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MACHINE FOR SKIVING BOOT COUNTERS.

S. J. & C. H. Trofatter, of Salem, Mass., have invented a machine for skiving boot counters, of which fig. 1 is a plan view, and fig. 2 a longitudinal section. The same letters refer to corresponding parts. It was patented the 29th day of November last.

A represents the main frame or table of the machine. On the top of this frame is a stationary cutter or knife, B, arranged with respect to a stationary curved guide, C, as seen in figure 1. The cutting edge of this knife is made to

stand at such an angle with the top surface of the table as shall not only enable it to reduce one edge of a boot counter to its proper bevel, but to do this with a drawing stroke. A spring bearer, D, is fastened to the top of the guide, C, and is made to rest on the leather near to the cutting edge of the knife, the same serving to press the leather firmly down upon the bench or table. Another spring, D', a curved guide, E, and a cutting knife, F, made like those previously described, are arranged as seen in fig.

1, and so as to operate on the opposite edge of the counter. The inner edge of the guide, E, is convex and parallel to the inner edge of the guide, C, which is concave. The said knife, F, spring, D', and guide, E, are connected to a movable metallic plate, which is placed on the table with its top surface on a level with that part of the table which is between the two guides. This plate may be moved so as to carry the portions of the mechanism attached to it nearer to or further from the other guide, spring

Figure 1.

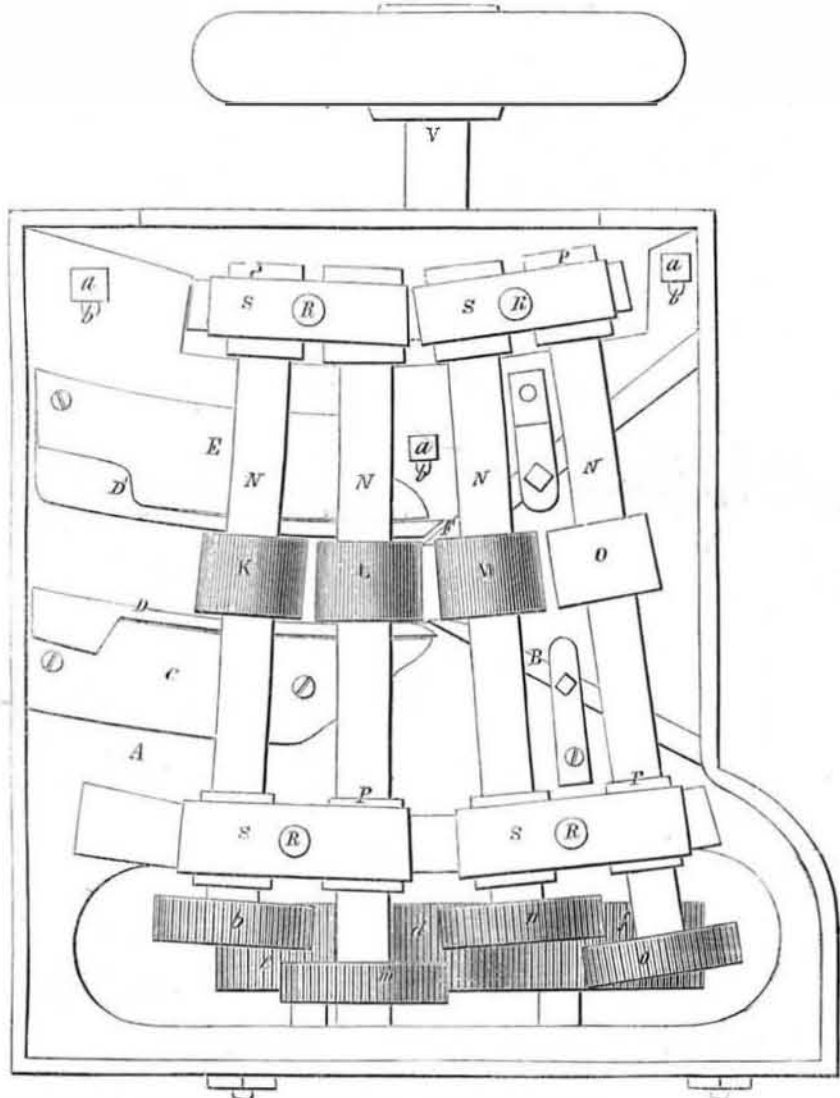
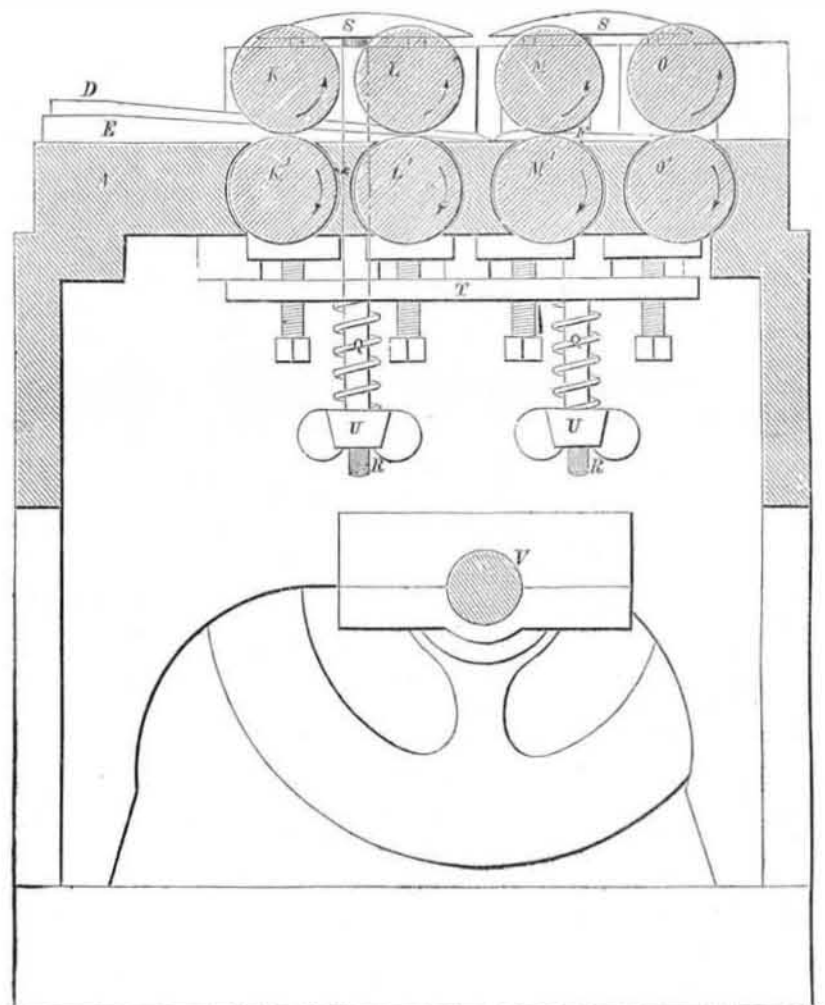


Figure 2.



and knife, as occasion may require, for the reduction of counters of any width.

Three sets of feed and pressure rollers, K K', L L', M M', are disposed between the guides, each set being composed of two rollers, one of which is arranged within the table top, so that its upper edge will be a little above it, while the other is disposed entirely above the table top. The leather counter, during its passage through the machine, rests on the lower rollers, K', L', M', and is pressed down upon them by

the rollers, K, L, M, the peripheries of each roller being scored or fluted.

The axes of the upper rollers and that of another or smoothing roller, O, are disposed in radial lines, all of which tend to the common center of the curves of the inner edges of the two guides. The same may be said in regard to those of the lower rollers. The axes of the upper rollers are sustained in sliding boxes, which are supported so as to have a free vertical movement, and are pressed down by springs,

Q; each of these springs is made to encircle a screw, R, which is formed with a cross-head, S, that is made to bear on the top of the two boxes. This screw rod passes down through a rest bar, T, and the spring, receiving a nut, U, upon its end.

The several feed, pressure, draught, and smoothing rollers are made frusto-conical, and derive their motions from the driving shaft, V, which is arranged underneath them, and carries a gear which engages with two connecting gears

that are wide enough to engage each with two others placed upon the axes of the lower rollers. These in turn engage each with others upon the axes of the upper rollers. The last pair of rollers, O O', is made plain to take out the creases made by the fluted rollers.

This is, we should think, a good machine, and we would recommend it to the attention of boot manufacturers. Any further information can be obtained as above, or a machine can be seen at No. 12 Beaver street, in that city.

The Oyster Crop of Baltimore.

According to "The Baltimore American," the product of the oyster trade of the city is equal to or greater than the product of all the wheat and corn raised in the State of Maryland. The whole shores of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries are adapted to the growth of the oyster, and as but one year is required for their full growth, an immense profit accrues to those engaged in the business—a profit which is estimated at some three hundred to six hundred per cent. There are 250 vessels engaged in the business, which average about 900 bushels to the cargo, and require nine or ten days to

the trip. These vessels, making in the aggregate 6,000 trips during the eight months in which they are engaged, give a total of 4,800,000 bushels per year sold in the Baltimore market. The oysters bring an average price of 50 cents per bushel, which gives a grand total of \$2,400,000 per year paid for oysters by the dealers in the city. Some of the houses send by the Baltimore and Ohio and Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroads, to say nothing of the other modes of transportation, from eight to twelve tons of "canned" oysters per day. The shells are carried for manure, to all parts of Virginia and North Carolina. In the shucking

of oysters, the shells will increase about one-fourth, which would give a total of about 6,000,000 bushels of shells, which sell for two cents per bushel, making a return of \$120,000 per year for the shells alone.

Substitute for Common Brick.

I think a substitute for brick, as good and cheap, can be manufactured as follows:—Take a metal mould, first filled with heated gravel, and then pour melted glass into it, and leave it to cool gradually. I think each mould would not require more glass than is contained in a common black bottle. These are sold for a

cent each, the blowing of which must cost half that sum.

MARTIN KEENAN.

Milford, Mass.

[Not a bad idea this.

Lord Palmerston has resigned his seat as a member of the British Ministry; he does not seem to possess enough of the democratic principle for Sir John Russel, or Lord Aberdeen, who are men of much finer personal characters.

The Persians have declared war against the Turks, in pursuance of a treaty existing between that government and the Czar of Russia.