

No. 764,447.

PATENTED JULY 5, 1904.

J. FRANEK.
COTTON PICKER'S TRUCK.
APPLICATION FILED OCT. 6, 1903.

NO MODEL.

Fig. 1.

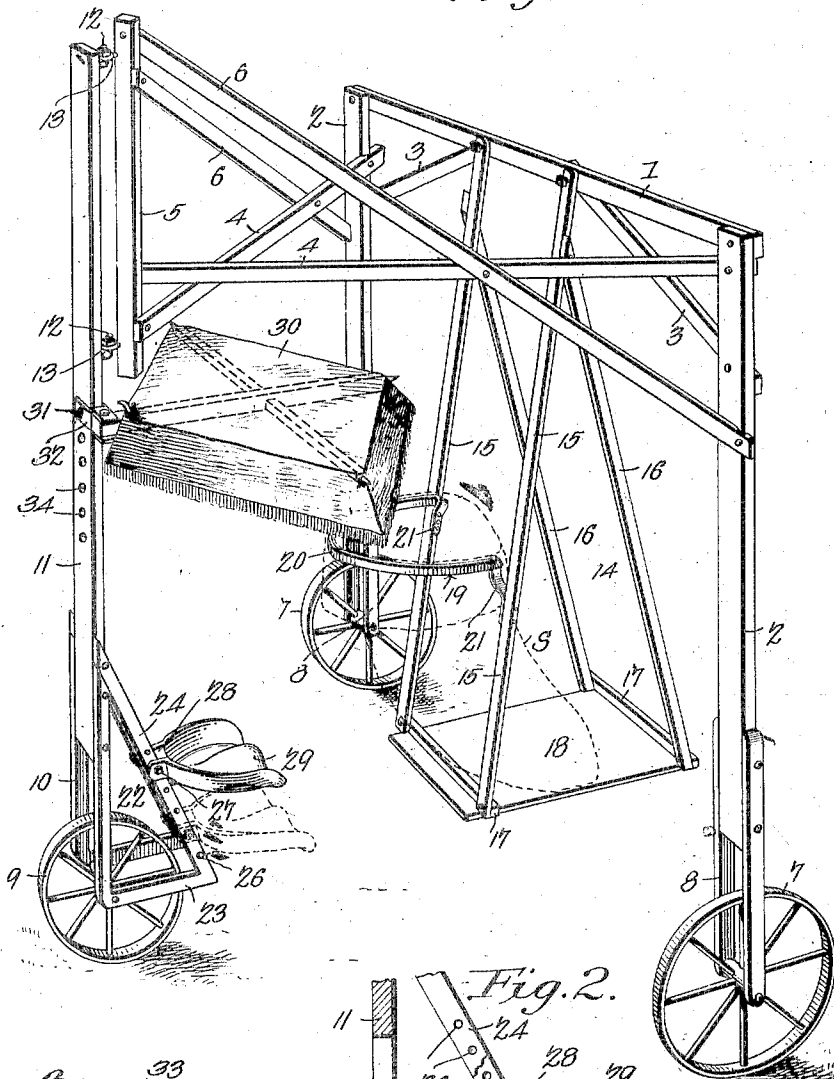


Fig. 2.

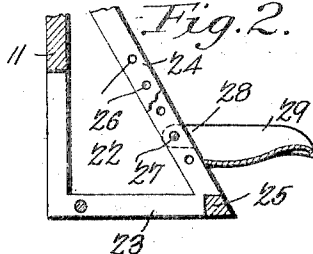
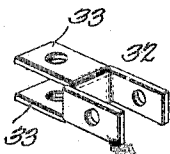


Fig. 3.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAKOB FRANEK, OF GARWOOD, TEXAS.

COTTON-PICKER'S TRUCK.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 764,447, dated July 5, 1904.

Application filed October 6, 1903. Serial No. 175,970. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAKOB FRANEK, a citizen of the United States, residing at Garwood, in the county of Colorado and State of Texas, have invented a new and useful Cotton-Picker's Truck, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to cotton-pickers' trucks, and has for its object to provide a truck for supporting a cotton-picker's sack which is adapted to be propelled through a cotton-field in such relation to the rows of cotton-plants as to materially facilitate the operation of picking the cotton from the plants and gathering it in a sack.

A further object of the invention is to provide means whereby the cotton-picker may be enabled to pick cotton with less fatigue than in the ordinary manner and with less exposure to the heat of the sun, thereby effecting a saving in energy and enabling the picker through such saving to pick a greater quantity of cotton in the course of the day.

With the above objects in view and others which will appear as the invention is more fully disclosed the same consists in the construction and combination of the elements hereinafter described, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and having the novel features thereof pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of the invention complete, the bag S being indicated in position upon the support therefor by means of dotted lines, so as to avoid obscuring the supporting structure. Fig. 2 is a detail sectional view showing the mode of attachment of the seat to the supporting-frame. Fig. 3 is a detail view in perspective of the bracket used for supporting the sunshade.

In all the figures of the drawings corresponding parts are designated by the same characters of reference throughout.

Referring to the drawings by reference characters, 1 designates a transverse frame-bar rigidly attached at its ends to uprights 2 2 and braced thereon by oblique members 3 3, the ends of which are rigidly secured to said cross-bar and said uprights, as shown. 4 4 are hori-

zontal bars secured to said uprights 2 2 and converging forward toward the forward member 5, to which they are rigidly attached. 6 6 are oblique brace members attached at their ends to the upright member 5 and to uprights 2 2 and also attached intermediate their ends to horizontal bars 4 4. The members thus far enumerated constitute a triangular frame the parts of which are rigidly connected throughout and which is supported by means of wheels 7 7, mounted in forks 8 8 at the lower ends of uprights 2 2, and a wheel 9, mounted in a fork 10 in the lower end of upright 11, which is attached to upright 5 by means of pintles 12, which engage eye-bolts 13 provided on the upright 5, so that the upright 11 is adapted to swing freely.

The truck as above described is adapted to straddle two rows of cotton-plants in a field, the wheels 7 lying external to the two rows and the wheel 9 lying in the space between the two rows, said wheel 9 being directed forward in the line of travel of the frame.

Attached to the transverse bar 1 in any suitable manner, but preferably by means of the bolts used in securing thereto the ends of braces 3 3, is a depending frame 14, comprising the arms 15, the upper ends of which are attached to cross-bar 1, arms 16, attached to arms 15 near the top and diverging downwardly therefrom, cross-bars 17 at the lower ends of arms 15 and 16, and a base-board 18, secured in any suitable manner to cross-bars 17. The frame 14 forms a support for the cotton-picker's sack (designated S) and has the base thereof raised a considerable distance above the ground to prevent contact therewith. In order to keep the sack open when supported on the frame, I provide on the arms 15 a curved strip of metal 19, preferably bent into the form shown and comprising the bowed part 20 and the two terminals 21, which are secured to the arms 15. The bowed portion 20 is spaced from the arms 15 by bending the terminals 21 away from said arms, this structure being employed to permit the top of the sack to be turned down over the bowed portion 20 of the support, thus holding the sack open, as shown in Fig. 100

1, and supporting the top at a suitable height above the base-board 18.

Attached to upright 11 and fork 10 is a seat-supporting frame 22, comprising horizontal arms 23, attached to the lower ends of the fork 10, and oblique arms 24, attached to upright 11 above said fork 10, the arms 23 and 24 being connected at their point of intersection and the arms on either side of the wheel 9 being spaced apart by a block 25. Arms 24 are provided at intervals with transverse openings 26 for the passage of a rod 27, which extends through side arms 28 of a seat 29, which is designed to be occupied during the picking operation by the cotton-picker. The seat 29 is disposed rearwardly from the upright 11 and is adapted to be adjusted in position on the supporting-frame 22 by the insertion of a rod 27 into one or another of the openings 26 provided in the arms 24.

In order to protect the cotton-picker from the sun while stooping over to gather the cotton from the plants, I attach to the upright 11 just below the end of upright 5 a canopy 30 of any suitable construction, which is secured to the upright 11 by means of a pin 31 and bracket 32, secured to the supporting-frame of the canopy. The bracket 32 has a pair of arms 33, spaced apart sufficiently for the upright 11 to enter between them, and a plurality of openings 34 are provided in the upright 11 for the passage of the pin 31, which also passes through openings provided for it in the arms 33.

In using my truck the cotton-picker will set the frame astride of two rows of cotton, with the wheel 9 in the space between the rows, and will place his sack in position on the base-board 18 of the frame 14, as above explained. He will then take his seat on the seat 29, which will have been regulated in height to suit the size of the picker, and will then proceed between the rows, picking from either side as he goes and propelling the machine by pushing with his legs from time to time. The seat 29 is so placed that the picker's back is directed forward in the line of travel, this arrangement being adopted because when looking backward the picker will be able to propel the machine better by pushing backward with his legs than he would be able to do if the seat were oppositely disposed. The swivel connection between the upright 5 and upright 11 enables the picker to turn readily from one row of cotton to the other without loss of time and also facilitates the steering of the machine, which is very readily accomplished, as the picker will at once observe any tendency to run into either row, and in order to propel the machine forward it is only necessary to shift his position so that he looks directly backward between the two rows before he pushes backward.

The truck is not subjected to any great strains in use, and consequently may be built of light material, so that it may be easily propelled through the cotton-field.

By supporting the sack in position on the truck as above described, with the top held open at all times, and providing a seat for the picker while at work there is effected a considerable saving in the time necessary to move the sack from place to place and to open the sack for introducing the cotton thereinto and the picker is enabled to reach the cotton upon the plants in either row with less stooping than he would necessarily have to do in picking cotton in the ordinary manner. The stooping necessitated by picking cotton is the most fatiguing part of the operation, and after some hours even experienced pickers become so wearied by the frequent stooping that they can no longer pick cotton at a high rate of speed. Consequently by minimizing the stooping necessary in picking cotton the picker is enabled to do his work with considerably less fatigue and necessarily to continue longer at work at a maximum speed than otherwise.

The provision of the sunshade on the upright 11 adds but little to the weight of the apparatus, and the protection afforded thereby to the picker relieves the picker of much of the discomfort occasioned by the heat of the sun, and thus conserves his energy to a considerable degree.

Having thus described the construction and operation of my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a device of the class described, a pair of uprights, a cross-bar connecting the upper ends of said uprights, supporting-wheels at the lower ends of the same, a vertical bar spaced from said uprights, spacing rods and braces, a sack-supporting platform suspended from the cross-bar connecting the uprights, a wheel-supported upright having hinge connection with the vertical bar spaced from the uprights, and seat-supporting means at the lower end of said wheel-supported upright.

2. A cotton-picker's truck including a wheel-supported frame, a sack-supporting platform suspended from said frame, a vertically-disposed bar spaced from and connected with said frame, a wheel-supported upright connected hingedly with said bar, a seat-supporting frame connected with the lower end of said upright and affording bearings for the wheel supporting the latter, and a canopy connected adjustably with said upright above the seat.

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

JAKOB FRANKE.

Witnesses:

ED. R. FRUKA,

W. C. PETERSON.