

No. 678,923.

Patented July 23, 1901.

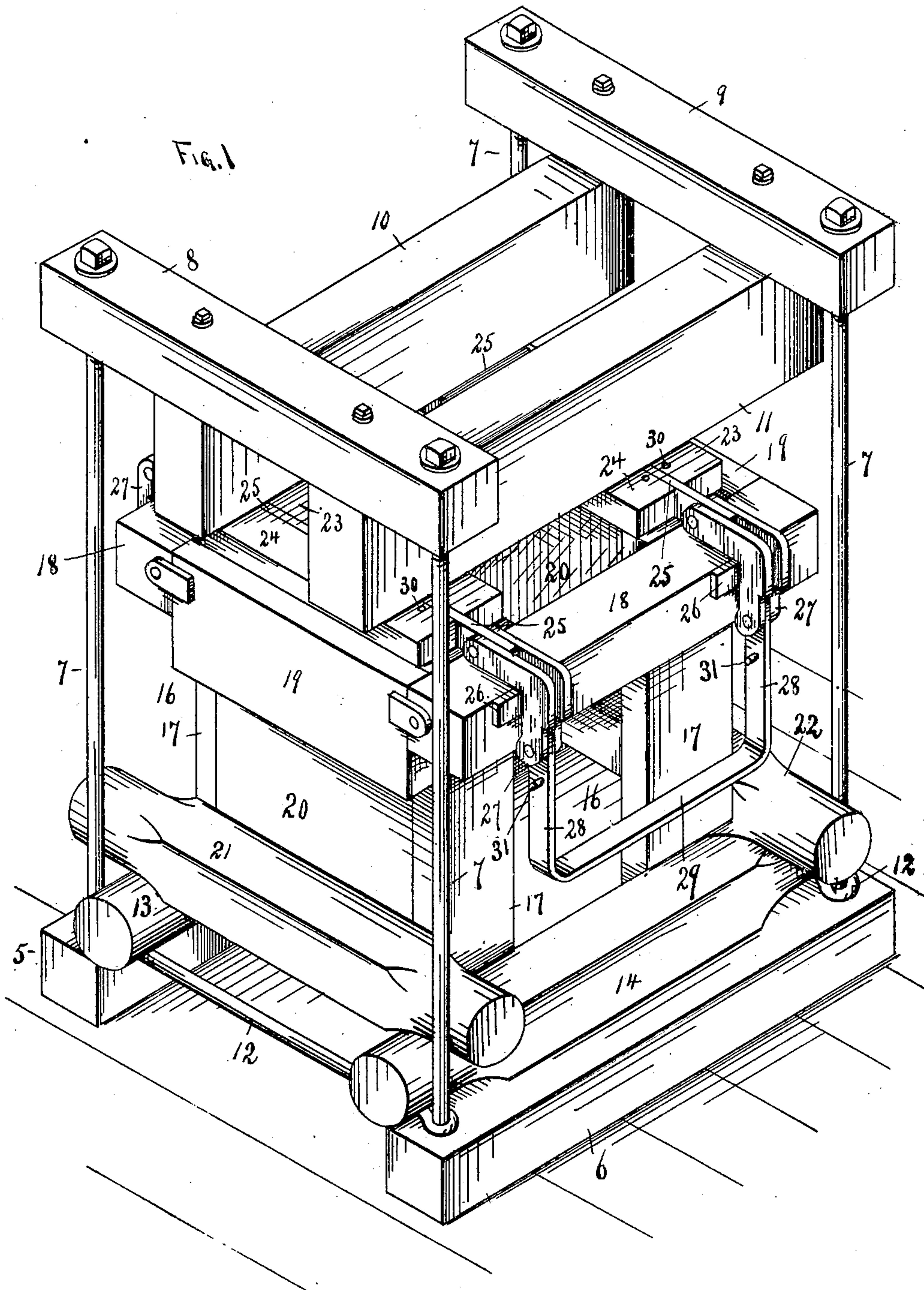
J. A. WESTBROOK.

SELF LOCKING DOOR CLAMP FOR COTTON PRESSES.

(Application filed Apr. 24, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses

C. H. Woodward.

Geo. H. Chandler.

J. A. WESTBROOK, Inventor

By C. A. Snow & Co. Attorneys

No. 678,923.

Patented July 23, 1901.

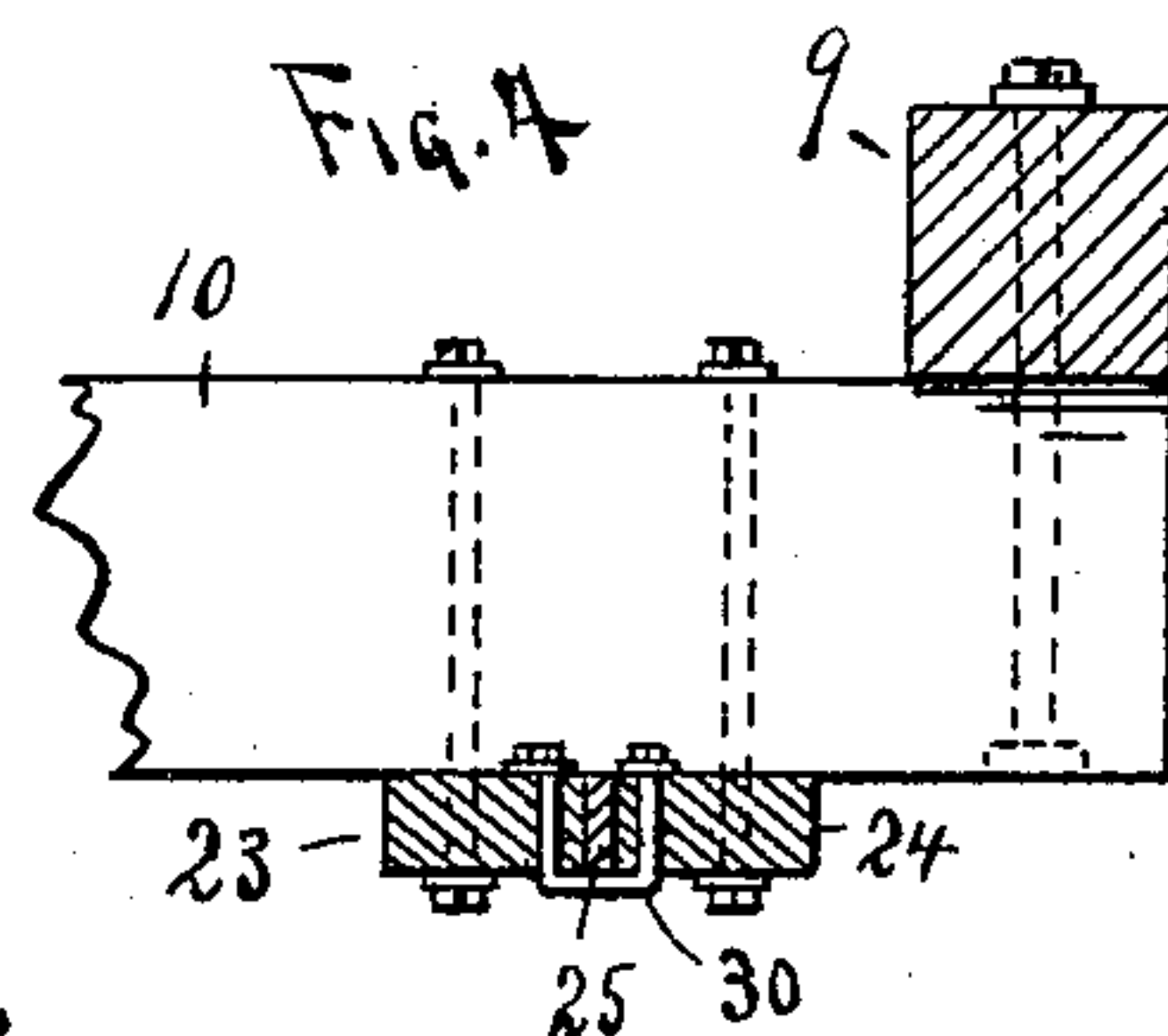
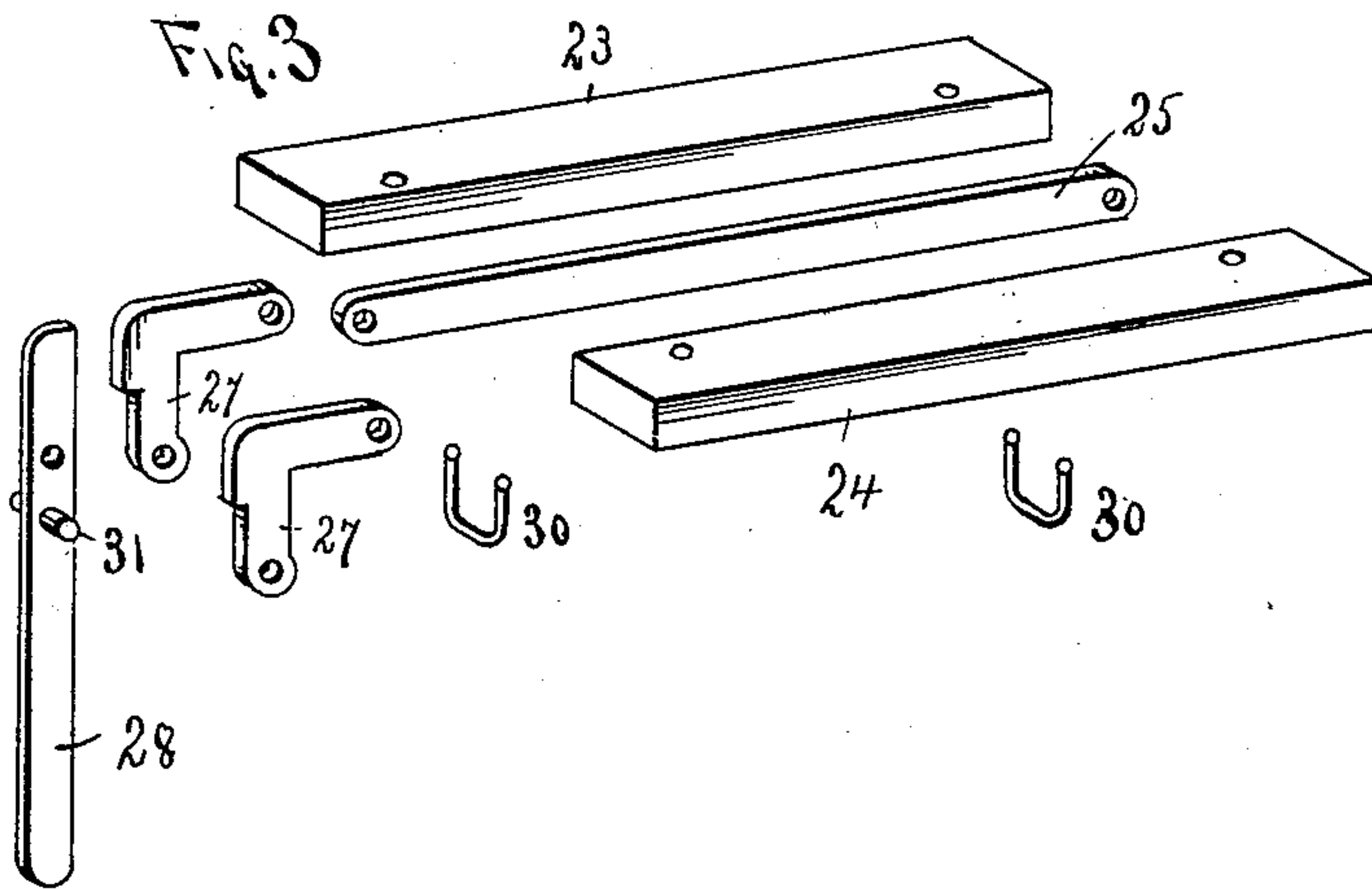
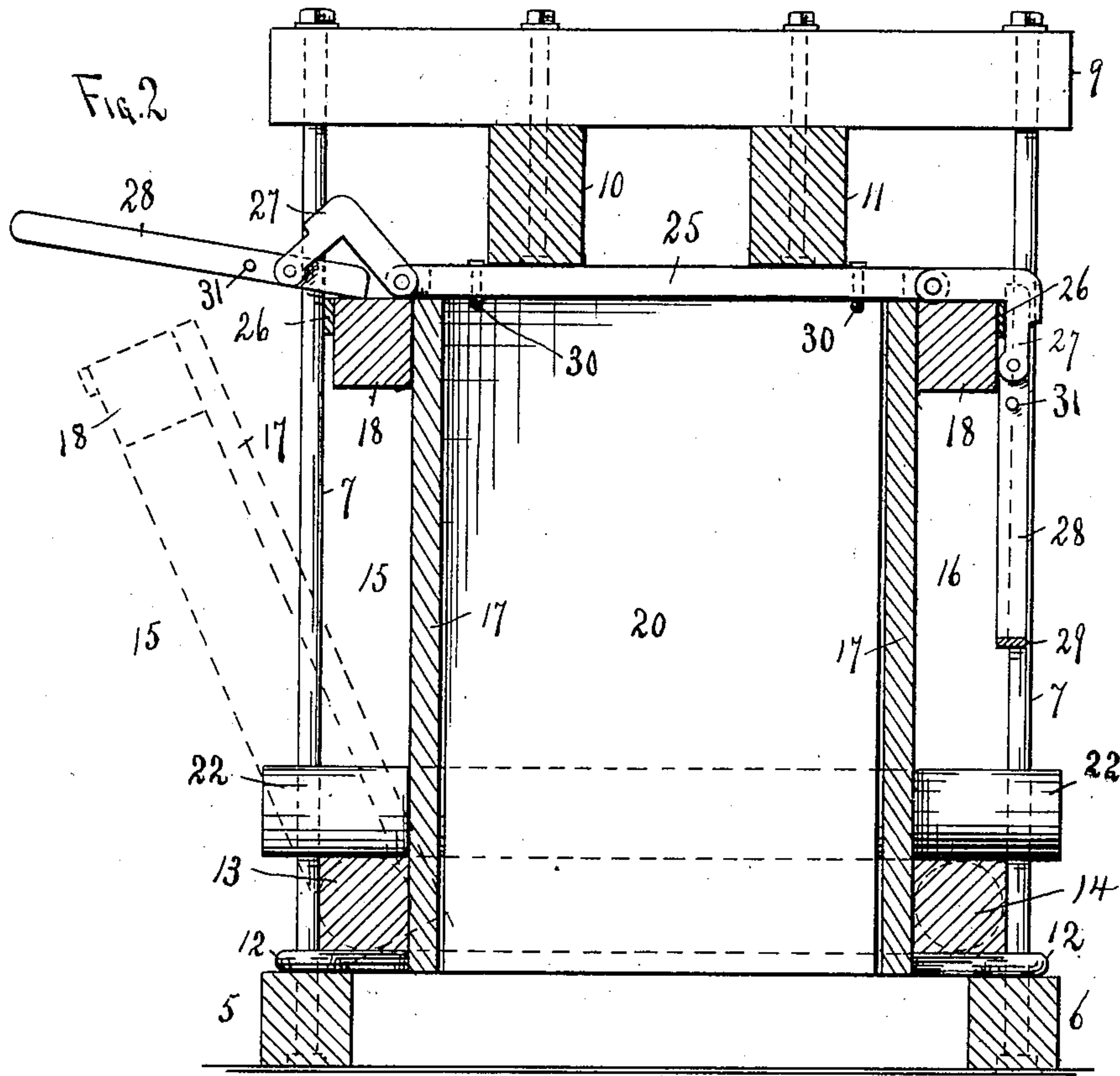
J. A. WESTBROOK.

SELF LOCKING DOOR CLAMP FOR COTTON PRESSES.

(Application filed Apr. 24, 1901.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.



Witnesses  
C. H. Woodward.  
Geo. H. Chandler.

J. A. WESTBROOK, Inventor.  
By *C. A. Snow & Co.*  
Attorneys



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN ALBURT WESTBROOK, OF MASON, TEXAS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD  
TO BENJAMIN F. GOOCH, OF SAME PLACE.

## SELF-LOCKING DOOR-CLAMP FOR COTTON-PRESSES.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 678,923, dated July 23, 1901.

Application filed April 24, 1901. Serial No. 57,306. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN ALBURT WESTBROOK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Mason, in the county of Mason and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Self-Locking Door-Clamp for Cotton-Presses, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to cotton-presses; and it has for one object to provide in a press having hinged side walls a simple and efficient lock which when in position will hold the side walls or doors securely in closed position, while when it is desired to open the press or baling-chamber for application of the ties or to remove the bale the doors may be easily and quickly released.

A further and important object of the invention is to so construct and arrange the locking mechanism that the doors will be directly engaged inwardly from their sides, and thus the tendency to bowing of the doors and the consequent ill-shaped bales will be prevented.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description.

In the drawings forming a portion of this specification, and in which like numerals of reference indicate similar parts in the several views, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a portion of a baling-press with the door-locking mechanism in operative position. Fig. 2 is a vertical section taken in the plane of one of the strap-irons to which the latch-hooks are pivoted, the iron being in elevation and the latch-hooks being shown one in engaged position and the other in disengaged position. Fig. 3 is a view showing in perspective the strap or tie iron, the members of the latch-hook, the lever for the hook, the adjacent head-blocks, and the means for holding the strap or tie iron to the head-blocks, these several elements being shown disassembled. Fig. 4 is a detail view showing portions of the head-beams of the press with the head-blocks therebelow and the arrangement and manner of attaching the strap-iron or tie-iron.

Referring now to the drawings, there is shown a portion of a baling-press for cotton or other material and which includes the sills 5 and 6, disposed parallel and having vertical

tie-rods or posts 7 at their ends and which are attached also to the head-beams 8 and 9, which are disposed above and transversely of the sills, and transversely of and against the under sides of the head-beams are bolted the beams 10 and 11, which are parallel with the sills, but above them and spaced inwardly therefrom. The head-beams connect the upper ends of the posts or tie-rods 7, and said posts or tie-rods are connected at their lower ends by the links 12, having eyes at their ends, which receive the posts or rods, thus holding the sills against outward displacement.

Upon the links 12 are disposed the cylindrical ends of the pivot-beams 13 and 14 of the doors 15 and 16, said doors consisting each of two vertical boards 17, connected at their upper ends by the transverse beams 18, which project at their ends beyond the sides of the boards to rest against the ends of the transverse beams 19 at the upper ends of the sides 20 of the press, these beams, as shown, being on the outer faces of the doors and sides, the beams 19 lying against the outer side edges of the boards 17, which latter stand against the outer side edges of the sides 20. The sides 20 have pivot-beams 21 and 22 secured to their outer faces at the lower ends thereof, the cylindrical end portions lying upon the corresponding portions of the beams 13 and 14, so that the sides and door may be swung outwardly.

Against the under sides of the beams 10 and 11 are secured two pairs of transverse head-blocks 23 and 24, the blocks of each pair being separated by an interspace sufficient to receive the strap-iron 25, having a sufficient length to project from the ends of the head-blocks and above the beams 18, against the upper faces of which they are adapted to lie, while they terminate about midway of the sides thereof. To the ends of the strap-irons are pivoted the latch-hooks. Each strap-iron has a perforation therethrough near each end to receive the pivots of the hook-plates, of which there are two for each end of the iron and disposed one at each side thereof. Each hook-plate is in the form of a right angle or angle-iron, and when moved pivotally downwardly the plates forming each hook are



adapted to engage over the wear-plates 26, secured to the outer faces of the beams 18, the pivots of the hook-plates lying in the planes of the rear faces of the boards 17 of the doors.

The ends of the bills of the hooks have lugs 27, which when the plates are in engaging positions lie below the wear-plate and prevent upward displacement of the plates, and to move the hook-plates so as to draw the lugs from behind the wear-plates and then to swing the hook-plates upwardly to free the bills from the doors to permit them to swing open levers are provided. A lever 28 is provided for each pair of hook-plates forming one hook and is pivoted between the extreme ends of the bills of the plates, the lever being of such length as to reach slightly above the beam 18 adjacent thereto, so that when the lower end of the lever is swung outwardly the lever bears upon the beam as a fulcrum and the door is pressed inwardly and at the same time the hook is raised, as shown in Fig. 2. If desired, the levers at each side may be formed integral, or they may have no connecting-web 29. To hold the strap-irons in place, clips 30 are used and are passed upwardly through the head-blocks at the sides of the irons, so that their web portions lie across the irons, as illustrated in Fig. 4.

In practice modifications of the specific construction shown may be made and any suitable materials and proportions may be used for the various parts without departing from the spirit of the invention. Furthermore, it will be noted that each lever has a transverse pin 31, which limits the upward pivotal movement of the lever by striking against the adjacent hook-plates, and that while the doors when moved toward their closed positions will hold the lever with the hooks raised as soon as the doors are moved to closed positions the weight of the levers causes them to drop and permit the hooks to drop into engaging positions.

What is claimed is—

1. In a baling-press, the combination with

the movable doors, of latch-hooks disposed for pivotal movement into and out of engagement over the upper ends and against the outer faces of the doors, each of said hooks including spaced plates, and a lever pivoted between the plates of each hook and disposed to engage the door as a fulcrum to raise the hook from the door.

2. In a baling-press, the combination with a movable door of a latch-hook disposed for pivotal movement into and out of engagement with the outer face of the door, a wear-plate upon the outer face of the door and over which the hook is adapted to engage, and a lever pivoted to the hook and disposed to engage the door to move the door to carry the plate from the hook and to move the hook pivotally from over the door.

3. A baling-press having oppositely-disposed movable doors, head-blocks disposed in pairs transversely of and above the doors, strap-irons disposed between the blocks of each pair, hook-plates pivoted against opposite faces of each end of each strap-iron and adapted for engagement over the adjacent doors, and levers pivoted between the free ends of the hook-plates and disposed to lie against the doors as fulcrums to disengage the hook-plates from the doors.

4. The combination with a baling-press comprising movable doors, head-blocks disposed transversely of and above the doors in spaced pairs, strap-irons disposed between the blocks of each pair, clips passed transversely of the strap-irons and engaged with the head-blocks, and hooks pivoted to the irons for engagement over the outer faces of the doors and levers pivoted to the free ends of the hooks and extending therebeyond to engage the doors as fulcrums to disengage the hooks from the doors.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JOHN ALBURT WESTBROOK.

Witnesses:

J. T. STAPLETON,  
D. H. MEEK.