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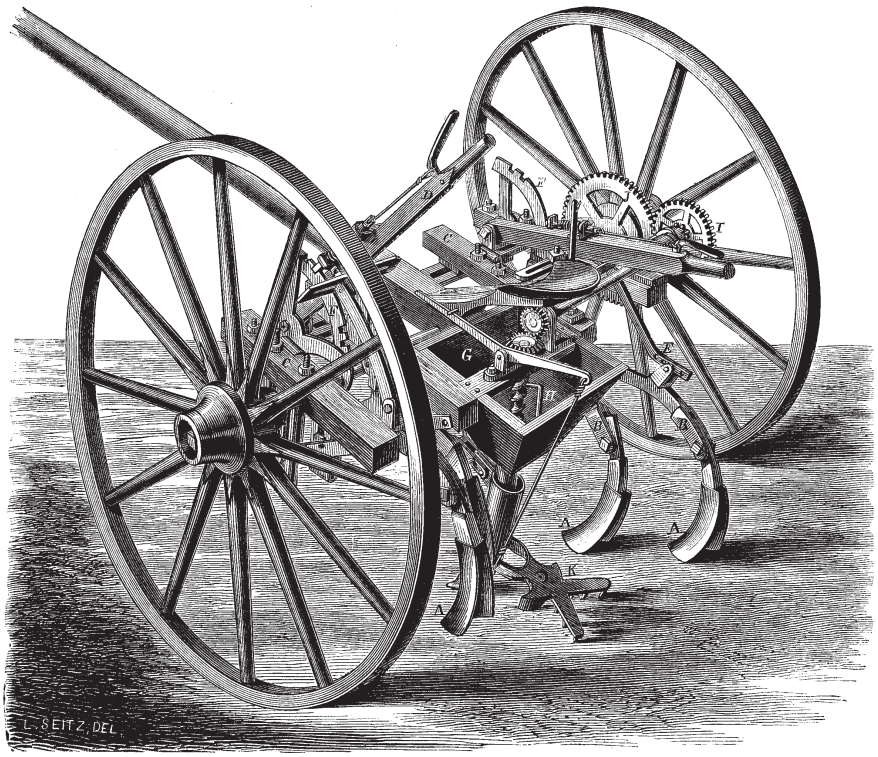
Improvement in Machines for Planting Cotton.

It is well known that even after passing through the gin, cotton seed have a considerable amount of the fiber attached, which tends to aggregate the seeds in masses and offers great impediments to their deposition in the ground in the manner employed for other seeds, which fall singly by their own gravity. Cotton must also be sown on a ridge, as standing water is injurious to the roots and stalk. A machine for planting cotton which will form the ridge as well as drop the seed is a desideratum. Such is the intention of that shown in the engraving. The frame is supported on the axles of the wheels, and the shares, A, are hung in pairs to curved arms by means of pivots passing through the upper part of the shares and the lower part of the arms, B. This allows the adjustment of the shares at any angle desired. The curved arms, B, are pivoted to downward projecting supports depending from the forward ends of the frame, and they are adjustable in hight by screw bolts, the nuts of which are seen at C. The whole is connected to the levers, D, by means of the straps, E. These levers are held to place, elevating the shares to any required hight, by a spring catch on the levers engaging with recesses on the quadrants, F. All the supports of the shares and their appurtenances are capable of being adjusted to form a ridge of any required width.



FELL & PHIFER'S PATENT COTTON-SEED PLANTER.

The seed delivery of the machine is probably the most important part of the device. The receptacle or hopper, G, is furnished with an upright shaft which projects downward to the delivery spout, its lower end being a spiral or worm similar to an auger. On the shaft are also two arms which revolve with it and serve to stir and keep the seeds separated. One is seen at H. By the aid of these appliances the quantity of seed delivered can be very accurately determined and their separation assured. The grade of the screw and its speed governs absolutely the amount of seed deposited in a given time. This upright shaft is driven by means of a horizontal shaft and two bevel gears, the outer end of the horizontal shaft gearing by the wheel, I, with the wheel, J, on the axle. Behind the delivery spout is the covering rake and scraper, K, intended to cover the seeds as they are dropped. The hight of his coverer is governed by means of a lever passing by the driver's seat, so as to be directly under his hand. An upright lever on the other side of the seat serves to connect and disconnect the feeding shaft at will by means of a sliding clutch, so that the machine may be used as a vehicle when passing to and from the place of labor. The feeding screw, by a suitable arrangement, may be made to operate in a horizontal position and more than one feed box may be employed to plant two or more rows at the same time.

Patented by Henry R. Fell and Edward Phifer, of Trenton, N. J., through the Scientific American Patent Agency, Nov. 20, 1866. For further particulars address as above, or Townsend & Co., No. 7 North st., Baltimore, Md., or No. 237 South Sixth st, Philadelphia, Pa.