

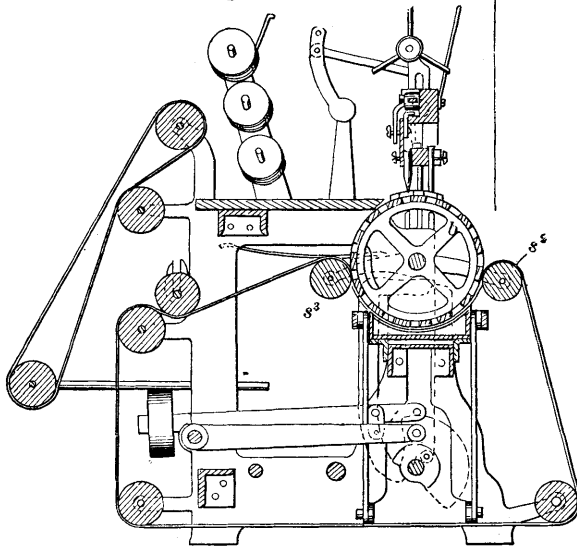
feeding-apron, which extends over the drums s^2, s^3 , etc., passing between the concave jiggering-surface of the steam-box and the tuft-holder, from the rear to the front of the machine; thence downward, and underneath the machine, to the rear.

This feeding-band is also a hardening cloth, and is made of linen or canvas. The fabric as it comes from the machine is wound on a roller.

Tuft'ed-fab'ric Ma-chine/.

Fig. 6765 is Eickemeyer's machine for setting in the tufts and felting them into and hardening the body in a continuous operation, in imitation of a *terry* fabric, as velvet; or a larger pile to imitate plush, shaggy goods, or fur. The machine is supplied with material for the tufts, whether bats, yarns, or rovings, and material for the body of the fabric, whether bats or cloth, and from them prepares a continuous tufted felted fabric. The *bat* is received from a carding-machine. The tuft-holder is a hollow cylinder *b*, with holes on its periphery which receive the tufts when the gang of tuft-punches descend. To give a diagonal position to the tufts, so that each may be opposite to the vacancies in the previous row, the gang of punches have, besides their up-and-down motion to punch the bats into

Fig. 6765.



Machine for Tufting Felted Fabrics.

the holes, a side motion across the machine alternately in opposite directions, to correspond with the positions of the tuft-holes. The tuft-punches move the tuft-holder on its axis, step by step, one row at a time, while within the tuft-holes, then withdraw from the tuft-holes, and move back over the next row of tuft-holes to be filled. A presser-plate covers the holes just filled, and a plaiter punches the bat forward over the next row of holes to make the next row of tufts. A *jigger* or rubbing-plate, perforated with fine holes for steam, is applied to the under side of the tuft-holder when in action for felting, which takes place periodically as the tuft-punches are withdrawn, and lasts till they are about to again descend. The bat which forms the back of the fabric is received from a carding-machine on the