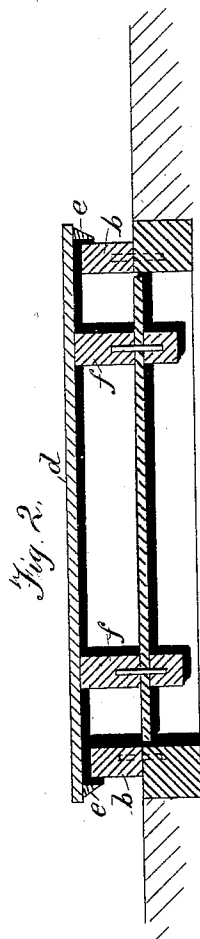
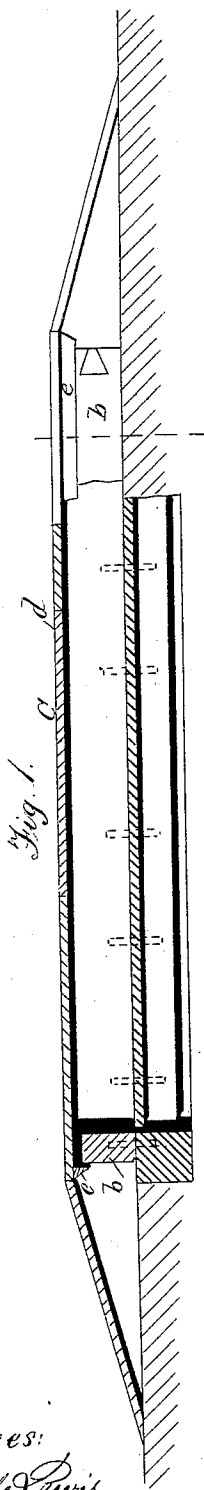


D. A. GILBERT.

PLATFORM-SCALE PROTECTOR.

No. 177,235.

Patented May 9, 1876.



Witnesses:
Gronville Lewis
McKenny.

Inventor
D. A. Gilbert
By: Hill, Ellsworth & Spear
His Attys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

DAVID A. GILBERT, OF MORRISVILLE, VERMONT.

IMPROVEMENT IN PLATFORM-SCALE PROTECTORS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **177,235**, dated May 9, 1876; application filed April 28, 1876.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID A. GILBERT, of Morrisville, in the county of Lamoille and State of Vermont, have invented a new and Improved Raised Platform-Scale Protector; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a longitudinal vertical section of the platform and covering, and Fig. 2 a transverse section of the same.

Similar letters of reference in the accompanying drawings denote the same parts.

My invention relates to platform-scales for weighing hay or other bulky substances; and consists of a covering or protector for the platform of such scales.

It is well known that in ordinary platform-scales for weighing heavy substances the platform on which the loads are driven or placed is flush with the surface of the ground, or with the surrounding frame-work, so as to constitute one level surface, for facilitating the placing or removal of the articles to be weighed; but in order that the platform may have free and unobstructed movement within its frame some space must be left between the platform and surrounding timbers. This, as the surfaces are all flush, is liable to be clogged with any small fragments that may fall in, and, in the colder climates, is certain in winter to be filled, at times, with ice or snow. Such accidents render them useless until the obstruction is removed, and this often involves a considerable amount of labor and time.

So far as I am aware there has been no convenient covering for such exposed scales, except the rude and not very efficient one of laying boards directly over the platform. This does not keep out either snow or rain, and must be removed for use of the instrument.

In carrying out my invention I place on the frame around the platform a closely-fitting curb, as shown at *b*. This may be made of any suitable height—ordinarily five inches will be sufficient for the purpose.

I have shown this curb as composed of sides and ends joined by dovetailing for conven-

ience in handling; but the parts may be put together in any suitable way. Over this curb fits a cover, *C*. It is shown in section in both the figures, and is composed of a top, *d*, and flange *e*. This flange fits as closely over the outer edge of the curb as is consistent with free vertical movement of the cover. The flange must be of such depth that, in the utmost vertical movement of the platform on which it rests, the top of the cover shall not, on the one hand, rest on the curb, nor, on the other, shall the cover ever be lifted so high as to allow the flange to rise above the curb. The cover is represented as resting on the platform through deep beams *f f*, which are steadied on the said platform by means of pins entering therein. The cover itself is fixed to the beams.

Instead of these beams it is obvious that posts of the proper number and length may be used, the sections of the cover resting on them as on legs, and these legs, being formed with the lower ends of the suitable shape, rest firmly in corresponding holes in the platform.

The cover, as intimated above, may be made in sections, two or three, or more, as may be found convenient, according to circumstances.

The lower platform, also, may, if it be preferred, be omitted, and the beams or posts which support the cover may stand directly on the beams below. This may be done to advantage where it is never desirable to remove the curb and use the platform in the old way. The flange may also be placed on the inside, but will operate better on the outside, as I have shown it.

In the operation of my improved platform-scales the cover, it will readily be seen, operates as the platform when it is in place. The load is driven upon it in the usual way, a removable incline, as shown in the drawing, being used, as the platform must be necessarily raised above the surrounding surface. The cover, as before described, is allowed sufficient vertical movement to accommodate the motion of the scales, which, in other respects, may be of any ordinary construction. The curb, being closely fitted around the edges, keeps out the water, or any substance which would tend to fall directly into the crevice

around the ordinary platform, while the flange upon the cover effectually prevents any dust or snow from driving in over the curb.

With my improvement exposed platform-scales can be used in the winter in northern climates without danger of clogging, and as the parts are all removable the scales may, when desired, be used in the ordinary way.

The curb may be held to the frame by pins, or in any suitable way.

Instead of the removable curb the framework which surrounds the platform may be raised above the surrounding surfaces, and the cover or upper platform shut down over that in the same way as I have shown it shutting down over the curb. The frame, in that case, would constitute the curb.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. In a platform-scale, an elevated curb surrounding the platform or opening for the ordinary platform, in combination with a cover resting on the platform or lower beams, as set forth.

2. In a platform-scale, a removable curb surrounding the ordinary platform, and a cover fixed to beams or legs that rest on said platform, all combined and operating as set forth.

3. The cover (in sections or whole) made with a flange fitting over the curb, and adapted to rest on the lower platform or beams, and to receive and bear the load to be weighed, as set forth.

DAVID A. GILBERT.

Witnesses:

GRENVILLE LEWIS,
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