Oct. 4, 1949. C. S. HILL 2,483,582

TOBACCO SLED

Filed Oct. 24, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 1

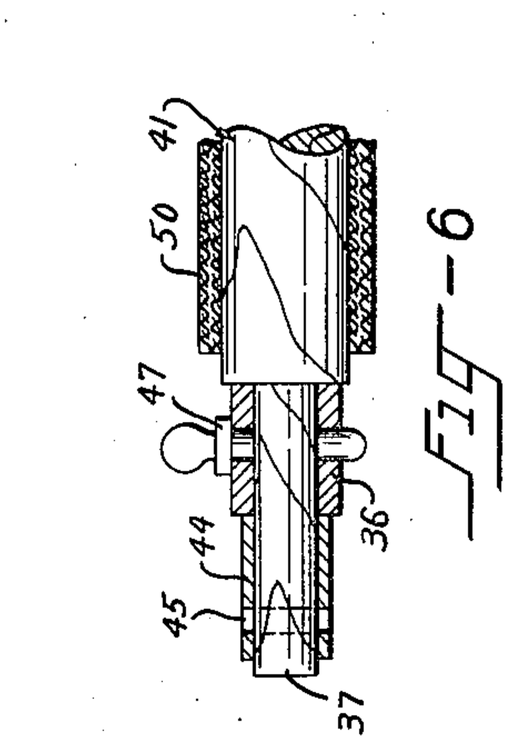


FIG-6

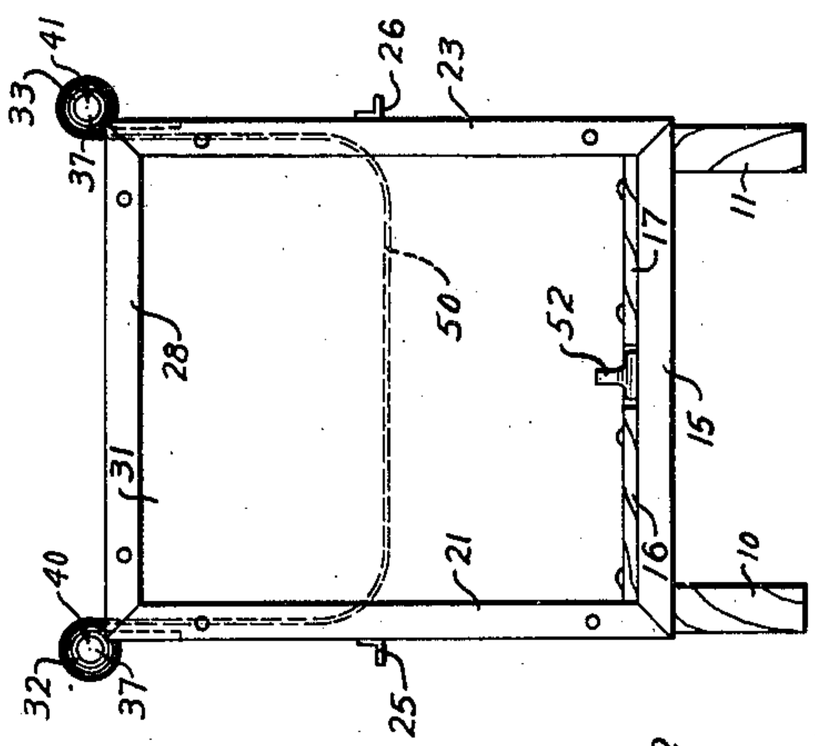


FIG-3

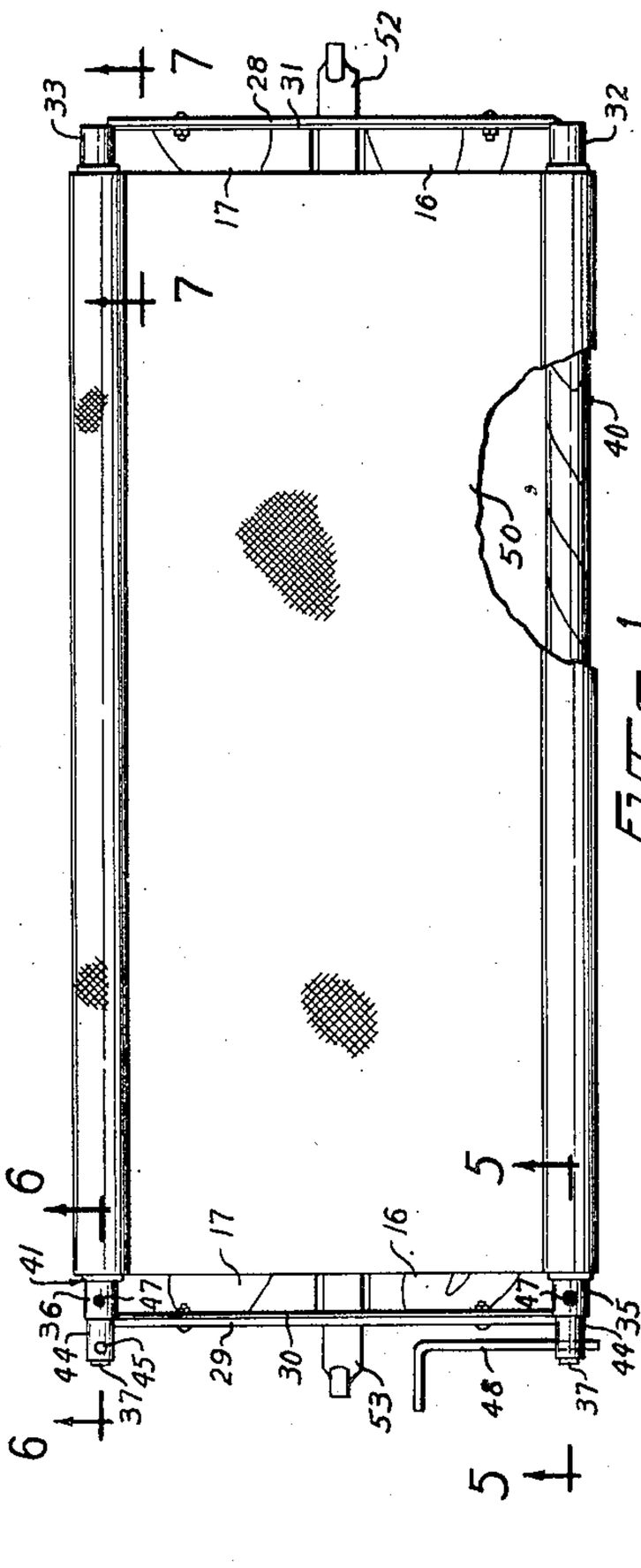


FIG-4

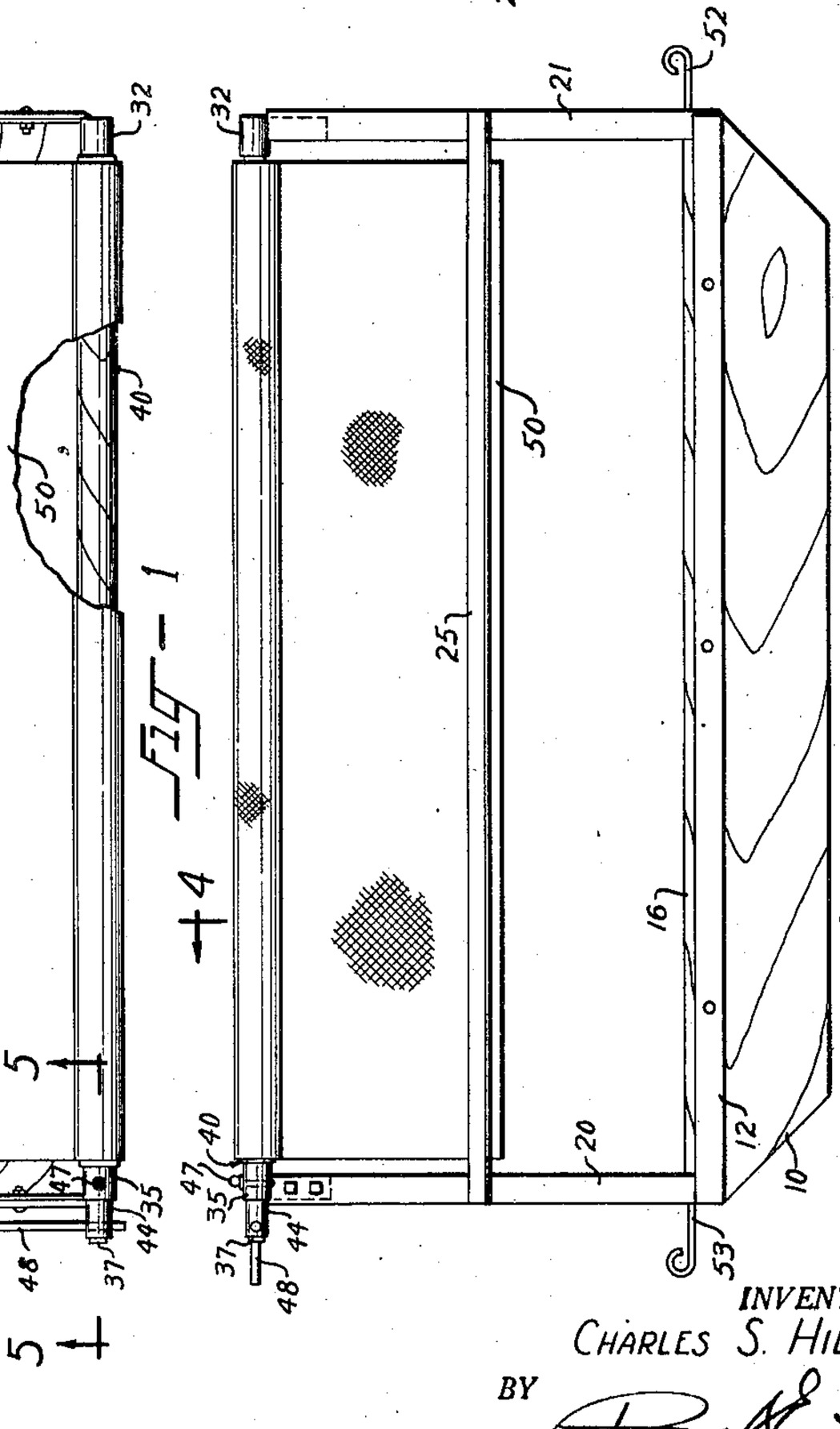


FIG-1

FIG-2

INVENTOR:
CHARLES S. HILL
BY
Pierce Eaton
ATTORNEY.

Oct. 4, 1949. C. S. HILL 2,483,582

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Filed Oct. 24, 1947 2 Sheets-Sheet 2

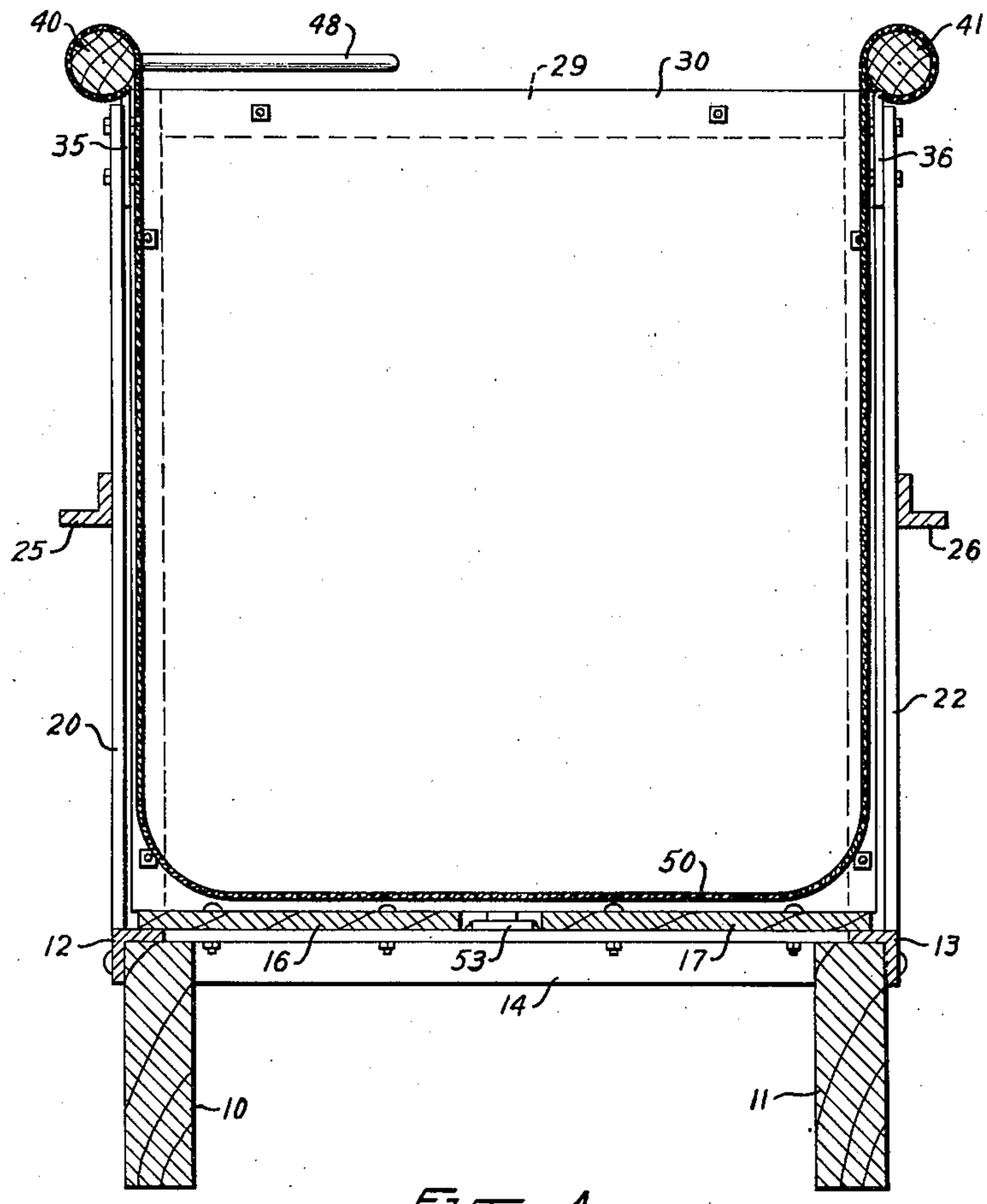


Fig-4

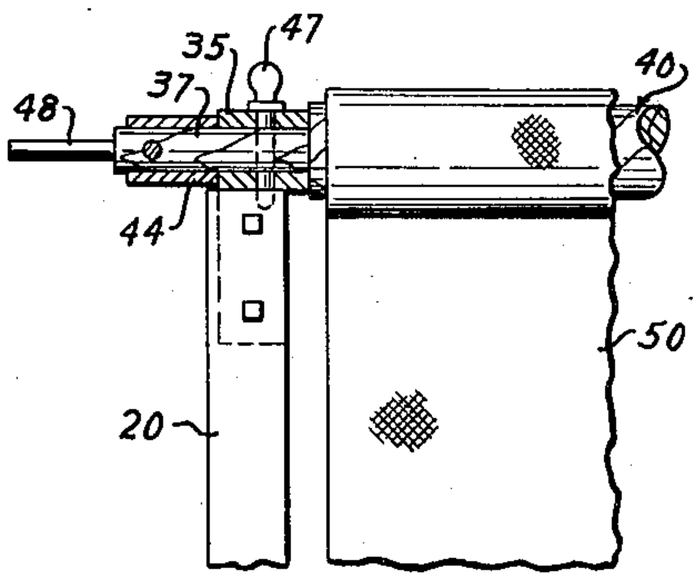


Fig-5

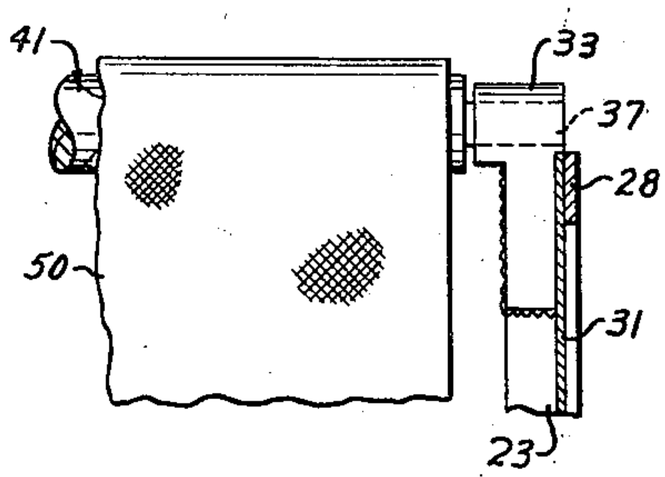


Fig-7

Inventor:
CHARLES S. HILL

By Paul & Eaton

Attorneys.

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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## TOBACCO SLED

Charles S. Hill, Hubert, N. C.

Application October 24, 1947, Serial No. 781,950

2 Claims. (Cl. 214—5.5)

1

This invention relates to a tobacco sled and more especially to a tobacco sled having means for raising the bottom portion of the container carried by the sled so that the tobacco leaves can be taken out of the container without the operators having to stoop over and reach far down into the bottom of the container.

In the harvesting of tobacco, a sled is drawn along between two rows of tobacco. Operators strip the leaves, beginning at the bottom up as far as they have ripened properly and lay them into a large container mounted on runners and which is usually drawn by a mule between the rows of tobacco. When the container has been filled, it is dragged to the place where the tobacco leaves are being fastened onto tobacco sticks by a stringing operation and from thence the tobacco sticks filled with the tobacco leaves are placed in a curing barn for a curing operation.

Heretofore an ordinary rectangular and elongated container such as a large box has been mounted on suitable runners and the leaves of tobacco are stripped from the tobacco stalks and laid carefully into the bottom of the box and so on until the box is filled at which time it is pulled to the point where the tobacco leaves are being strung onto the tobacco sticks and then the tobacco leaves are taken out in small bunches and hold against opposite sides of the stick, where an operator wraps a string several times around one bunch and then criss-crosses the string to the other side and wraps several turns of the string around another bunch of tobacco leaves and so on until the tobacco stick is filled, at which time the end of the string is secured to the tobacco stick and the sticks are then ready for depositing into the barn.

This operation entails much back-breaking labor in having to stoop clear over and sometimes projecting the head of the operator into the top of the container so that tobacco leaves can be carefully laid along the bottom of the container because these leaves must be kept in straightened parallel condition at all times. Also when the sled has reached the point of stringing, the tobacco leaves are removed from the top toward the bottom, and, of course, while removing the tobacco leaves from the top, no stooping is necessary, but as the contents are removed and as the operators have to lean far over to reach the tobacco leaves in the bottom of the container, much stooping is necessary and it is a very laborious proposition.

It is an object of this invention to provide a tobacco sled having a container mounted on suitable runners, and the container is in the form of a frame instead of a box, though it could be a box if desired, and on one edge of the frame at the top thereof is mounted a roller and on the opposite edge extending longitudinally of the row of tobacco is another roller which is parallel with the first roller, and on these rollers, the ends of a piece of canvas or other suitable strong flexible material are secured and the rollers are unrolled until the canvas entirely covers the side walls of the frame and rests on the bottom of the framework. This would be the position of the canvas when the framework is filled with tobacco leaves, but preferably, it is better to have the canvas first positioned in the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 3 and the tobacco leaves are then placed onto this canvas, and then when it is filled to the top of the frame, one or both of the rollers can be unrolled to lower the canvas to the position shown in Figure 4, at which time the rollers can be rotated one at a time to gradually raise the bottom of the canvas portion to thus raise the tobacco leaves and make them easily accessible from the top.

2

Some of the objects of the invention having been stated, other objects will appear as the description proceeds when taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which

Figure 1 is a top plan view of the sled with portions broken away;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of the sled looking from the lower side of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an end view of the sled looking from the left-hand end of Figures 1 and 2;

Figure 4 is a vertical sectional view taken along the line 4—4 in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a detail view showing a portion of the upper left-hand corner of Figure 2 with portions in section;

Figure 6 is a sectional detail view taken along the line 6—6 in Figure 1;

Figure 7 is a sectional detail view taken along the line 7—7 in Figure 1.

Referring more specifically to the drawings, the numerals 10 and 11 indicate suitable sled runners beveled at each end thereof and having angle bars 12 and 13 secured on their outer and top edges and cross angle bars 14 are secured between these side angle bars 12 and 13 at each end thereof, and on the end angle bars 14 and 15 are mounted suitable planks 16 and 17 forming a bottom. Rising upwardly from the angle bars 12 and 13 are corner angle bars 20, 21, 22 and 23 and suitable intermediate side angle bars 25 and 26 are secured to these corner angle bars and

span the distance between them for strengthening purposes. At the top of the corner angle bars and spanning the distance therebetween are top bars **28** and **29**. This completes the framework of the apparatus.

Secured to the inside surfaces of vertical angle bars **20** and **22** and top cross bar **29** is a sheet metal panel **30**. A similar panel **31** is secured to the inside surfaces of angle bars **21** and **23** and cross bar **28** at the other end of the sled, to prevent leaves of tobacco from escaping out of the container at the remote ends of the sled.

To the top of the right-hand angle bars **21** and **23** in Figures 1 and 2 are fixed suitable bearings **32** and **33** and to the top portions of the corner angle bars **20** and **22** at the left-hand in Figures 1 and 2, are removable mounted suitable bearings **35** and **36**. Mounted in the bearings **32**, **33**, **35** and **36** are the restricted ends **37** of the rollers **40** and **41** and the other ends of the rollers are likewise restricted and mounted for rotation in the bearings **32** and **33**.

Each of the portions **37** which penetrate the removable bearings **35** and **36** has a collar **44** thereon and a hole **45** is formed through the collar **44** and the portion **37**. Each of the bearings **35** and **36** has a suitable vertically disposed hole therethrough and the portions **37** have a suitable transverse bore therethrough so that pins **47** may be passed through the bearing portions **35** and **36** and through the portions **37** to hold the rollers **40** and **41** against rotation.

A suitable crank arm **48** may be passed through the holes **45** in the collars **44** and through the ends **37** of the rollers **40** and **41** whereby rotation may be imparted to the roller in which the crank **48** is mounted after the pin **47** has been removed from the portion **37** of that particular roller. By turning the crank **48**, this particular roller will be rotated, and the canvas will be rolled around or let off from the particular roller. This canvas is indicated by reference character **50** and has its two ends fastened by tacking or otherwise, not shown, to the rollers **40** and **41**. Thus, with one of the pins **47** in position as shown in Figure 6 and with the crank in position on the other roller, rotation of the roller in one direction with the pin **47** removed for that roller in which the crank is disposed will unwind or wind up the canvas **50** and cause it to be lowered toward the position shown in Figure 4 or elevated to the position shown in Figure 3 or even elevated all the way to the top of the framework, if desired.

The bottom angle bars have secured thereto suitable hitch members **52** and **53** so that the sled can be pulled in either direction along between the rows of tobacco.

In the drawings and specification there has been set forth a preferred embodiment of the invention, and although specific terms are employed, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only, and not for purposes of limitation, the scope of the invention being defined in the claims.

I claim:



1. An improvement in a tobacco sled comprising a framework having a pair of sled runners on the lower surface thereof and having a pair of rollers disposed longitudinally along the opposite side edges thereof and a flexible sheet member having its ends attached to the rollers and projecting down into the framework, said framework having bearings at each end of the rollers for rotatably supporting the rollers, said framework having a bottom portion therein against which the canvas may be lowered, said improvement comprising each of the rollers having a transverse hole therethrough through which a crank may be inserted for imparting rotation to the rollers, the bearings at one end of the framework having vertically disposed holes and each of the rollers having a transverse bore therethrough coinciding with the holes in the bearings so that a pin may be inserted through the holes in the bearings and the hole in the roller for holding it against rotation.

2. An improvement in a sled comprising a rectangular framework open at its top and having a bottom and having a pair of spaced runners mounted on the bottom thereof, a hitch disposed at each end of the framework for drawing the same between tobacco rows, said framework having bearing members at all four upper corners thereof, a roller disposed along each side edge of the framework and rotatably mounted in said bearings, a flexible canvas member having its ends secured to said rollers and being adapted to fall downwardly inside the framework and to rest on the bottom of the framework, said improvement comprising each of said bearings in one end of the framework having a vertically disposed hole therethrough and a hole in the rollers where they pass through the bearings and into which a pin may be inserted after passing through the hole in the bearing for holding the rollers against rotation, each of the rollers at one end thereof projecting beyond the bearings, and having a collar thereon and a transverse hole passing through the collar and the roller whereby a crank may be inserted in either one of the rollers at a time for imparting rotation thereto to raise or lower the lower portion of the canvas to thereby regulate the height of the bottom portion of the canvas onto which tobacco leaves are adapted to be deposited, when the pin for a particular roller has been removed therefrom to permit rotation of the roller by the crank.

CHARLES S. HILL.


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