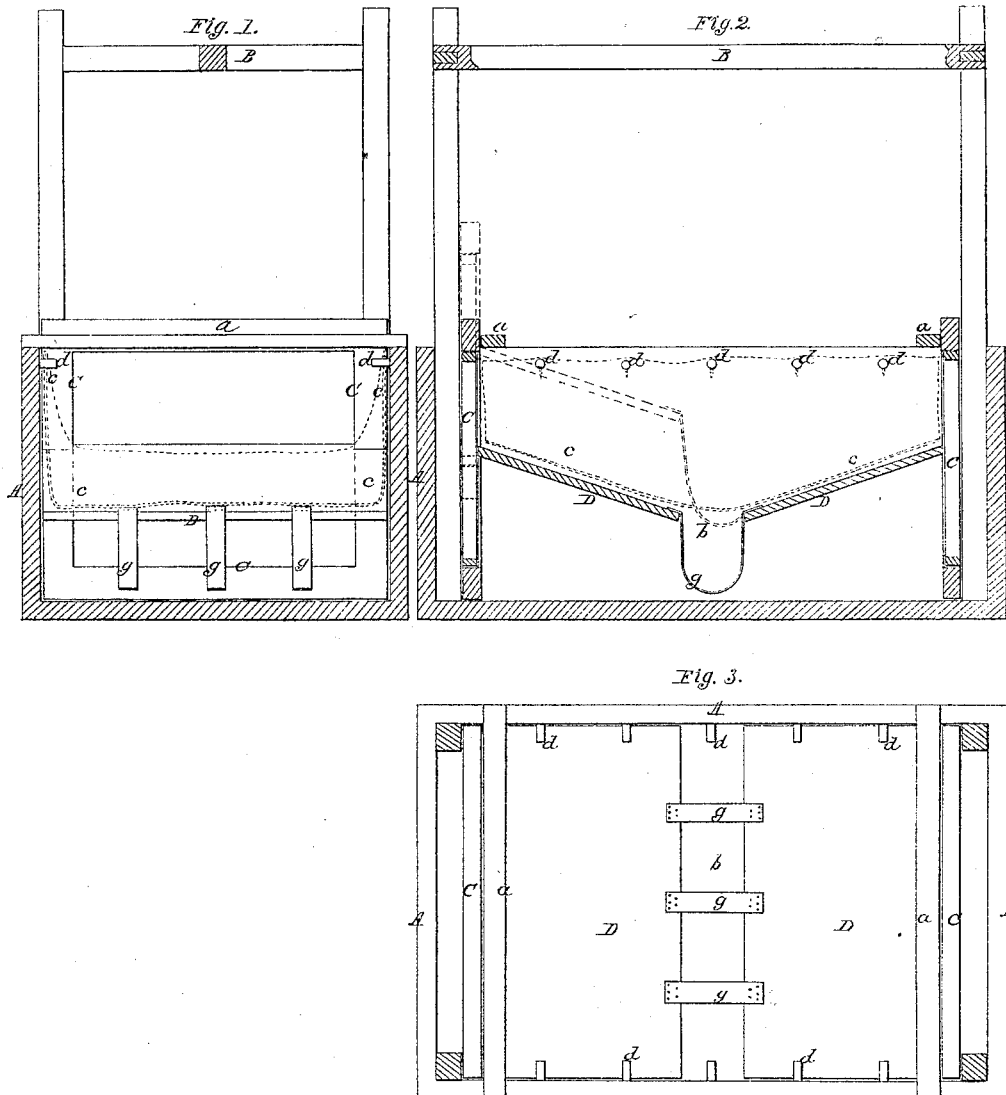


S. G. RICE.
MACHINE FOR DRESSING TOBACCO.

No. 44,975.

Patented Nov. 8, 1864.



Witnesses:
R. T. Campbell
C. H. Campbell

Inventor:
S. G. Rice
by his atty,
Mason, Denick & Hemenway

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAML. G. RICE, OF ALBANY, NEW YORK.

MACHINE FOR DRESSING TOBACCO.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 44,975, dated November 8, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, S. G. RICE, of Albany, county of Albany, and State of New York, have invented a new and useful Machine for Dressing Tobacco; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a vertical transverse section through one form of tobacco-dressing machine. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section taken in a vertical plane through the center of my dressing-machine. Fig. 3 is a top view of Figs. 1 and 2.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to dress "fine-cut" tobacco by machinery, which is so constructed that the fine shreds of tobacco are shaken apart, loosened, and thus prepared for drying without separating the "shorts" from the mass. Tobacco is received in the market in hogsheads, packed away in a close condition. To prepare this tobacco for chewing and other purposes, the process consists in shaking the leaves apart by hand and then dipping them in water and "casing" them. The stem is stripped from the leaf and the leaf packed away into a box, forming what is known as a "cheese," which may be twelve inches thick, twelve inches wide, and twenty-four inches long. After the cheese has been pressed very hard it is removed from its box and subjected to a machine which shaves off the tobacco in fine shreds, which are compacted together in consequence of the pressure to which they were subjected in the cheese, together with their moist state, which renders the leaves more or less sticky. The old method at this point in the process of preparing the tobacco consists in shaking the finely-cut tobacco from one hand to the other until the mass is thoroughly opened and the shreds all separated from each other; but in this hand-dressing process the shorts all fall through the fingers, and when thus separated from the longer shreds only sell for one-half the price of the latter. The subsequent operations consist in drying the tobacco and again opening or loosening it.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use my invention, I will describe a machine by which the invention may be carried into effect.

In the accompanying drawings, A represents a deep box, which may be made of any convenient size, and B is a frame-work, which is erected over this box for the purpose of supporting the shafting, gearing, and cranks, or whatever devices may be employed for operating the shakers. Within the box A, I have arranged two vertically-sliding frames, C C—one at each end of the box, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3—which frames may work in grooves formed in the sides of the box A, or be held in place and guided in their up and down movements by means of the upright posts of frame B and the transverse bars *aa*; or any other suitable plan may be provided for this purpose. These frames C C may be made very light and covered with canvas, muslin, wire-cloth, or any other suitable material; and projecting from the inside surfaces of said frames are inclined shelves D D, which incline toward each other and leave a space, *b*, between their lower ends, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. Across this space, and suitably secured to the edges of the shelves D, are strips *g g*, of some elastic or flexible material, which are intended for preventing the cloth covering *c* from working down under the shelves when they are in motion. The rows of pins *d d* on each side inside of the box A are for the purpose of receiving and keeping in place the covering *c*, which is indicated in red in Figs. 1 and 2. This covering may be made of any kind of material which will admit of the shelves, together with their frames, being moved rapidly up and down, and at the same time prevent the tobacco from escaping at the opening *b* between the shelves. The frames C C prevent the tobacco from escaping at the ends of the receptacle into which it is placed, while the cloth covering *c* prevents the tobacco from escaping at the sides and bottom of said receptacle. Being thus confined, it will be seen that the finely-cut tobacco will receive a tossing reciprocating movement when the shelves, with their frames, are alternately moved up and down, and that the tobacco will be tossed from end to end of the box A, and at the same time elevated. This alternating motion, which is given to the tobacco by the shelves D D, resembles very much the motion of the hands in effecting the same result, but with this difference, in "dressing" tobacco by hand the fine portions or "shorts," as they are called, fall between the fingers, and are thus separated

from the longer shreds. In dressing tobacco in the machine just described, the shorts and longer shreds are all well mixed together, and there is no loss in consequence of a part wasting. After the tobacco is dressed, it is exposed to the action of the air upon screens to dry, and when dry it is shaken again in the machine, so as to open it as much as possible before it is packed away for use.

For dressing dry tobacco my machine greatly excels the hand process, and does not break the tobacco nor produce as large a quantity of shorts as by the latter process.

When it is desired to separate the shorts from the long shreds of tobacco, this can be readily done by the use of netting instead of cloth *c*.

Having thus described the general features of my invention and one form of machine for carrying it into effect, I do not limit myself to the precise contrivances or combination of parts herein described, though I consider the mode above set forth as preferable to any that have suggested themselves to my mind for that purpose.

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

1. A machine for dressing fine-cut or cut tobacco when adapted for giving a tossing motion to the tobacco, substantially as herein described.

2. The employment of shelves *D D* in a box, *A*, arranged and adapted for dressing tobacco, in combination with a sliding frame or frames, *C C*, substantially as described.

3. The employment of a covering or bag, *c*, or its equivalent, in combination with alternately rising and falling shelves *D D*, substantially as described.

4. The employment of flexible strips *g g*, or their equivalent, in combination with movable shelves *D D*, substantially as and for the purposes described.

SAMUEL G. RICE.

Witnesses:

ROBT. STEWART.

WM. H. RICE.