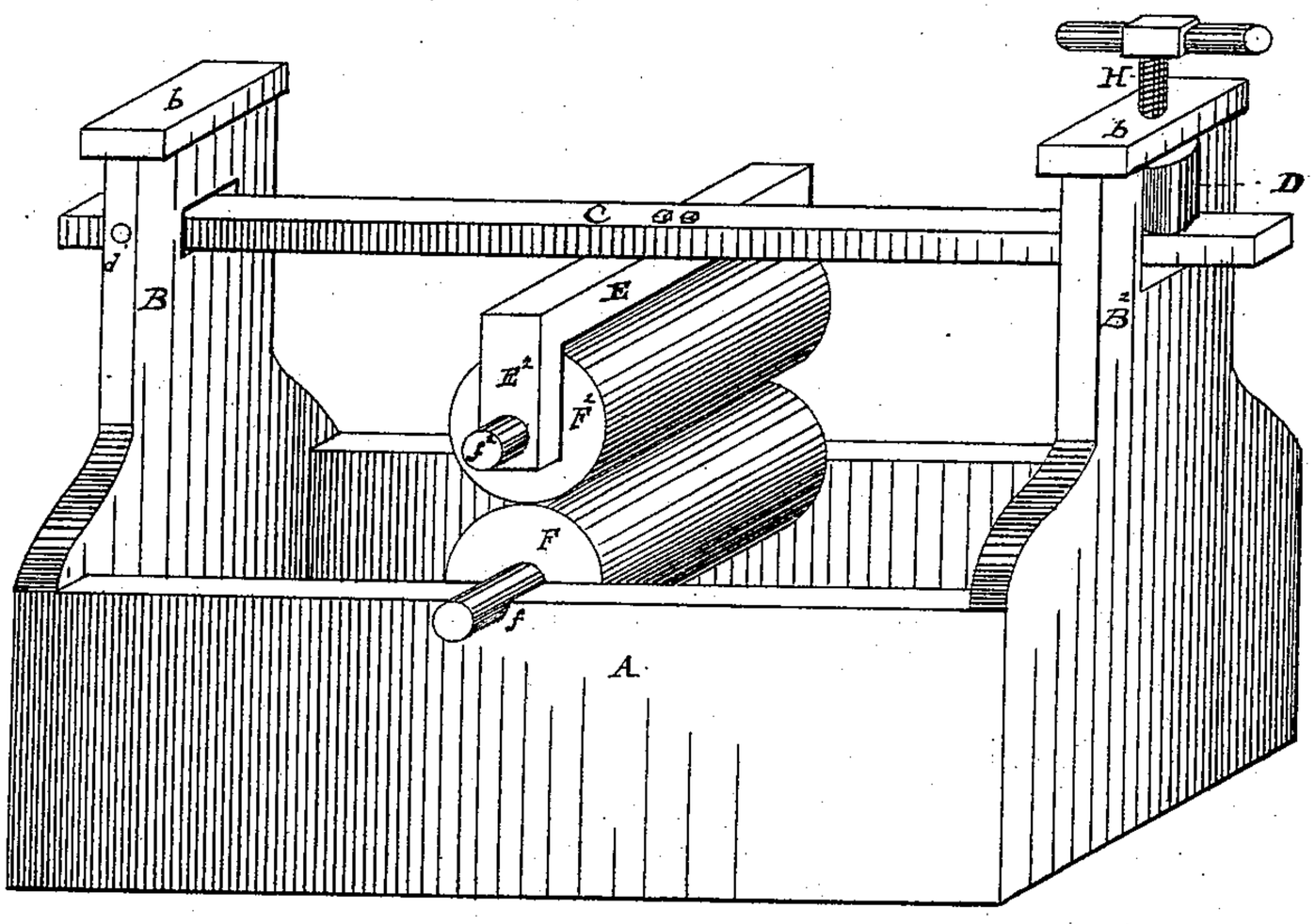
(No Model.)

G. L. SHOREY.

DAMPENING MACHINE.

No. 320,977. Patented June 30, 1885.



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GEORGE L. SHOREY, OF LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS.

DAMPENING-MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 320,977, dated June 30, 1885.

Application filed May 10, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE L. SHOREY, of Lynn, in the county of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Dampening-Machines, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists in an improved machine for dampening cloth, and is especially adapted for dampening the flaps of shirts when, as in a laundry, a large quantity is being washed.

In the process of laundering shirts it is desirable, after a shirt is first starched and dried, to wet the flaps of the shirt, squeeze out the superfluous water, lay the cuffs on the bosom, and then turn the dampened flaps up over the bosom and cuffs. A number of shirts thus prepared are then piled together and submitted to pressure. The damp flaps impart sufficient moisture to the bosoms to prepare them properly for ironing.

The above-described process may be carried out by hand; but it is a slow and tedious as well as ineffectual way of accomplishing the result.

An ordinary wringing-machine cannot be used, because, unless its direction of motion is continually reversed, it is impossible to wring the flaps without passing the bosom through also.

My invention consists of a machine adapted to wet the flaps and squeeze out the water, so that the flaps are uniformly dampened without wetting or subjecting the bosom to any wringing process.

To this end my machine consists, substantially, of a pair of rubber or other rollers placed one vertically over the other, as in wringing-machines. The lower roll I preferably mount on the top of the water-receptacle, as shown in the drawing, where it turns loosely in bearings in the sides of the water-receptacle. The upper roll is mounted in bearings connected with or being an integral part of a horizontal cross-piece attached to a spring-beam, which is adjustably supported in uprights preferably secured to or a part of the water-receptacle. The ends of the rolls where the surfaces are in contact are exposed and free, so that the shirt-flaps can be inserted sidewise between the rolls.

In the drawing the figure is a perspective view of my machine.

A is the box for containing water; B B^2, uprights, not necessarily of the shape shown; *b b*, crown-pieces of uprights B B^2. D is a rubber spring. *d* is a pin for securing the spring-beam C in the upright B; E, horizontal cross-piece supporting, by means of its vertical ends E^2 and the journals f^2, the upper roll, F^2. The lower roll, F, rests, by means of the journal *f*, in bearings in the side of the box A. H is a screw for regulating the degree of pressure applied to the rolls. The uprights B B^2 have openings near the top to allow of the insertion of a spring-beam, C. The opening in the upright B is just high enough to allow a little play of the spring-beam C, which is secured in the upright B by a pin, *b*. The opening in upright B^2 is larger, to allow of the introduction and operation of a rubber spring between the spring-beam and the top of the opening. This spring is adjusted by a thumb-screw. The spring-beam is laid with its broadest side horizontal, so that it has a certain amount of spring, which gives an elastic pressure on the rolls.

The object of having a single central spring-beam, rather than one on each side, is to have a free way for the operator to lower the shirt into the water without striking his head against the spring-beam, and without, in order to avoid this, carrying the spring-beam to an awkward height.

The machine is to be supported upon legs, or otherwise, at a convenient height for work.

Two sets of rolls may be used, if required.

The operation is as follows: A person stands on one side of the machine and dips the flaps, after the bosoms and cuffs have been starched, in the water contained in the box or tub of the machine, then inserts the wet flaps sidewise between the rolls, which are kept rotating by any convenient means, either by a hand-crank or by means of steam-power geared or belted to the axis of the upper roll. The shirt-flaps are run through, and by the pressure of the rolls deprived of their superfluous water, the amount of moisture retained depending upon the pressure put upon the upper rolls by the spring and thumb-screw.

The shirt while being run through the rolls

is held by the operator with the bosom in his hand and the flaps inserted between the rolls to any required depth.

Two persons can work at the machine—one upon either side—and thus accomplish double work, both ends of the rolls being utilized.

My invention enables a great quantity of work to be accomplished in a short time, and in such a manner that the washed material is handled without injury.

I am well aware that it is old in an ordinary small wringing-machine having two pressure-rollers to secure to the base of the machine a metallic spring, the ends of which are bent upward so as to form standards for the rollers, the latter being journaled in the extremities of the springs, and one roller being placed a little higher than the other, and also that it has been common to use an **S**-shaped spring for supporting the rolls. Neither of these devices for mounting rolls gave them free ends, so that the operation described in this specification could be accomplished.

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

In a dampening-machine, the combination of the pressure-rolls F F^2, so mounted that the ends of the rolls where the surfaces are in contact are exposed and free, with the water-receptacle A and the spring-beam C, all arranged and operated substantially as described, whereby the work to be operated upon may be inserted sidewise between the rolls and only a portion of the fabric come within the action of the rollers.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

GEO. L. SHOREY.

Witnesses:
WM. B. H. DOWSE,
WM. T. GILBERT.