2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

T. SPARKS.

CORN PLANTER.

No. 185,591. Patented Dec. 19, 1876.

Fig. 1.

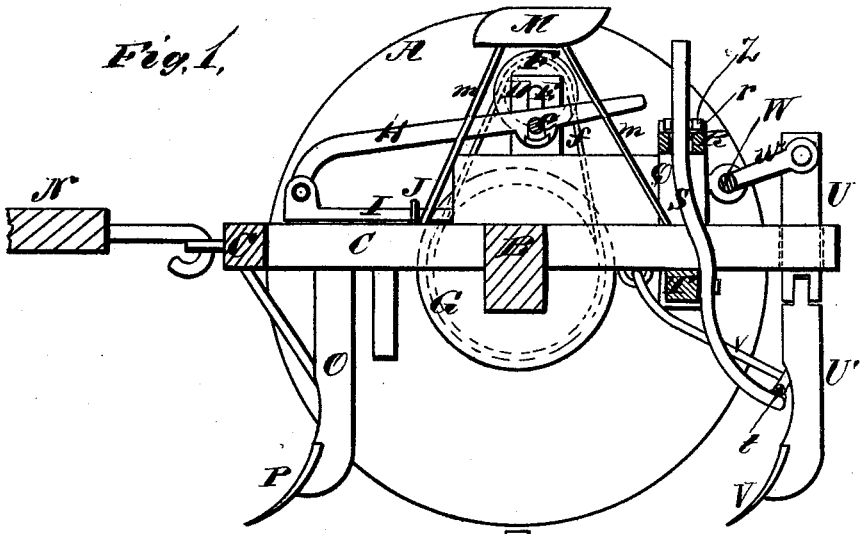
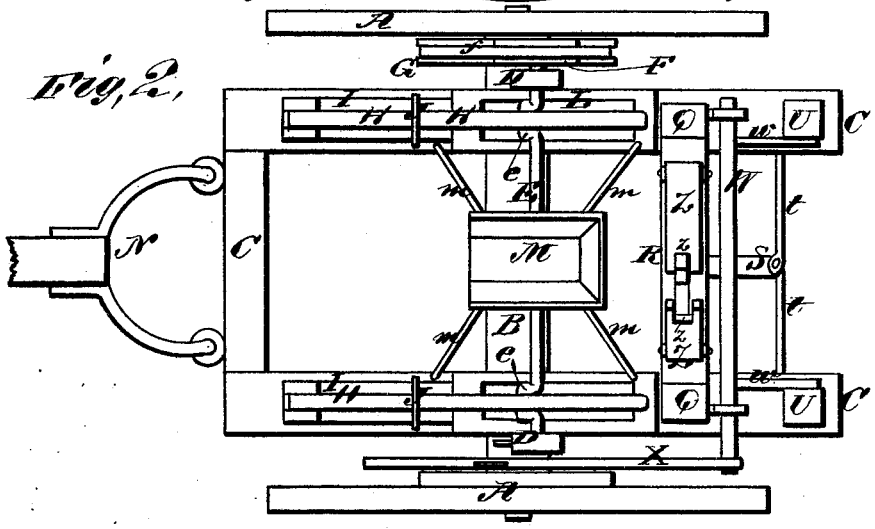


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

E. H. Bates.

J. G. Ackers

INVENTOR

Thomas Sparks

Gilmore & Smith & Co.

ATTORNEYS.

2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

T. SPARKS.

CORN PLANTER.

No. 185,591. Patented Dec. 19, 1876.

Fig. 3.

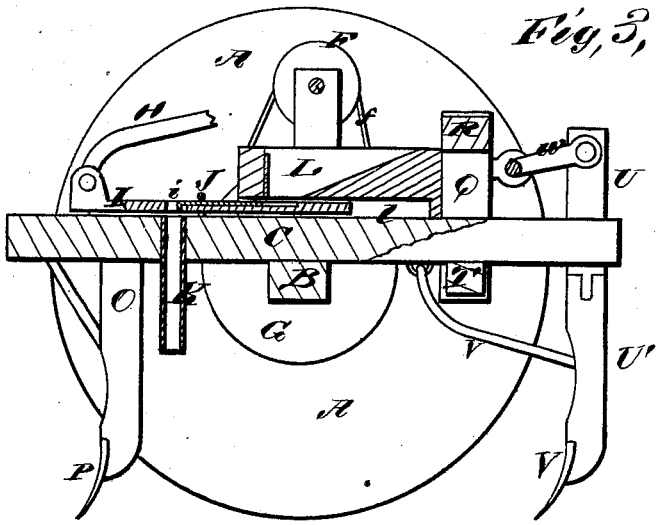
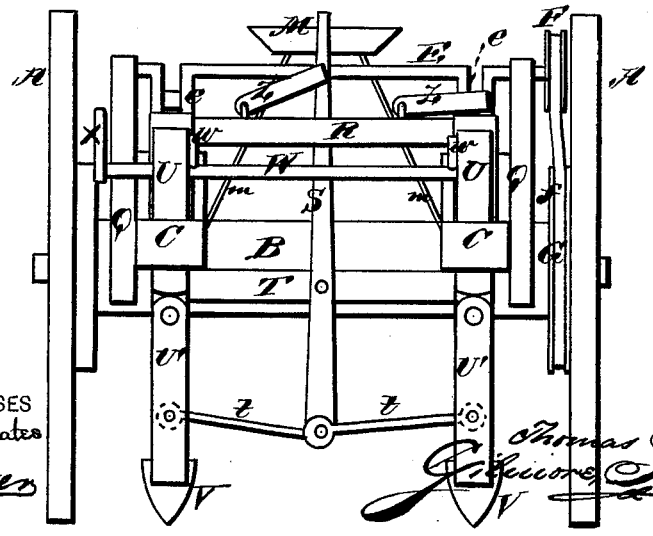


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

E. H. Bates

J. H. Ackers

INVENTOR.

Thomas Sparks.

Pierce & Smith & Co.

ATTORNEYS

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS SPARKS, OF CLAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORN-PLANTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **185,591**, dated December 19, 1876; application filed October 7, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS SPARKS, of Claysville, in the county of Harrison and State of Kentucky, have invented a new and valuable Improvement in Corn-Planters; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description of the construction and operation of the same, reference being had to the annexed drawings, making a part of this specification, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a representation of a central vertical section of my corn-planter, and Fig. 2 is a plan view of the same. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical sectional view thereof. Fig. 4 is an end view of my corn-planter.

This invention relates to corn-planters; and it consists in the construction and arrangement hereinafter particularly described.

In the annexed drawings, A A designate the transporting-wheels of my corn-planter, which wheels are connected by an axle, B, which supports, by the middle, the vehicle-frame C. D D are standards rising vertically from said axle, and supporting a rotating shaft, E, which is journaled therein, and provided with two double cranks, *e e*. One end of said shaft carries a grooved pulley, F, which is connected, by an endless belt, cord, or chain, *f*, to a larger pulley, G, secured to and turning with one of the wheels A. As said shaft rotates, each one of said double cranks *e e* gives horizontal motion to one of two pitmen, H H, which operate feeding-slides I I. Said slides reciprocate longitudinally on top of the side beams of frame C. They are pivotally connected to the bent rear ends of said pitmen or connecting-rods H H, and are guided in their vibrations by bent rods or staples J J. Said slides are provided with grain-feeding pockets *i i*, each of which is adapted to receive a charge of grain and deposit the same in one of two dropping-tubes, K K, which pass down through frame C. Said slides reciprocate in recesses *l l* at the bottom and front of ordinary seed-boxes L.

The operation of the above-described parts is as usual when reciprocating feeding-slides are employed.

M designates a seat for the driver, which is supported on rods *m m* above the middle of axle B. N is an ordinary draft-tongue, secured to frame C in the usual manner. O O are standards attached by their upper ends to the under side of frame C, in front of dropping-tubes K K, and provided at their lower ends with plow-points P P, which operate to make furrows for the reception of the corn or other seed. To frame C, on the upper side thereof, and behind said seed-boxes L L, are secured uprights Q Q, which support an upper lengthwise-slotted cross-bar, R. The slot *r* in said cross-bar is vertical, and allows the motion, from side to side, of a vertical adjusting-lever, S, which is pivoted to a lower cross-bar, T, and vibrates at right angles to the line of draft. The lower end of said adjusting-lever is connected, by rods or links *t t*, to the pivoted lower portions U′ U′ of standards U U, which carry at their extreme lower ends plow-points V V, designed for covering the corn after it is planted. Said lower parts or sections U′ are pivoted to the upper parts of said standards, so as to have lateral vibration. Thus, when the upper end of said adjusting-lever is turned to either side, the said covering plow-points are both adjusted in the opposite direction. Said standards are provided with brace-rods *v v*, which are each secured by one end to frame C, and by the other end to the pivoted lower portions U′ of one of said standards, allowing vertical motion, but preventing said lower portions from being strained backward, so as to sever its connection. The upper ends of said standards U are extended through, and considerably above, frame C. The said upper ends of said standards are also connected by arms *w w* on rock-shaft W, which is journaled to the back of uprights Q Q. From one end of said rock-shaft a lever or long arm, X, extends forward beyond the driver's seat. When said lever is depressed said plow-points V V are raised out of engagement with the ground. When said lever is raised plow-points V V are made to engage again therewith. To the top of cross-bar R, previously described, are pivoted two blocks, Z Z, one at each end of slot *r*. Said blocks fold inward toward one another, but are too long for both of them to occupy a horizontal position at the same time. Said

blocks are provided at their contiguous ends with recesses *z z*, which correspond to the shape of the upper end of adjusting-lever S. Said blocks are used for locking said lever in either of its lateral adjustments, but only one of them is used for each of these lockings. Various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit of my invention.

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

1. The combination of slotted cross-bar R with lever S, rods or links *t t*, and standards U U, provided with laterally-adjustable pivoted sections or lower ends U′ U′, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

2. The combination of slotted cross-bar R with lever S, rod or link *t t*, standards U U, having pivoted ends U′ U′, and locking-blocks Z Z, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. The combination of lever X with rock-shaft W, arms *w w*, and vertically-sliding standards U U, extended through and above frame C, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony that I claim the above I have hereunto subscribed my name in the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS SPARKS.

Witnesses:

OSCAR ASHCRAFT,

E. M. TAYLOR.