A. COLTON.

Corn-Planter.

No. { 1,408, / 32,412. }

Patented May 28, 1861.

Fig. 2.

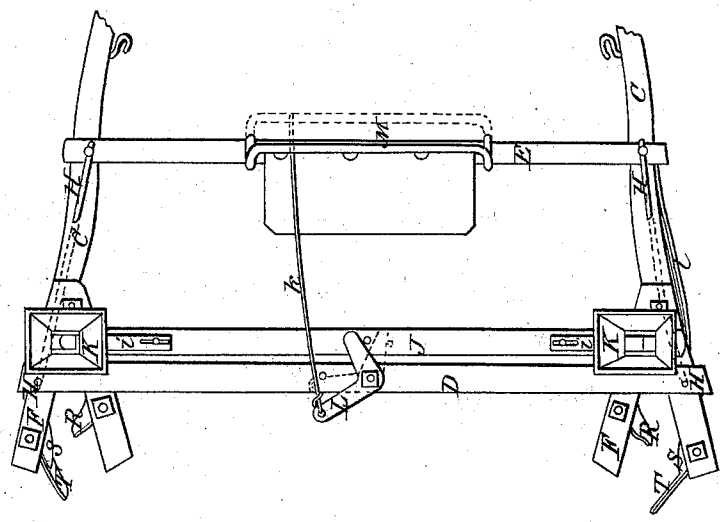


Fig. 3.

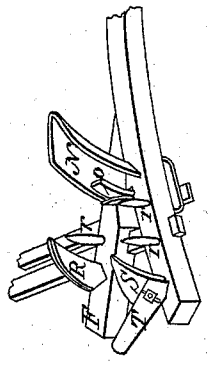
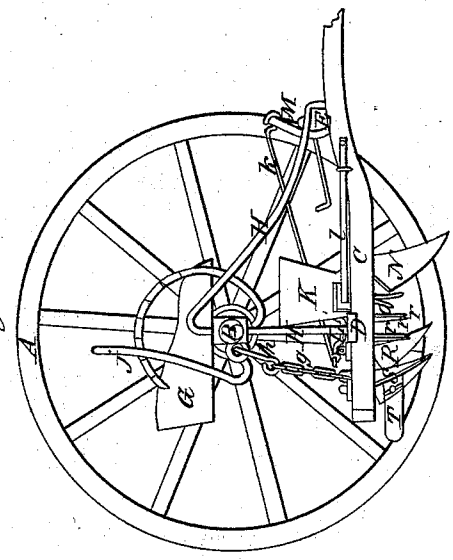


Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

James C Campbell

J Fraser

Inventor:

Aaron Colton

by his Attorney

J. Fraser

A.M. PHOTO-LITHO. CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS.)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

AARON COLTON, OF ATTICA, NEW YORK.

IMPROVEMENT IN CORN-PLANTERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **32,412**, dated May 28, 1861.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, AARON COLTON, of Attica, in the county of Wyoming and State of New York, have invented a new and Improved Corn-Planter; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation, the front wheel being removed to better exhibit the working parts. Fig. 2 is a plan view of the frame, seed-hopper, and dropping and covering devices, the wheels and axle being removed. Fig. 3 is an inverted perspective view of a portion of the frame, showing the furrower, clearers, distributer, and covering-gage.

Like letters designate corresponding parts in all of the figures.

The working parts of my machine, as represented in the drawings, are suspended from a common two-wheeled truck, A being one of the wheels, and the axle being shown in end view at B. The two longitudinal pieces of the thills C C extend back of the position of the axle, being connected together by the two transverse bars D E, and these, with the two oblique pieces F F, constitute the frame, which is suspended from the axle B by two chains, *g*. These chains are attached, not to the axle, but to crank-arms *h* on each end of a rock-bar which lies parallel with the axle in eyes provided therein to receive it. The hand-lever *j* is attached to it and rises beside the driver's seat G, enabling him to turn this rock-bar, and thereby raise or lower the frame at will, both to gage the depth of its working and to raise it clear of the ground when it is required to move it without planting. A ratchet, I, is provided to catch the lever *j* and hold the frame at the desired height. A pair of upright rods, H, rise from the frame at each end of D and pass through holes in the axle, above which they are bent downward in the form of braces and attached at E. These serve as guide-rods and keep the frame in its proper position relative to the axle of the truck. This arrangement of the frame and axle enables the machine to be constructed in a very light manner and places it very completely under the control of the attendant as regards raising and lowering and dropping the seed, as will be hereinafter explained.

The seed is contained in the two boxes K K, from which the dropping is effeced by means of the slide-bar J. A reciprocating motion is imparted to this box by means of the elbow-lever L, pivoted to the frame-piece D, which is actuated by means of the connecting-rod *k*, which is attached to the foot-bar M and moves with it. The attendant occupies the seat G, with his foot resting against the bar M, which, at the proper moment, he presses down, moving the slide-bar J and dropping the seed for the hill. The bar is returned to its proper position by the force of spring *l*. If the ground is prepared by being cross-furrowed, he can drop the seed with great precision, as the motion being made by a slight effort of the foot and the seed simultaneously dislodged from the hopper, his observation is not interrupted and the operation is instantaneous. The amount of seed or number of kernels dropped at a time is regulated by the adjustable plates *i i*, which, by means of a slot and set-screw, may be moved to increase or diminish the opening through which the seed passes from the hopper. Immediately below this opening a piece of thin sheet metal bent into the form of an inverted Λ, *o*, Figs. 1 and 3, is so placed as to divide the orifices and spread the kernels which pass it, so that they will not fall together, but will be scattered in the furrow sufficiently for free and unobstructed growth after germination. This plate may be bent to make the angle more or less acute and spread the seed more or less accordingly. The furrow for the reception of the seed is made by the share N, which is followed by a series of small teeth or spikes, *r r*, the office of which is to remove stones, clods, turfs, and other obstructions that might fall upon the seed previous to its being covered with finely-pulverized soil by means of the covering-shares R S. One of these is provided with a gage, T, to regulate the depth to which the seed is covered. This consists of a metal plate running horizontally from the share to which it is attached over the furrow in which the seed is dropped. It is so connected by means of a screw-bolt and slot that it may be raised and lowered, and its effect is to scrape away or remove any dirt that may be thrown over the seed above a certain depth. This is highly necessary in ground of uneven surface, where the shares are liable to penetrate the soil so far and cover the seed so

deeply in some places as to prevent its germinating.

This device insures the covering of the seed to a certain and uniform depth, which may be varied to suit the requirements by simply altering the position of the gages. The whole constitutes a machine which possesses many advantages, being light of draft, planting with precision and ease to the operator, and covering in a superior manner. The wheels may be dispensed with to make it more economical, and the small wheels of a carriage may be put on the axle when the machine is in use. It plants two rows and requires but one horse for draft.

What I claim as my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

The combination and arrangement of the frame C D, carrying the seeding devices, with the axle of the truck, by means of the rock-bar *h h*, chains *g*, and guides H, substantially in the manner and for the purposes shown and described.

AARON COLTON.

Witnesses:
R. P. TAYLOR,
C. B. BENEDICT.