

D. M. BAILEY.
COTTON PICKER.
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935,185.

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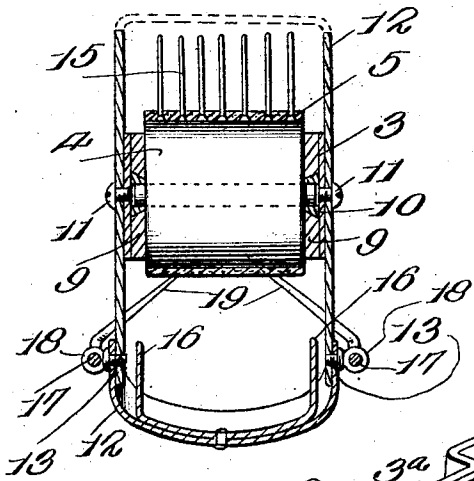
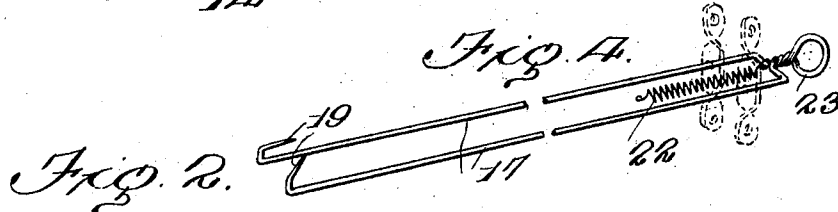
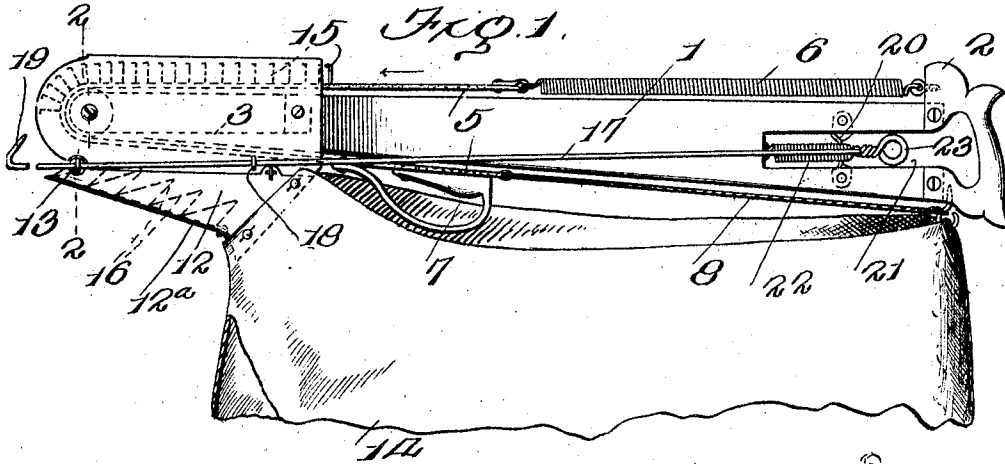


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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COTTON-PICKER.

935,185.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, DAVID M. BAILEY, citizen of the United States, residing at Wellington, in the county of Sumner and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Cotton-Pickers, of which the following is a specification.

The present invention relates to a manually operated cotton picker which can be carried about the field by the operator without fatigue and which will enable him to pick a much greater quantity of cotton in a given time than could be picked by hand.

The object of the invention is the provision of a simple and inexpensive cotton picker which enables the operator to stand in an upright position while picking the cotton and which operates in an effective manner to remove all of the cotton fibers from the various bolls to which it is applied.

For a full understanding of the invention and the merits thereof and also to acquire a knowledge of the details of construction and the means for effecting the result, reference is to be had to the following description and accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a cotton picker embodying the invention, a portion of the sack in which the cotton is collected, being broken away. Fig. 2 is an enlarged transverse sectional view through the end of the picker on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged perspective view of the bracket at the forward end of the stock. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the boll catcher hereinafter specifically described.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description and indicated in all the views of the drawings by the same reference characters.

Referring to the drawing, the numeral 1 designates the stock which is gradually tapered in width from the rear end thereof to the forward end. A handle 2 is applied to the rear end of the stock and projects upwardly above the same, while the bracket 3 is secured to the forward end of the stock, the bracket being formed with a forked end between the arms of which a guide roller 4 is journaled. Passing around this guide roller is a picking belt 5, one end of the belt extending along the upper edge of the stock and having the extremity thereof secured to a coil spring 6, while the opposite end of

the picking belt extends under the stock and terminates in a handle 7. One end of the coil spring 6 is connected to the upwardly projecting portion of the handle 2 at the rear end of the stock while the handle 7 of the picking belt is connected by a cord 8 or a similar flexible member to the lower portion of the handle 2. The spring 6 normally holds the picking belt at one limit of its movement, and when it is desired to move the picking belt against the action of the spring it is merely necessary to grasp the handle 7 and pull upon the same.

As shown on the drawing, the bracket 3 is formed with a pair of metallic straps which are secured to opposite sides of the stock 1, the forward ends of the straps being deflected inwardly and secured to each other at the end of the stock as indicated at 3^a, and then extended outwardly in opposite directions at 3^b and forwardly in a parallel relation at 3^c. Plates 9 are secured to the inner faces of the portions 3^c of the straps, the said portions constituting the forked end of the bracket 3, and these plates are formed with the dove-tailed or undercut grooves 9^a within which blocks 10 are slidably mounted. The guide roller 4 is journaled upon the blocks 10 and may be moved in and out as desired by moving the blocks within the grooves 9^a, the said blocks being clamped in an adjusted position by means of set screws 11. The rear ends of the metallic straps of which the bracket 3 is formed, are extended outwardly at 3^d and then rearwardly at 3^e, a casing 12 which is carried by the forward end of the stock being secured to these portions 3^e of the straps and also to the portions 3^c. The forward end of the casing 12 is open to admit of the picker being applied to the cotton bolls, while the bottom 12^a of the casing is pivoted at its forward end as indicated at 13 and is mounted to swing downwardly. The rear end of the bottom 12^a is curved downwardly and a bag 14 or similar receptacle in which to collect the cotton being picked, has the mouth thereof secured to the rear and lower portion of the casing, the said bag being also secured to the handle 2. The portion of the picking belt 5 which is normally held within the upper portion of the casing by means of the spring 6, is provided with the metallic or other bristles 15 the extremities of which

are preferably curved forwardly, while the bottom 12^a of the casing is provided with the rearwardly inclined teeth 16.

When the open end of the casing has been applied to a cotton boll, a pull is exerted upon the handle 7 and the picking belt drawn around the guide roller 4. The bristles upon the picking belt then engage the cotton within the boll and carry it into the lower portion of the casing 12. As soon as the handle 7 is released, the spring 6 draws the picking belt back to its original position, the cotton fibers previously carried into the lower portion of the casing being retained therein by means of the teeth 16 and thereby prevented from being carried back by the picking belt. Upon the next operation of the belt the cotton thus held in the casing is forced through the rear end thereof into the bag 14 in which it is collected.

It will thus be obvious that I have provided a cotton picking device which can be readily applied to the various cotton bolls and will operate in an effective manner to withdraw the cotton therefrom, the operator being enabled at all times to stand in an upright position.

For the purpose of catching bolls which are in an unfavorable condition to be caught readily with the parts of the device hereinbefore described, I have provided a boll catcher which in the present embodiment of the invention comprises two rods 17, of wire or the like, arranged on opposite sides of the stock 1, and passed at their forward ends through eyes 18 secured to opposite sides of the casing 12. The forward ends of the rods 17 are bent upwardly and slightly rearwardly as indicated at 19. The rods 17 are passed at their rear ends through preferably metallic straps 20 secured to the stock 1, at the opposite sides of the longitu-

dinally extending slot 21, formed in the rear end of the stock, and a spring 22 is mounted in said slot and secured at one end to the stock, while the other end of the spring is connected to the looped rear end 23 of the boll catcher. This rear end passes into the handle 2, and it is therefore obvious that the boll catcher may be easily actuated by the operator, one finger of the hand grasping the handle 2 being inserted in the loop 23. When not in use, the boll catcher is simply gripped back with the fingers out of the way at the front end and may be thrust forwardly by simply relaxing the fingers.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new is:

1. In a cotton picker, the combination of a stock, a guide roller upon the stock, a picking belt passing around the guide roller, means for operating the picking belt, a casing carried by the stock and inclosing the picking belt, the bottom of the casing being mounted to swing outwardly, and teeth carried by the said bottom of the casing for removing the cotton from the picking belt.

2. A device of the character described, comprising a stock, picking devices carried by said stock, the stock being formed at its rear end with a slot, boll catching rods arranged on opposite sides of said stock and connected therewith for a reciprocating movement, the rods being provided with a looped rear end, for the purpose specified and a spring mounted in said slot and secured to the stock and also to the looped end of said rod.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

DAVID M. BAILEY. [L. s.]

Witnesses:

J. F. THOMPSON,
W. A. HARPER.