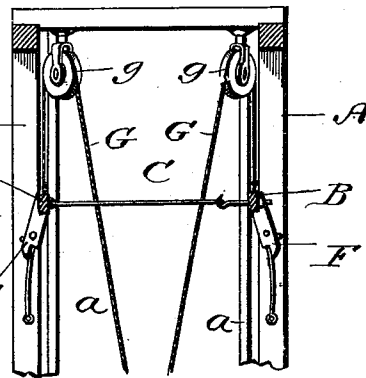
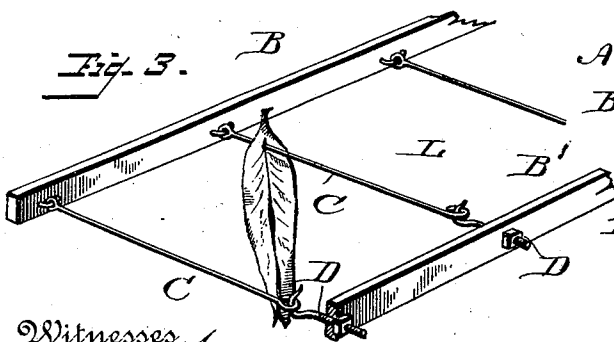
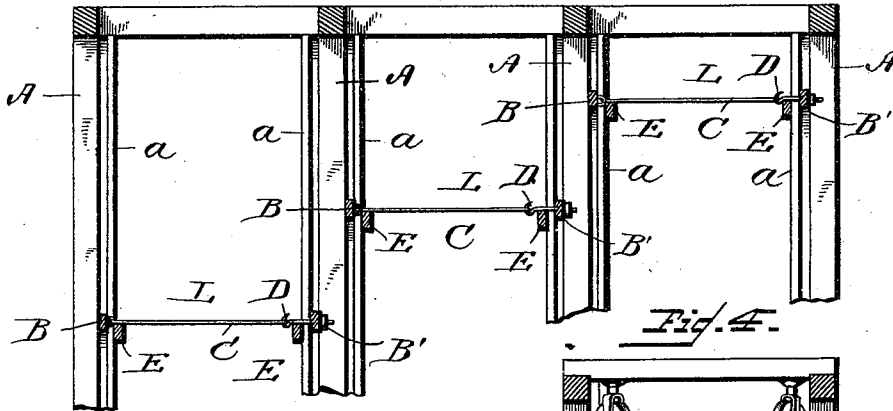
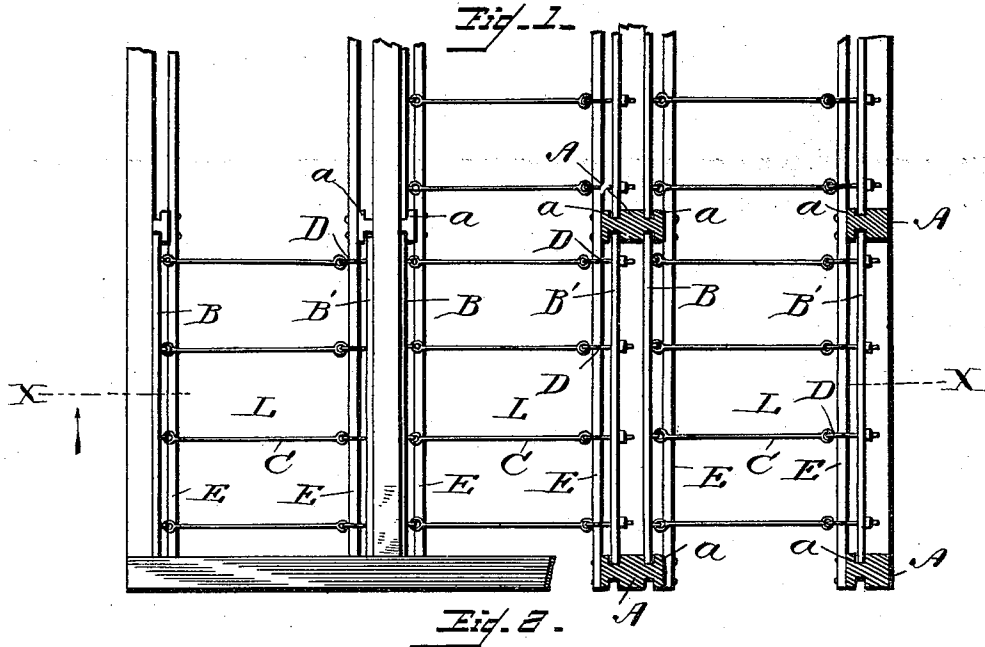


(No Model.)

J. R. BROWN.
TOBACCO CURING RACK.

No. 505,874.

Patented Oct. 3, 1893.



Witnesses
"New" Scheiden,
Van Buren Hillyard.

Inventor
James R. Brown.
By Attorneys *Redd A. Lacey*

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES REDDING BROWN, OF MEIGS, GEORGIA.

TOBACCO-CURING RACK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 505,874, dated October 3, 1893.

Application filed September 7, 1892. Serial No. 445,256. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES REDDING BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Meigs, in the county of Thomas, State of Georgia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tobacco-Curing Racks; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to an improved rack for curing tobacco; and has for its object to provide simple and efficient means for supporting a series of racks in a barn in such a manner that the racks may be disposed the one above the other to economize space and may be provided with separate and independent means for placing each supporting line or strand under proper tension, whereby said line or strand will be prevented from sagging.

The improvement consists of the novel features and the peculiar construction and combination of the parts which will be herein-after more fully described and claimed and which are shown in the annexed drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a portion of a structure or frame showing the application of my invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical section about on the line X—X of Fig. 1, the lower portion of the structure or frame being broken away. Fig. 3 is a detail view of the drying rack, parts being broken away. Fig. 4 shows a modified form of the instrumentalities for supporting and elevating the drying rack.

The structure or frame for supporting a series of drying racks may be the interior of a barn, or drying room, or similar provision suitable for the storing of tobacco during the process of curing. The essential feature of the structure or frame is a series of vertical posts A which are provided in their opposingsides with suitably constructed guideways *a* which are designed to receive and guide the rack frames in their vertical movements. In the preferred form of construction these guideways *a* consist of grooves in the sides on the post A and may be formed in the posts or by strips which are affixed thereto which are suitably disposed to effect the desired result. These posts A are disposed in parallel

relation so as not to change the relative distance between the bars composing the rack frame and also to admit of the ends of said bars working in said guideways without binding therein or slipping therefrom.

The rack frames are composed of bars B B', lines or strands C for supporting the tobacco and which are adapted to be attached at their ends to the bars B B', and provision for obtaining a tension on each individual line or strand C consisting of a fastening D having a threaded shank by means of which it is adjustably connected with one of the side bars of the rack. The bars B B' are held a fixed relative distance apart and guided in their vertical movements by having their ends inserted in the guideways *a* of the vertical posts A. The lines or strands C are preferably permanently secured at one end to one of the bars of the rack frames and have an eye at the opposite end to engage with the adjustable fastening or hook D provided on the opposite bar. Any suitable means are provided for supporting the rack frame, the most common form of support being strips E which extend in a horizontal direction and are attached to the posts A substantially as shown. These strips are located at the proper elevation to support the rack frames at the required height. The bars B B' lying exterior to the strips are supported by the lines or strands C which extend across and rest on said strips.

In some cases it is preferred to have the space between the posts unobstructed so that the rack frame after being loaded with the tobacco to be cured may be raised to the proper height from the ground by means of suitable pulleys and cord. In this form of construction spring catches F are provided and located on the posts A and are so disposed that a portion of said catches normally projects across the path of the bars composing the rack frame to engage with said bars and support the rack frame at the proper elevation. The pulleys *g* are located at the top of the structure or frame and the elevating cords *G* are secured at one end to the bars of the rack frame and cast over said pulleys *g* and have their free ends extending within convenient reach so as to be grasped when it is desired to raise and lower the rack frame. When

elevating the rack frame the spring catches F will be pressed aside while the rack frame is passing by them and will spring within the path of the rack frame after the same has passed by said catches to support said rack frame.

The tobacco to be cured is suspended from the lines or strands C of the rack frame, being first split up the center within a short distance of the butt of the stem and set straddling said lines or strands. After a rack is filled with the tobacco it is elevated to the proper position either by hand or the cords and pulleys, or in any desired manner.

The lines or strands C may be formed of suitable material, such as cord or wires, the latter being preferable because not readily extensible. In providing the eyes at the ends of the lines C and securing one end thereof to a side bar of the rack frame by staples, the distance of the free ends of said lines from the said side bar will vary and to compensate for this variation and have the lines extend straight between the frame bars adjustable fastenings D have been provided for the said free ends of the lines C for the purpose of securing them to the other side bar of the frame. Inasmuch as the tobacco loosely straddles the lines it is desirable to have the said lines free from sagging, which, if a sag should exist, would in the handling of the dry-

ing frames, cause the tobacco to settle at the lowest point or sag in the line.

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

1. A tobacco curing rack composed of a series of vertical posts having grooves in their opposing sides close to the edges of the said posts to form guideways, strips extending the length of the rack and secured to the posts, and a series of drying racks composed of side bars having their ends inserted in the said grooves or guideways, and strands secured at their ends to the said side bars and extending over the said strips to support the drying frames, substantially as described.

2. The combination with a structure having vertical guideways of a rack frame composed of side bars having their ends inserted in said guideways, strands or lines stretched between said side bars and tension devices for maintaining a proper tension on said strands or lines, substantially as described for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

JAMES REDDING BROWN.

Witnesses:

ROBT. G. MITCHELL,
ARTHUR PATTEN.