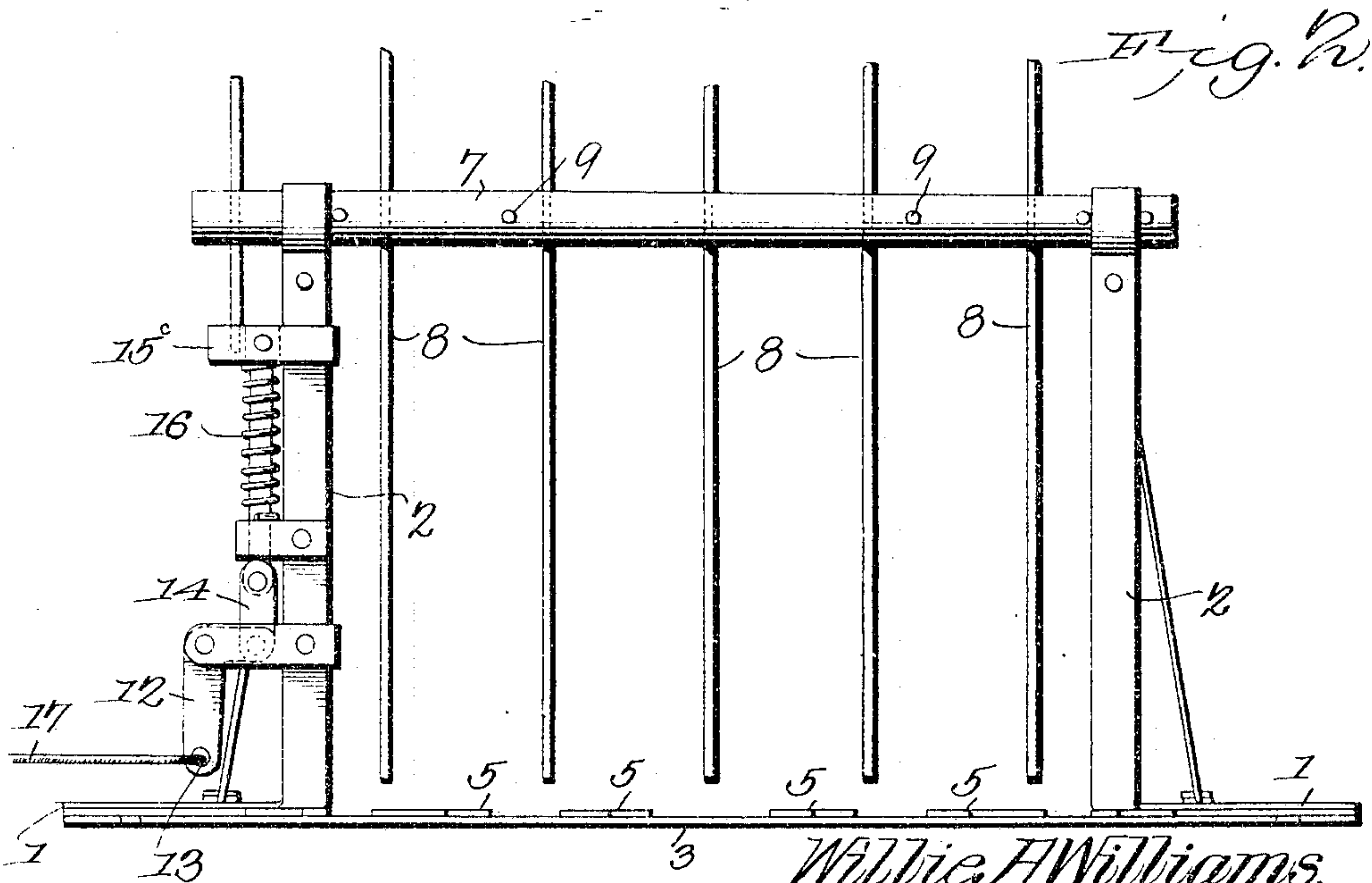
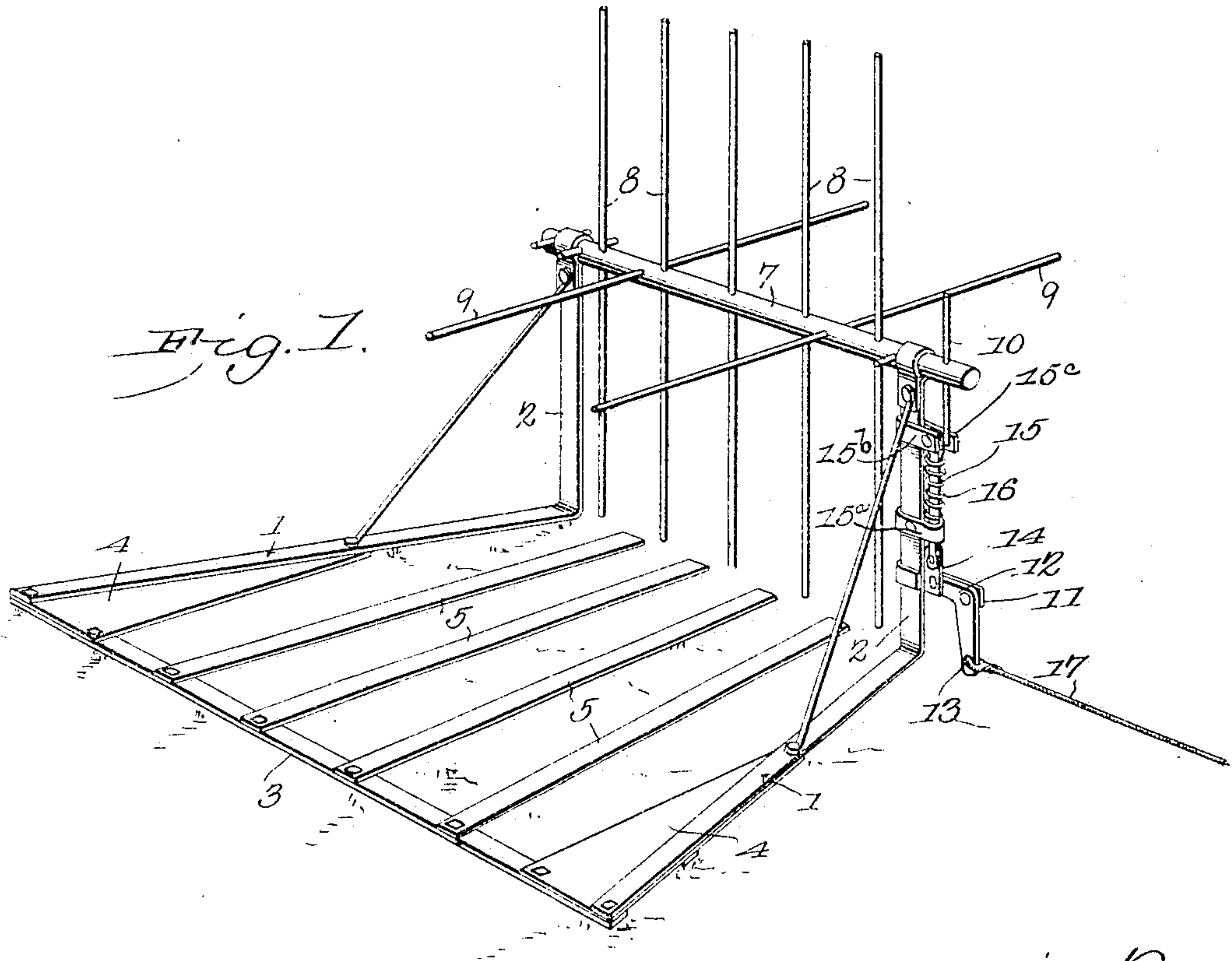


No. 782,301.

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W. A. WILLIAMS.
CLOVER BUNCHER.

APPLICATION FILED APR. 21, 1904.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIE A. WILLIAMS, OF WADESVILLE, INDIANA.

CLOVER-BUNCHER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 782,301, dated February 14, 1905.

Application filed April 21, 1904. Serial No. 204,264.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIE A. WILLIAMS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Wadesville, in the county of Posey and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Clover-Buncher, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to that class of devices which are known as "clover-bunchers" and which are in the nature of attachments for headers of harvesting-machines for the purpose of receiving and bunching the clover-heads stripped thereby until a sufficient quantity has been accumulated, when by a simple trip mechanism the bunch may be released and dropped in a pile upon the ground.

The invention has for its object to provide a device of this class which shall possess superior advantages in point of simplicity, durability, and general efficiency; and with these and other ends in view, which will readily appear as the nature of the invention becomes better understood, the same consists in the improved construction and novel combination and arrangement of parts which will be hereinafter fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings has been illustrated a simple and preferred form of embodiment of my improved clover-buncher, it being understood that no limitation is made to the precise structural details therein exhibited, but that the right is reserved to all changes, modifications, and alterations which come fairly within the scope of the invention and which may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the same.

In said drawings, Figure 1 is a front view in perspective of my improved clover-buncher. Fig. 2 is a rear elevation.

Corresponding parts in both figures are indicated by similar numerals of reference.

The frame of my improved clover-buncher includes a pair of side pieces 1 1, preferably consisting of straps of steel or other suitable metal and the rear ends of which are bent to assume a vertical position, constituting up-
rights or brackets 2 2. The side pieces 1 1

are made to diverge in a forward direction, 50 and their front ends are connected by a cross-piece 3. A pair of triangular plates 4 4 are connected with the side pieces 1 and with the adjacent ends of the cross-piece 3, said triangular plates serving to brace the structure and 55 to strengthen the same. A plurality of flexible bars or strips 5 5 are secured at their front ends to the front piece 3 and extend rearwardly, terminating about on a line with the side pieces 1 1 at the point where the latter 60 are bent upwardly to form the brackets 2 2.

The upper ends of the upwardly-extending brackets 2 2 are provided with bearings for a shaft 7, having a plurality of transverse teeth 8, which extend through said shaft on dia- 65 metrically opposite sides of the same and which are of a length about equal to that of the uprights 2 2. The shaft 7 is also provided at right angles to the teeth 8 with radially-extending fingers 9 for the purpose of assisting 70 the shaft in rotating when the bunch is to be discharged from the device, as will be presently understood. The shaft 7 is also provided at one of its projecting ends with a cross-piece 10, which is in alinement with the teeth 8. 75

Pivotally connected with a bracket 11, extending from one of the uprights 2, is a bell-crank lever 12, the long arm of which forms a handle having a perforation 13 and the short arm of which is connected by a link 14 with 80 a vertically-slidable spring-actuated pin or bolt 15. Said pin or bolt extends through a guiding-sleeve 15^a, which is securely connected with the upright 2 and is connected at its upper end with a yoke 15^b, which slidingly 85 engages the said upright 2. Said yoke is provided with a laterally-extending arm 15^c, adapted to extend into the path of the cross-piece 10 of the shaft 7. The latter, it will be seen, is thus prevented from rotating in its 90 bearings until the latch member 15 is withdrawn, which may be done by operating the bell-crank lever 10, the latter being conveniently accomplished by means of a string or wire 17, connected with the perforation 13 in 95 the long arm of said bell-crank member. The trip mechanism will in practice be operated by the operator of the machine with which

the improved clover-buncher is connected for operation; but said machine or any part thereof has not been shown in the drawings, as it does not form a part of the invention.

5 In practice the side members 1, front member 3, plates 4, and the strip 5 cooperate to constitute a platform adapted to receive the clover-heads which are bunched upon the said platform against the teeth 8 of the revoluble shaft
10 7, said teeth constituting a back wall to the said platform. When a sufficient load or bunch has been accumulated, the trip mechanism is operated by pulling the rope or wire 17, thus causing the spring-actuated pin or bolt to be
15 moved in a downward direction, carrying with it the yoke 15^b, the arm of which, 15^c, is thus removed from contact with the cross-piece 10, and the progression of the platform will cause the bunch of clover, which engages the ground
20 between the strips 5, to remain stationary while the platform moves from under said bunch, the fingers 9 of the shaft 7 serving to engage the bunch, thereby causing the shaft 7 to complete a half-rotation until the entire
25 bunch has been delivered and the shaft is arrested with the teeth 8 in an approximately vertical position by the cross-piece 10 engaging the trip-arm 15^c. It is obvious that the flexible nature of the material of which the
30 platform of this improved clover-buncher is constructed facilitates the operation of the same, the bunch being supported upon said platform in such a manner that it will partially engage the ground, and thus enable the
35 platform to move from under the bunch at the

very moment when the trip mechanism is operated.

The general construction of this device, it will be seen, is extremely simple and inexpensive, and it is obviously useful and service- 40
able for the purposes for which it is intended.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is—

In a device of the class described, a frame including a cross-piece, side pieces connected 45
with said cross-piece and having upturned rear ends forming standards, bearings at the upper ends of said standards, a shaft mounted for rotation in said bearings and serving to connect the sides of the frame, radially-ex- 50
tending fingers upon said shaft, and a trip-finger upon said shaft adjacent to the outer side of one of the standards, in combination with a bracket secured to said standard, a bell- 55
crank lever pivoted to said bracket, a guide-sleeve secured upon the standard, a spring-actuated pin slidable in said guide-sleeve, a link connecting said pin with one arm of the bell-crank lever, and a yoke mounted slidably 60
upon the standard and having an arm extending in the path of the trip-finger upon the shaft, said yoke being connected with the upper end of the spring-actuated pin.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in 65
the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIE A. WILLIAMS.

Witnesses:

KELLY DEFUR,

ALVIN CARTWRIGHT.