

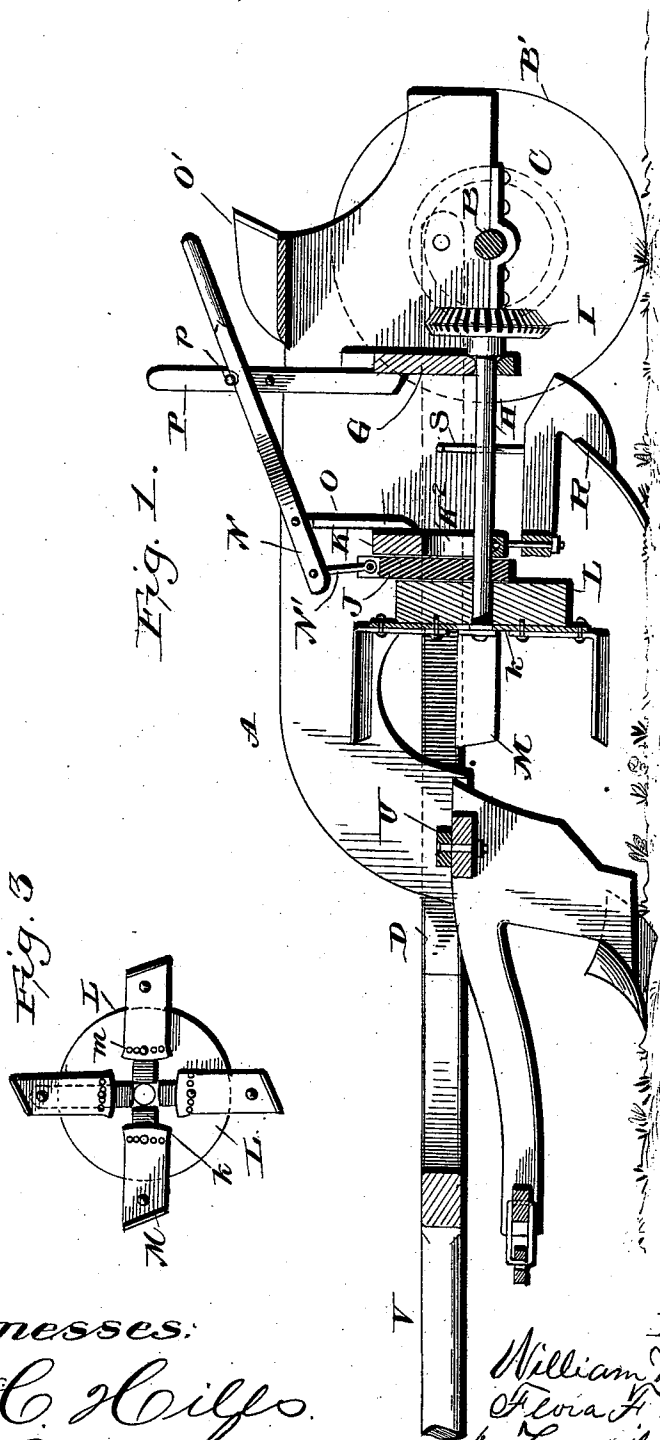
(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

F. F. BLEDSOE & W. W. WATSON.
COTTON CHOPPER.

No. 541,587.

Patented June 25, 1895.



Witnesses:
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Inventors
William W. Watson and
F. F. Bledsoe
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Atty.

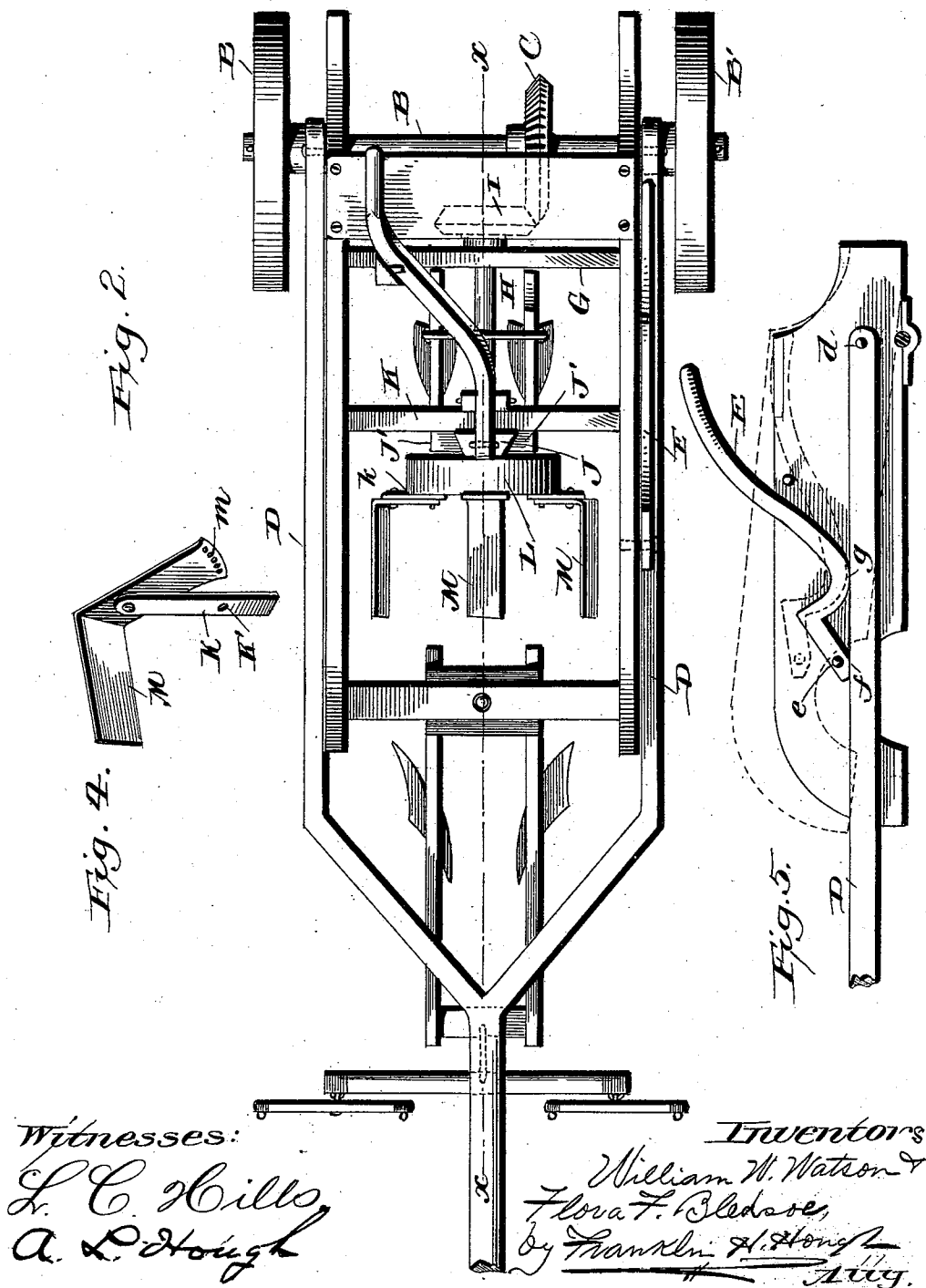
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

FLORA F. BLEDSOE, OF SLAUGHTER, AND WILLIAM W. WATSON, OF
FORDOCHE, LOUISIANA.

COTTON-CHOPPER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,587, dated June 25, 1895.

Application filed April 1, 1895. Serial No. 544,081. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, FLORA F. BLEDSOE, residing at Slaughter, in the parish of East Feliciana, and WILLIAM W. WATSON, residing at Fordoche, in the parish of Pointe Coupée, State of Louisiana, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cotton-Choppers; and we do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to certain new and useful improvements in cotton choppers and revolving hoes in which the body of the machine carrying the revolving hoes is vertically adjustable, so that the same can be readily and easily adjusted to the lay of the ground, the shaft carrying the revolving hoes being in gear with the main driving shaft, while the body portion is being raised or lowered.

A further object of the invention resides in the adjustability of the revolving disk carrying the hoes, independent of the movement of the body portion, so that the depth to which it is desired to have the blades cut, may be regulated, suitable levers and mechanism being provided to raise and lower the hoes. The revolving hoe blades are constructed in angular shape and held to a circular disk and the pitch of each blade may be regulated as will be hereinafter fully shown and described.

To these ends and to such others as the invention may pertain, the same consists further in the novel construction, combination and adaptation of the parts as will be hereinafter more clearly described and then specifically defined in the appended claims.

We clearly illustrate our invention in the accompanying drawings, which with the letters of reference marked thereon form a part of this specification and in which drawings similar letters of reference indicate like parts.

Figure 1 is a central longitudinal vertical sectional view of the machine. Fig. 2 is a top plan view. Fig. 3 is a side elevation of the

hoe-disk. Fig. 4 is a detail in perspective of one of the blades. Fig. 5 is a detail view of the lever mechanism for raising and lowering the body portion.

Reference now being had to the details of the drawings by letter, A designates the main body portion which is mounted on the driving shaft B carrying the driving wheels B', the said shaft turning in bearings in the body portion.

C is a bevel geared wheel mounted on the shaft B.

D is a frame pivoted at its rear end at *d*, to the body portion, and E is a lever pivoted at *e* to the body portion and the forward end of the body portion is supported on the lever E resting at the points *f* and *g* on the frame D, so that when pressure is put upon the free end of the said lever E, the forward end of the portion A is raised.

Held in suitable bearings in the cross piece G is the shaft H having keyed to its rear end the bevel geared wheel I designed to mesh with the wheel C. The forward end of the said shaft H is journaled in the lower end of the cross head J adapted to work up and down between the members J' which latter are securely held to the cross partition K.

L is a disk to the front face of which are secured the strips *k* to each of which is held an angular hoe M having a series of apertures *m* (Fig. 4), allowing of the hoe to be changed by inserting a pin through the aperture *k'* and one of the said apertures *m*.

The upper end of the cross head J is connected to a lever N by means of the link N', the said lever being fulcrumed on the rod O and its free end reaching within convenient distance from the seat O'.

P is a post having a series of pins *p* designed to hold the weight of the disk end of the shaft, by the end of the lever N being engaged thereunder.

Secured to the lower edge of the cross partition K having the recess K² is a cultivator R having the looped guide rod S passing over the shaft H. To the cross piece U of the body portion is pivoted the forward cultivator to the forward end of which a whiffletree is held, and the forward end of the frame D is

prolonged to form a pole V to the free end of which a neck yoke may be attached.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim to be new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a cotton chopper the combination of the portion A mounted on the driving shaft as described, the frame D pivoted to the body portion, the lever E pivoted to the forward end of the body portion and designed to bear against the side beams of the frame D, whereby the said body portion may be raised or lowered, substantially as shown and for the purpose set forth.

2. In combination the main driving shaft, the body portion mounted thereon, the frame D pivoted to its rear end, the forward end of which is extended to form a pole carrying a neck yoke, the cross head carried on a portion of the body portion having journaled at its lower end the revolving hoe shaft, the lever

N pivoted to the top of the cross head, the fulcrum O, the post P having the pins *p* for holding the end of the hoe at a fixed position, the cultivator R all combined substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

3. In a cotton chopper as described, the revolving disk carrying the angular hoes M having each a series of apertures *m* designed to be held at different angles to the strips *k*, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in presence of two witnesses.

FLORA F. BLEDSOE.
WILLIAM W. WATSON.

Witnesses for Bledsoe:

HOWELL CARTER,
WALTER MCLAURIN.

Witnesses for Watson:

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E. HIGGINBOTHAM.