J. T. BURR.

COTTON-PRESS.

No. 186,538. Patented Jan. 23, 1877

Fig. 2.

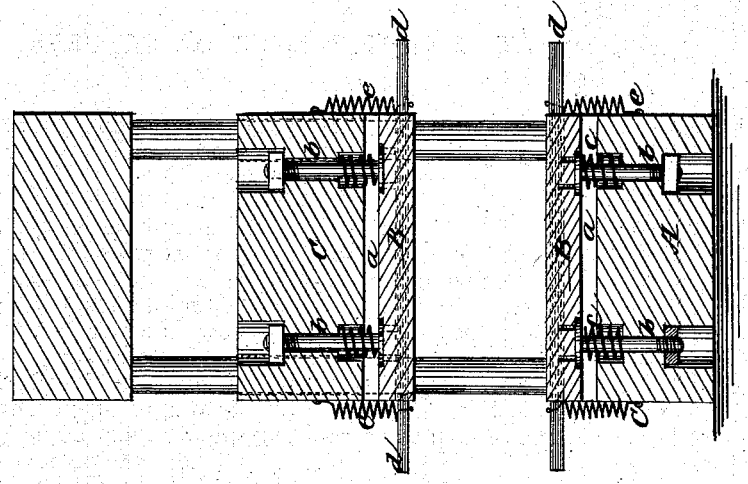
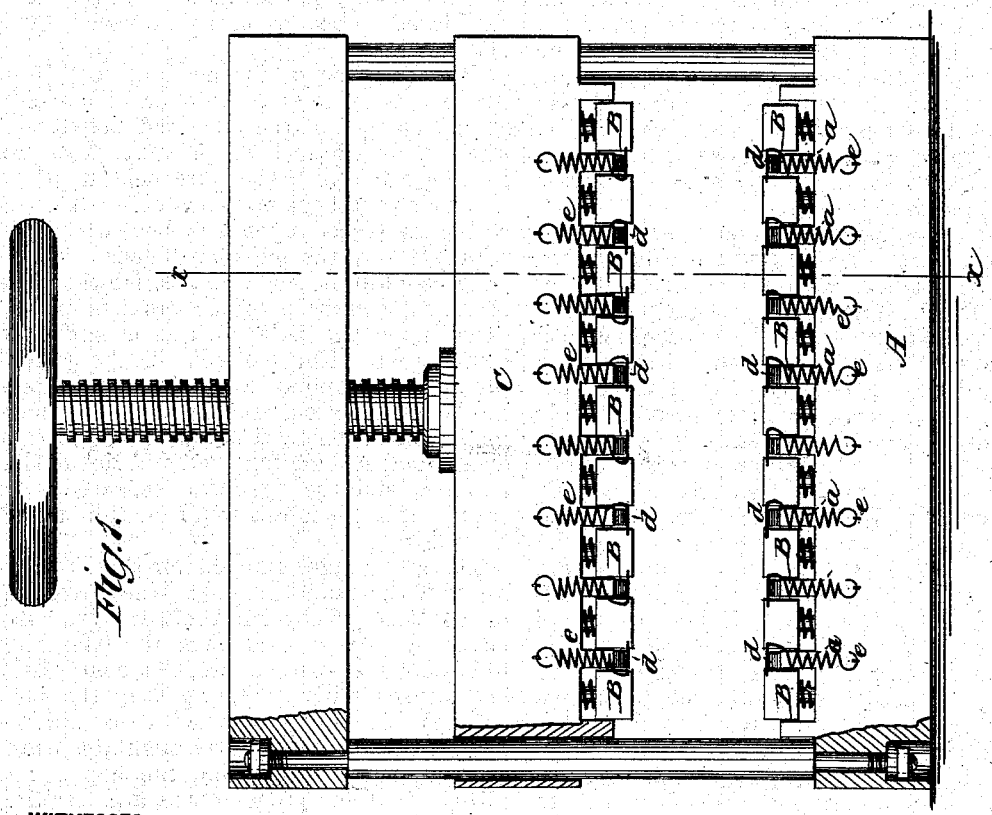


Fig. 1.



WITNESSES:

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN T. BURR, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON-PRESSES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **186,538**, dated January 23, 1877; application filed September 22, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN T. BURR, of Memphis, in the county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Cotton-Presses, of which the following is a specification:

Figure 1 is a side elevation. Fig. 2 is a vertical section on line *x x* in Fig. 1.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts.

My invention relates to an improvement in cotton-presses that have movable and fixed sections in the platen and in the bed, the movable portions being thrown out by weights or springs, and limited in their outward motion, so that their faces are arranged in the same plane. The fixed portions of the platen and bed have the same width as the bands used in binding the bale.

The object of my invention is to facilitate the operation of pressing and baling cotton, by providing a device by which a number of bands may be placed on the fixed portions of the platen or bed, in the spaces between the movable parts, and retained by a device which admits of using one band from each in binding the bale when compressed, while the remaining bands are retained.

Referring to the drawing, A is the bed of the press, having the fixed ribs *a* running transversely across its upper face. B B, &c., are blocks placed in the spaces between the ribs *a*, and having a thickness equal to the height of the ribs, and a length equivalent to the width of the bed. These blocks are provided with two or more guide-rods, *b*, that pass downward through holes in the bed, that are counterbored below to receive nuts placed on the rods *b*, which limits the upward motion of the block.

The holes through which the rods pass are counterbored in the upper side of the bed to receive springs *c*, that surround the rods *b*, and bear the block upward with such force that the combined strength of all of the springs in the bed is more than sufficient to sustain the weight of the superimposed bale. A number of bands, *d*, are laid upon the ribs *a*, and are held in place by spring hooks *e*.

It will be seen that as the uncompressed bale lies upon the blocks B it may be moved about without disturbing the bands which lie between them.

The platen or movable portion C of the press is constructed and arranged in all respects like the bed-piece, having similar ribs, blocks, guide-rods, and springs.

I have described my invention as having springs for throwing out the movable parts of the platen and bed; but counter-weights and levers, or any other convenient device, may be used for the purpose.

I do not confine myself to any particular way of holding the bands against the ribs of the platen or bed, as there are various ways of doing it.

The operation of the machine may be described as follows: A number of bands are placed on each of the ribs, and between the movable blocks, which prevent them from moving laterally. They are held up to the ribs by spring-hooks at each end. A bale of cotton is placed upon the bed, where it is supported by the movable blocks. After it is adjusted in the required position the platen or movable portion of the press is brought down upon the bale until it is sufficiently compressed. The movable blocks yield as pressure is applied until they rest against the bed and platen, leaving the bands in contact with the bale. The bands are now fastened, and the bale removed and replaced by another, and the operation repeated. The supply of bands is renewed from time to time, as required.

The advantages claimed for this invention are, that the bands are placed true and straight on the bale. They are applied in the most advantageous way, clasping the bale where it is subjected to the greatest compression, and, consequently, retaining it in the smallest possible compass, when it is liberated from the press. It greatly facilitates the operation of pressing cotton, the bands being always in their proper place, and requiring no adjustment.

Having thus described my invention, I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

The combination, in a cotton-press, of the ribs *a*, movable blocks B, guide-rods *b*, springs *c*, and spring-hooks *e*, arranged substantially as shown and described.

JOHN T. BURR.

Witnesses:
J. F. FRANK,
ROBERT GIBSON.