No. 893,748. PATENTED JULY 21, 1908.

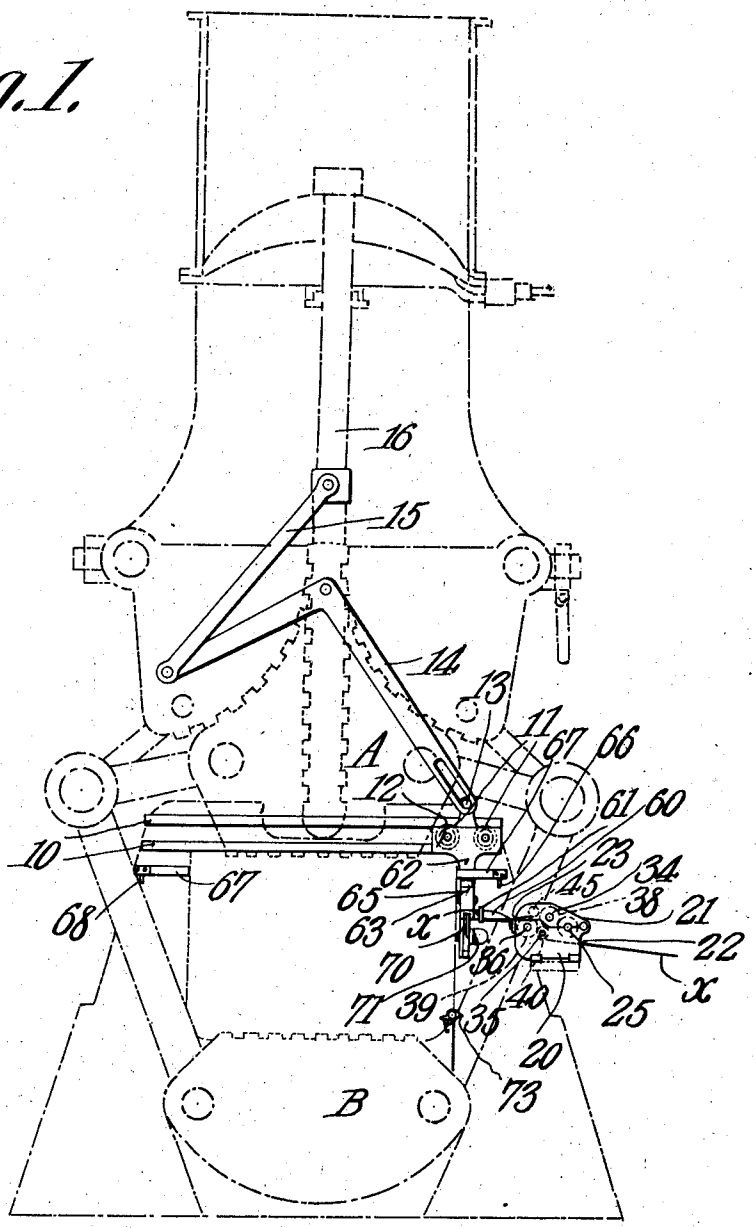
W. L. McCARTY.

METHOD OF APPLYING IDENTIFYING STRIPS TO BALES.

APPLICATION FILED OCT. 17, 1907.

3 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.



Witnesses

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3 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 2.

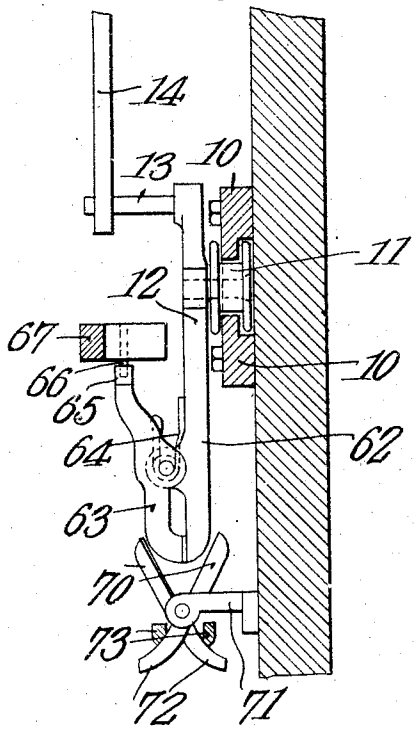


Fig. 3.

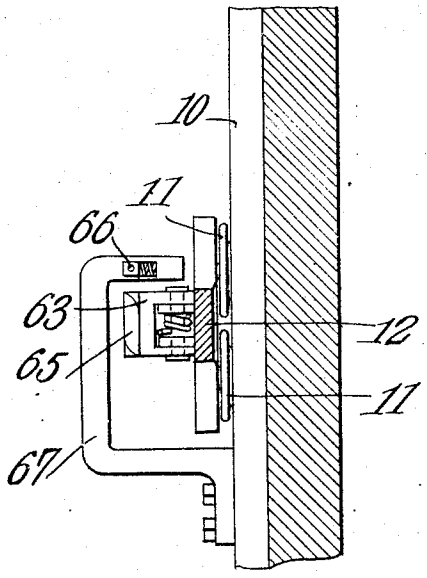


Fig. 6.

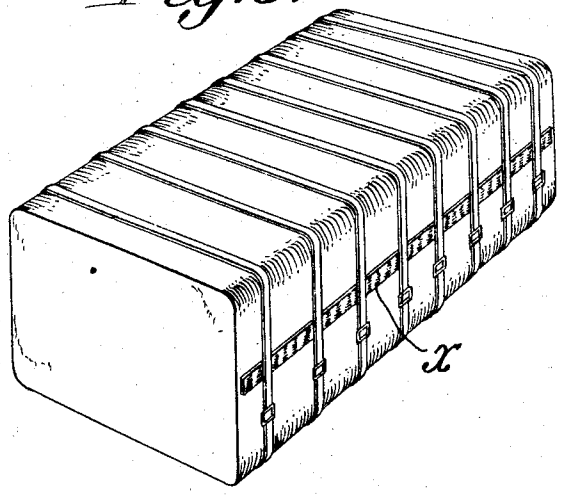
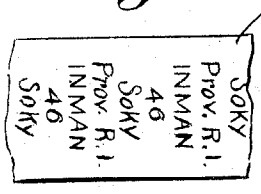


Fig. 7.



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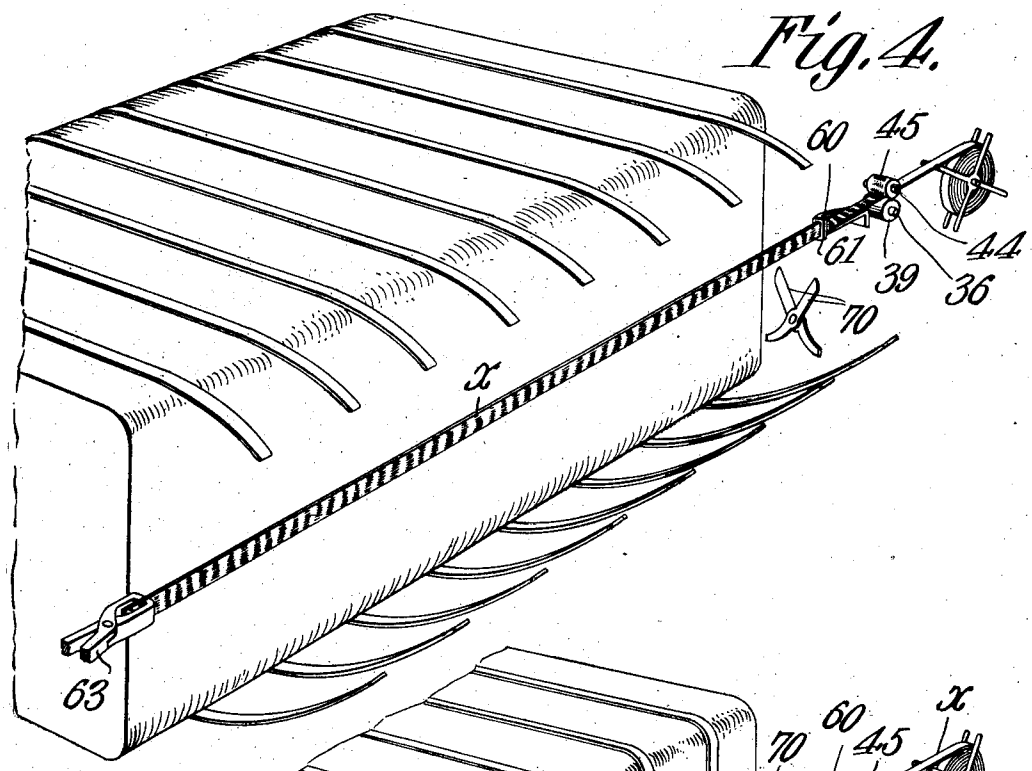
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3 SHEETS—SHEET 3.

Fig. 4.



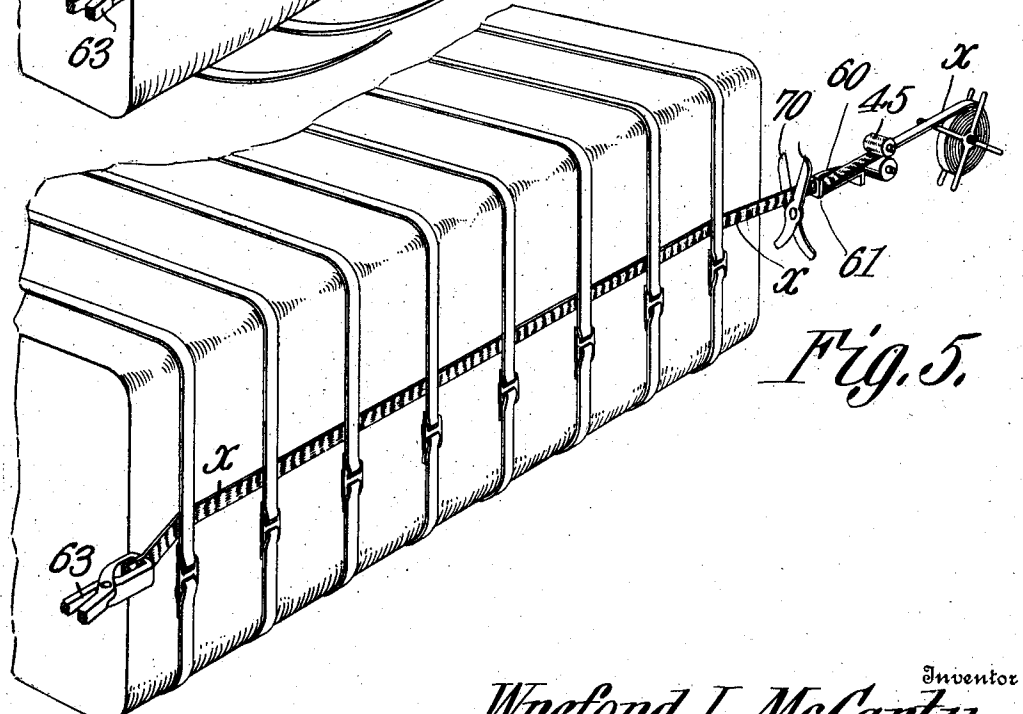


Fig. 5.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WREFORD L. McCARTY, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

METHOD OF APPLYING IDENTIFYING-STRIPS TO BALES.

No. 893,748. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented July 21, 1908.

Application filed October 17, 1907. Serial No. 397,926.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WREFORD L. McCARTY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Memphis, in the county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Method of Applying Identifying-Strips to Bales, of which the following is a specification.

In handling bales of cotton considerable difficulty is experienced in properly identifying the bales belonging to different owners, or bales of certain quality or weights, owing to the loss of identifying marks, tags, and the like, which become mutilated or defaced when the bales are packed or shipped.

The principal object of the present invention is to provide an improved method of attaching identifying strips to bales or other articles of cotton or other material.

A further object of the invention is to provide an improved method of feeding the identifying strip or like article into position alongside the bale or other article to which it is to be attached, and for holding said strip during the attaching operation.

A still further object of the invention is to provide an improved method of feeding a portion of the length of a strip into parallel relation with the surface to which it is to be attached and to subsequently sever the projected or fed portion of the strip after the attaching operation.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the novel method hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is an elevation of a strip feeding and printing mechanism which may be employed to carry the method into effect. Fig. 2 is an end elevation of the gripper and strip-cutting device showing the gripper-carriage guides in section. Fig. 3 is a sectional plan view through the gripper-carriage. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the bale showing the strip arranged in position for attachment thereto. Fig. 5 is a view similar to Fig. 4, showing the bale-bands fastened and the strip-cutting mechanism about to operate. Fig. 6 is a perspective view of the bale with the strip applied. Fig. 7 is a detail view of a portion of the identifying strip.

Similar numerals of reference are employed to indicate corresponding parts throughout the several figures of the drawings.

The press shown in the accompanying drawing is of a well known type and operates in the usual manner, the bales of cotton being placed between the platens A and B for repressing.

Arranged at one end of the press is a horizontally disposed guide way formed of a pair of parallel rails 10. Between these rails are mounted a pair of grooved rollers or wheels 11 that support a carriage 12. The carriage is provided with a projecting pin 13 that enters a slot formed in one arm of a bell crank lever 14, said lever being pivoted to a fixed portion of the frame of the press, and its opposite arm being connected by a link 15 to the vertically movable piston rod 16 or other member of the press. During the compressing operation, the rod 16 will move upward in order to raise the lower platen B and during this movement the carriage 12 will be traveled from one side of the machine to the other. This carriage supports the strip gripping device which automatically engages with and carries the strip across the press in the manner hereinafter described.

At one side of the machine is arranged a casing 20 having a lid or cover 21, and said casing is provided at one end with a slot 22 for the entrance of the blank strip, and at the opposite end with a slot 23 for the passage of the printed strip on its way to the press.

Within the casing 20 is arranged a mechanism of any suitable construction which operates to print the identifying marks upon the strip x as it passes from the entrance slot 22 to exit slot 23, and several of the shafts of this printing mechanism are indicated by the reference characters 34, 35 and 36. As the construction of this mechanism forms no part of the present invention, it has not been illustrated or described in detail.

Extending from the discharge end of the casing 20 is a strip turning plate 60, one end of the plate being at a right angle to the opposite end, and the plate being gradually curved between the two ends for the purpose of turning the strip edgewise from a horizontal to a vertical position. The discharge end of the plate 60 is provided with a cross bar 61 that is slightly spaced from the strip proper in order to more effectively guide the strip.

Secured to the carriage 12 is a depending guard arm 62 to which is pivoted a gripping jaw 63, the latter being held in gripping position by means of a spring 64. The upper

end of the gripping jaw 63 is provided with a cam 65, which cam is arranged to engage a spring mounted pin 66 that is carried by an arm 67 extending from the frame. At the opposite side of the press is a second pin 68, which, also, acts to engage the cam 65 of the movable gripping jaw.

When the parts are in the position shown in Fig. 1, the end of the strip is clamped between the gripping jaws and will be held during the movement of the carriage 12 to the left, so that the strip will be carried across parallel with the side of the bale and will be held in a position slightly spaced from the side of the bale, so that it may be bound in by the bale ties. During the preliminary portion of the movement of the carriage, the cam 65 will engage the spring mounted pin 66 and the spring of the latter will be depressed allowing the cam and gripper to pass to the left without moving the gripper or releasing the identifying strip. At the completion of the compression movement, the gripper will have passed beyond the second pin 68 and will then hold the strip taut in readiness to be bound in. The strip is held until the compression movement of the press is complete, after which the bale bands are united in the usual manner, the bands passing over the strip and binding the same in with the bale.

In order to sever that portion of the strip which is to be attached to the bale, a pair of pivotally mounted severing blades 70 are carried by a bracket 71 projecting from the frame. The lower arms 72 of these blades are curved outward and are arranged to be engaged by a pair of pivotally mounted spring actuated lugs 73 that are carried by the lower platen B of the press. During the upward movement of the platen, these lugs will yield as they pass above the arms to the position shown in Fig. 2 without disturbing the cutting blades. On the downward movement, however, after the baling operation is complete, the lugs cannot swing on their pivots, and the blades will be forced toward each other for the purpose of severing the projected portion of the identifying strip.

When the piston rod 16 starts to descend after the completion of the baling operation, the cam 65 of the movable gripping jaw will engage the pin 68 as the carriage 12 starts on its movement to the right, and this will result in opening the gripping jaws, so that the end of the strip will be released. After passing beyond the pin, the jaws will snap shut and will continue in the closed position until the outer face of the cam 65 engages the pin 66, whereupon the movable jaw will be again moved to open position and will be held in the open position until the jaws have passed to opposite sides of that portion of the end of the identifying strip which projects from the guide 61. When this point is reached, the cam will have traveled over the pin 66, so that the jaws can snap shut in readiness for another operation.

It will be noted that the strip is fed in a direction parallel with the surface to which it is to be attached and is held comparatively taut at the ends, so that there will be no difficulty in placing the bale bands around it during the bale tying operation, and in this manner practically the entire length of the strip is confined in place by the band. The strip in practice is printed with identifying marks repeated at frequent intervals, the marks designating generally the point of origin, the name of the shipper, the mark of the cotton and the destination. As the strip extends the full length of the bale, and is generally about sixty inches in length, the identifying marks may be printed thereon some thirty or more times, but inasmuch as the strip is bound in by every one of the ties it is practically impossible to deface or mutilate all of the marks through any accident of handling, storage or transportation.

I claim:—

1. The herein described method of attaching a strip, said method consisting in feeding the strip into a position parallel with the surface to which it is to be attached and holding the end portions of such strip while the intermediate portions thereof are secured in place.

2. The herein described method of attaching strips, such method consisting in feeding a strip lengthwise in a direction parallel with the surface to which it is to be attached, and holding the strip relatively taut while the intermediate portions thereof are bound against the surface of the article.

3. The herein described method of attaching strips, said method consisting in feeding a strip into approximately parallel relation with the surface to which it is to be attached and holding those portions of the strip adjacent the ends of the article during the attaching of the intermediate portion of the strip to said article.

4. The herein described method of attaching strips, said method consisting in feeding the end portion of the strip into a position parallel with but slightly spaced from the surface of the article to which it is to be attached and holding said strip adjacent the ends of the article, while the intermediate portion of such strip is bound to said article.

5. The herein described method of attaching strips, said method consisting in feeding a portion of the length of a continuous strip into parallel relation with the article to which it is to be attached, binding the strip in place and subsequently severing the bound portion of the strip.

6. The herein described method of attaching strips, said method consisting in feeding the end portion of a continuous strip into ap-

proximately parallel relation with the surface to which it is to be attached, holding the strip at the ends of the article while the intermediate portions thereof are bound to such article, and finally severing the fed portion of the strip.

7. The herein described method of attaching strips, said method consisting in catching and drawing the end of an identifying mark strip into approximately parallel relation with the surface to which it is to be attached, and holding the strip while the intermediate portions thereof are bound to the article.

8. The herein described method of attaching a strip to an article, said method consisting in supporting the strip in a position approximately parallel with the surface of the article and attaching the strip to the article at intervals.

9. The herein described method of attaching an identifying strip to an article, said method consisting in supporting the strip adjacent the surface of the article, and then attaching said strip to the article at spaced intervals.

10. The herein described method of attaching an identifying strip bearing numerous identifying marks to an article, said method consisting in supporting the strip adjacent the article and then attaching the strip to the article at a number of points, the identifying marks being of approximately equal number between each two attaching points.

11. The herein described method of attaching an identifying strip bearing numerous identifying marks, to a bale, said method consisting in supporting the strip adjacent to the surface of the bale, and then binding the strip in with the bale at spaced intervals to expose the identifylng mark between all of the binding points.

12. The herein described method of attaching an identifying strip bearing numerous identifying marks to a bale, said method consisting in supporting the strip adjacent the surface of the bale prior to the bale tying operation, and then binding the strip in with the bale by the bale ties, thereby exposing the identifying marks between each two binding points.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WREFORD L. McCARTY.

Witnesses:
J. Ross Colhoun,
Jas. M. Walker.