

THE DAVIS PLATFORM BINDER CO

(CLEVELAND,
OHIO,
U.S.A.)



year 1889

SECOND ANNUAL CATALOGUE
OF THE
DAVIS PLATFORM BINDER COMPANY,
MANUFACTURERS OF THE
FIRST AND ONLY SUCCESSFUL
PLATFORM • GRAIN • BINDER.

MAIN OFFICE AND P. O. ADDRESS:
204 SUPERIOR ST., CLEVELAND, O., U. S. A.

WORKS:
JUNCTION LORAIN STREET AND L. S. & M. S. R'y.

SHIPPING ADDRESS:
ROCKPORT, CUYAHOGA Co., O.

1889.
MESSRS. GIES & CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.
PRINTERS AND BINDERS.

DIRECTORS.

A. H. JOHNSON,	A. E. SUMNER,
JOHN S. DAVIS,	L. C. HIGGINS,
ADDISON HILLS,	W. F. HOLLOWAY,
C. E. SUMNER.	

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT	A. H. JOHNSON.
SECRETARY AND TREASURER	A. E. SUMNER.
SUPERINTENDENT	JOHN S. DAVIS.

CROWNED WITH SUCCESS.

The season of 1889 has marked another brilliant epoch in the march of the Davis Platform Binder toward revolutionizing the current methods of binding grain by machinery. So completely has the practicability of the "platform" idea been demonstrated, that the skepticism, so prevalent one and two years ago, has given way to confidence and the dubious query, "will it work?" which recently found almost universal expression, has been met with a response of enthusiastic affirmation that cannot be mistaken.

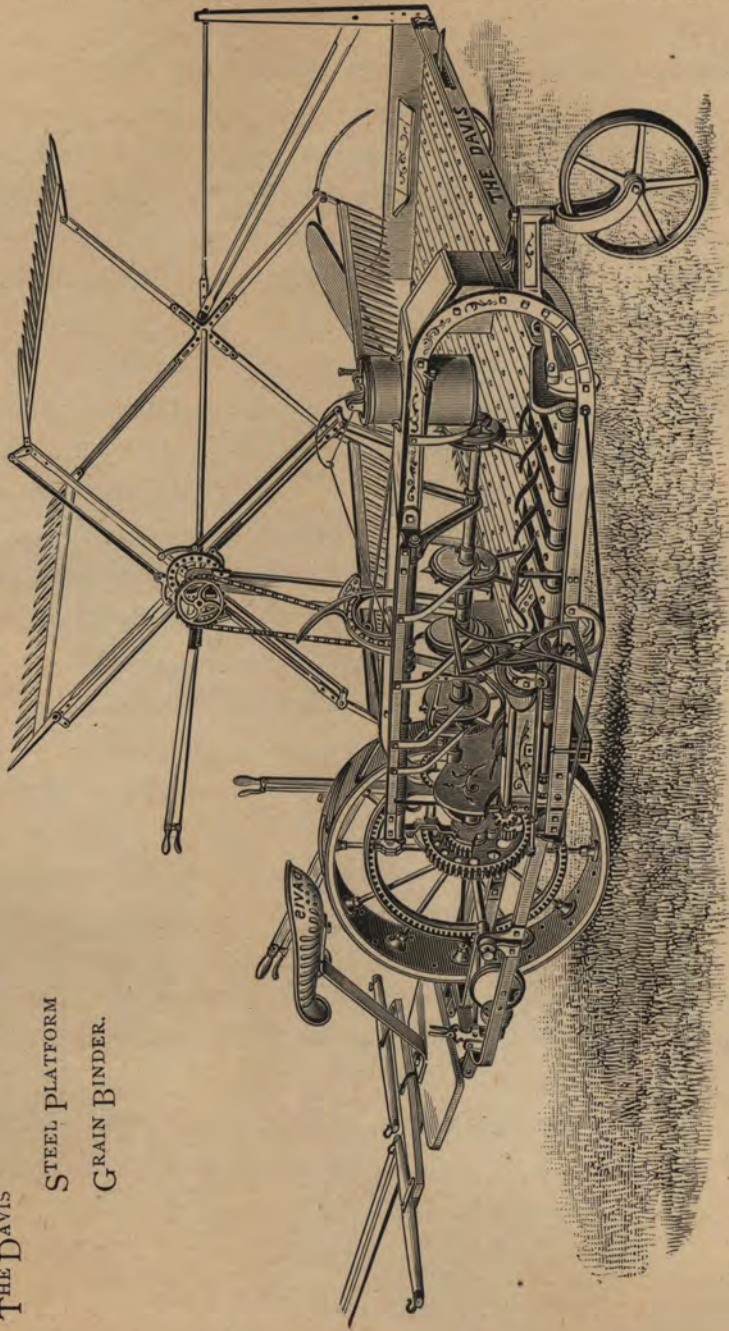
This does not mean that every machine went through the harvest without a hitch—such a happy situation will come only with the millennium, when ignorance, malice and accident have ceased to make miserable the sons of men; but it means that a larger percentage of Davis Binders have performed satisfactory work than was ever before known of a new machine, and, furthermore, that, according to our best information, a larger percentage of Davis machines sold during the past season have been "settled for" than can be said of any other binder on the market in 1889.

We are well aware that these statements do not harmonize with the multitude of false reports that are being circulated broadcast by some elevator binder agents, and some of our readers may think that our assertions are as much biased in favor of our machine as the others are against it. In this connection we will simply make a plain statement of fact that can easily be verified, and our readers can draw their own conclusions. By October 1st, 1889 we had received, from districts exclusively where we had machines in operation the past season, applications for more binders than we can build for the coming harvest, and, in order to be prepared to meet the demand, we have constructed new buildings aggregating in size about 300 by 40 feet, and are preparing the coming summer to make an even larger addition to our plant.

The proper course for a sensible man to pursue is to study facts alone, and credit idle or malicious reports with what they are worth and no more.

In the following pages will be found enough good words from farmers, implement dealers and the representative agricultural and implement journals, to warrant but one conclusion—that the Davis Steel Platform Grain Binder is the most thoroughly practicable harvester in the world, and destined to surely and rapidly supplant every other type of grain binder thus far offered to the farming public.

THE DAVIS
STEEL PLATFORM
GRAIN BINDER.



PRESS ENDORSEMENTS.

We think the history of the agricultural implement business will bear out the assertion, that no machine ever placed upon the market has been favored with such universal editorial endorsement by the agricultural and implement press, as has the Davis Platform Binder.

Our readers must remember that there is a material distinction between the statements made in a regular advertisement, written by the advertiser, and the opinions voluntarily expressed by the publishers of a journal in its editorial columns. The one is the praise of an article of merchandise by the seller, while the other is an expression of a disinterested publisher, outlining the good features of an implement for the benefit of his readers, and to a certain extent, vouching for the superiority of the article he endorses.

The merits of our machines have been so pronounced, that they have been favored to an unusual degree with the endorsements of leading journals, and we herewith reprint a few from representative papers:

AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

The following most flattering review of the seasons work appeared in the editorial columns of *The Ohio Farmer*, September 7th:

We think our readers will bear us out in the statement that *The Ohio Farmer* has always been very conservative in its policy regarding new inventions or innovations in any line. We have many times been censured, in fact abused, by manufacturers for declining to speak well of new ventures and products that we knew comparatively little about. We have frequently been offered extravagant advertising rates to indorse mechanical medicinal and other candidates for the favor of our agricultural patrons, but we have invariably refused to lend our influence to the promotion of any project or the indorsement of any article placed on the market, without first being satisfied that it fully merited every good thing we might say in its favor.

The pre-eminently leading position of this journal to-day in the agricultural world and its enviable reputation for reliability are due in a large measure to the care with which its editorial utterances have been guarded, and while we may by this course, suffer at times a temporary pecuniary loss, we have found that such conservatism pays in the long run.

During the past two years we have made occasional mention of the Davis Platform Grain Binder, because, after a careful investigation, we believe it to possess to an unusual degree the diversified requirements of

the harvest field, and we have taken this position, not for pecuniary profit, but because we have found it a pleasant duty to inform our patrons of the invention and reduction to practice of a style of binder that they have felt and expressed the need of ever since the elevator binder came into use.

We have recently had quite a number of inquiries from our readers in regard to operations of the Davis Binder during the season just passed, and have taken pains to secure full and reliable information upon the subject, all of which tends to wholly warrant the position hitherto maintained by this paper in regard to this machine.

The company established agencies and placed machines chiefly in the middle and northwestern states, a majority being sold in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. We have made extensive inquiry touching upon the work done in different portions of the country, and, while there are some adverse criticisms of minor importance, the decided preponderance of evidence is that these machines have done far better work than any of the older kinds of binders, and have taken a very firm hold upon popular favor. In order to partially meet the demand, the Davis people are preparing to enlarge their works this fall by the erection of two new buildings, 150 by 34 feet, and 50 by 40 feet, respectively, and next year they propose to be in shape to turn out about 5,000 machines for the trade of 1891. Their policy has been very conservative, and it has been thought by some that they have moved with unnecessary moderation, but while outsiders have been led to take this view, it was because they were not in position to see the immense amount of preparatory work that has been steadily going forward in the way of a thorough equipment of the shops and a careful and systematic organization of agencies; in fact, the laying of a solid and safe foundation upon which can rapidly be built the superstructure of a large and prosperous business.

We are glad to congratulate the Davis Company upon having successfully coped with the many obstacles that invariably attend the inauguration of great revolutions of every character, and with our farmer friends, we wish them the fullest measure of prosperity in the prosecution of an enterprise that has been so successfully conducted through its pioneer stage.

In addition to our independent inquiries, the editor visited the company's office yesterday, and spent an hour in looking over a lot of testimonials that would fill several pages of this paper. We have selected a few from different sections, of which we herewith give brief extracts.

(Then followed a long list of farmers' testimonials which we publish elsewhere with other endorsements from our farmer patrons.)

A VETERAN'S ENDORSEMENT.

Hon. J. D. Easter, of Chicago, Ill., for years associated with the Marsh Brothers in the manufacture of the famous "Marsh Harvester," which was afterward adopted, and is still universally used, as the foundation for the construction of all elevator

binders, had the following editorial in the November number of *The Implement World*, of Chicago :

The first of this month I was in Cleveland, Ohio, and called at the office of the Davis Platform Binder Co., having some curiosity to see this machine, about which I have heard a good deal during and since harvest. They showed me a sample, but told me that one was running in a field some six miles out, and said that they would take me there if I cared to see it in operation. I gladly availed myself of the invitation, went out and followed it around the field where it was working in rag weeds, thick and thin, standing from one foot to four feet high, and, in some places, full of fox-tail grass. The machine, cutting a full $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet swath, was drawn by two small horses, neither of which could have weighed over 1,000 pounds, but they handled it with comparative ease. I was especially impressed with the lightness of draft—and I ought to be a fair judge of such matters, having traveled hundreds, if not thousands of miles after various other harvesting machines. I noticed, also, that the grain wheel bore lightly upon the ground, as I could lift it with ease. The machine is symmetrical and well balanced, and having a loose tongue, there can, of course, be no weight upon the horses' necks. Its appearance and the character of its work were eminently satisfactory ; and, although I was up to that time, prejudiced against platform or low down binders, because of some unfortunate experience with them and much agreeable experience with elevating machines, I frankly said to the gentlemen, before my opinion was asked, that this was the first harvester of the kind that I had ever seen, the work of which could not be criticised, and that I believed it had the merit and would win. It, of course, dispenses with the elevating canvasses, but it separates well and delivers the sheaves sufficiently high to admit of a bundle carrier. The tilting arrangement is good. The reel has a wide range, having long arms and plenty of scope in adjustment, and is easily managed ; it is made very strong and carries toothed bats which aid much in taking up down grain, as every one comprehends who has had experience, and in the delivery also by combing the grain back straight upon the platform.

Undoubtedly the standard elevator binders are thoroughly practical, and do their work in a satisfactory manner ; still there has always been a demand from farmers for a more compact machine, or for something upon the platform or low-down principle, which is evinced by the fact that every prominent manufacturer has been endeavoring to produce a machine of this character to supply such demand ; but, so far as I know, nothing has yet been developed that could fairly compete with the elevating machine, unless it be the Davis Platform ; and, judging from what I saw of its operation, it is a full competitor on any ordinary ground, with advantages in its favor on side-hill or uneven surface. In addition to its excellent working qualities, it supplies a special demand, and its distinctive features furnish agents and dealers with good sell-points. The company have fine new shops and are manufacturing 2,000 machines for next season, and certainly they will have no trouble in selling them.

THE TEXAS TRIUMPH.

C. W. MARSH.

The following from the pen of Mr. C. W. Marsh, of "Marsh Harvester" fame, appeared in June, 1889 in the editorial columns of *The Farm Implement News*, of Chicago, under the caption "The Coming Binder:"

It is sufficiently well known that the editor of the FARM IMPLEMENT NEWS has had some experience with "low-down," or "platform" binders; indeed, he claims the honor of having given the name of "platform" to this class of binders; and while not particularly proud of his record with them, he has always contended that the principle would finally win.

Last year he was told in confidence by several men well posted in the business, that the Davis Platform Binder, manufactured at Cleveland, O., by the Davis Platform Binder Company was bound to be a success; that they had seen it work under various circumstances—some of them very trying; and that it performed admirably, in fact as well as, or better than, the standard machines, and with lighter draft. And while in Texas last month he again heard of the binder, which was then at work in that state, from men representing or working for elevator machines who had seen the Davis operate, and they expressed themselves in much the same manner—some of them emphatically asserting that it was the coming machine. They described its successful operations in various fields with difficult grain to handle, and stated that it had performed with entire satisfaction, and as well as the best in the market.

"THE OHIO FARMER."

The publishers of *The Ohio Farmer*, one of the most conservative and reliable farm journals in this country, have been carefully watching the record of the Davis Binder for three years, and during the past season they have unreservedly endorsed this machine as far superior to anything in the market. We value their opinion most highly, because it cannot fail to carry conviction to the mind of everyone acquainted with the clean, able record of the journal, whose name is a synonym in many a home for fearless criticism and integrity of statement.

This paper published June 8th., the following review of the work of the Davis in Texas :

Last summer the editor of *The Farmer* witnessed the work of a Davis Platform Binder in a field of heavy and tangled oats. He followed the machine for several hours, and critically examined its operations in detail, and recorded his honest and candid opinion on page eighty-eight, August 11, 1888. The ground was soft from recent and frequent rains; the grain was heavy, badly down and twisted; the team was a light one, a single pair of ordinary farm horses. "The machine picked up the tangled grain,

packed it into sheaves, tied them securely, and threw them off with the precision of clock work," and "the team pulled the machine without strain." This was the record in a nut shell. That was the last of the harvest of 1888, and the public was compelled to wait till the harvest of 1889 opened before additional testimony could be produced. This harvest first began in Texas, the most Southern state in the union, and a Davis machine was sent down there to enter the lists. The report of its first week's work is recorded below, and speaks for itself. The expectations awakened by the initial performances of this youthful competitor last year have been more than fulfilled, and it starts northward with the advancing harvest flushed with the success of its first contests, and crowned with the conquerer's wreath by Ceres herself. The close of this year's harvest will not change the record, for the Davis is constructed upon a correct principle, and cannot fail.

About two weeks ago D. P. Anthony, general traveling agent of the Davis Platform Binder Company, of this city, was sent to Texas to inaugurate the season's business in the early southern harvest, and the publishers of this paper, in common with many others who have been watching the career of the new binder, awaited with some impatience, but, we must say, without much uneasiness, the reports of the operations of the machines in the South. We were granted the privilege of seeing all the private dispatches to the company from Dallas, Tex., the agricultural implement headquarters of that state, and as the advent of this first successful Platform Binder is a matter of great importance to our readers and farmers generally, we devote considerable space this week to a reproduction of Mr. Anthony's reports. It can readily be understood that the company's representatives, in their private reports, would mention all unfavorable circumstances, in order that any defects in material or construction could be remedied before the general harvest, which begins about July 5, but we have had access to every line of his communications from Dallas, and we herewith print them in full. We should feel constrained to apologize for devoting so much space to this matter, but it is a subject of such wide-spread interest and of so great moment to so many people, that we believe we are fully justified in doing so.

The following are the dispatches sent by Mr. Anthony :

May 23.

We cut to-day with team of Texas ponies, weight of both about 1,500, about two-thirds of twenty acres of very heavy wheat, while elevator binder with four horses was cutting the other third. Every part of the machine works to perfection.

May 24.

Cut all day without a hitch with same ponies, and went twice around elevator with four horses. Machine fully indorsed by all local machine men. About 100 farmers have voluntarily arranged to gather to-morrow where machine is working.

May 27.

Harvested with same ponies ten-acre field after ten o'clock. All spectators said we did the nicest harvesting done in this locality. Rained Saturday.

May 28.

Harvested successfully field of wheat to-day, where elevator binder gave it up, because they could not elevate and separate, on account of being tangled and matted with wild pea-vines.

May 30.

Harvested about fifteen acres to-day with same ponies. Everybody captured that sees the machine work. Machine doing as well in every respect as we could wish. Rained yesterday.

May 31.

Did splendid day's work and had crowd of visitors all day. Received lots of compliments from both machine men and farmers on quality of work and light draft. Have thoroughly tested machine in every conceivable way, and cannot break it or discover any wear or weakness. It beats any binder in the world, sure. We leave here to-morrow.

Appended is a private letter written by Mr. Anthony to Mr. Davis on Tuesday, May 28, the day they "tackled" the "wild pea vines:"

DALLAS, TEX., May 28, 1889.

MR. JOHN S. DAVIS, Cleveland, O.:—*Dear Sir*:—We have harvested one week steadily in this locality with the Platform Binder on several different farms and in various kinds and conditions of grains, and in every place to our entire satisfaction. While I had unlimited confidence in the merits of the machine, it is doing even better in every respect than my most sanguine expectations. You most certainly have every reason to be proud of your grand success, which we most emphatically demonstrated to-day. Among our many visitors yesterday, one farmer informed us he had a field of wheat they had been trying to harvest, a part of which was so badly tangled and matted with wild pea-vines (which grow very thick in some places here) that it was impossible for them to harvest with an elevator binder, and that they had pulled out and given it up and were going to try and cut it with a mower. To-day we drove into the field, cut, bound and separated it, and did as nice work as if it was clean standing grain.

We had a large number of the best farmers there to witness the work, and all expressed themselves surprised and delighted, not only with the quality of the work but also the light draft of the machine, as we have used nothing but one pair of small Texas ponies, and as yet we have not seen an elevator binder running here with less than four horses or mules, and in many cases five. We have not had a farmer or machine man visit us but has voluntarily given us credit for doing splendid work with very light draft. I am greatly delighted over our grand success here, and am sure now that you have a machine that is destined to take the place of the elevator binder.

Yours very truly,
D. P. ANTHONY.

The following letter from Messrs. J. K. Davis and A. C. Brown, Dallas farmers, which was received at the binder company's office, yesterday morning, very strongly corroborates the above dispatches and letter:

DALLAS, TEXAS, May 28, 1889.

DAVIS PLATFORM BINDER COMPANY, Cleveland, O.— *Gentlemen*.:—
Your representatives harvested a piece of wheat for me to-day with one of your binders which we had given up and could not harvest with an elevator binder on account of its being so badly tangled with wild pea-vines. Your machine did cleaner and better work in this bad condition of grain than we did with an elevator binder in nice clean, standing grain, and with apparently about half the power it takes to run the elevator binder.

Yours truly, J. K. DAVIS.

May 30, 1889.

I, with several other farmers, witnessed the above mentioned work, and your machine is now harvesting on my farm, doing splendid work with a small pair of ponies, while my elevator binder requires four good horses to do the same amount of work. Gentlemen, your Platform Binder is most certainly a grand success and a great improvement over the elevator binder.

Yours truly, A. C. BROWN.

A DALLAS OPINION.

The Publishers of the Dallas, Tex., *Times-Herald*, considered the advent of a successful platform binder of sufficient importance to devote nearly a column of their editorial page to the subject. The following appeared in that paper May 24th, 1889:

One of the iron-clad rules of this paper is to studiously refrain from "puffing" and gratuitously advertising any business; but a newspaper would be remiss in its duty to its readers should it neglect to give prominent notice to radically new and important inventions that very apparently mark the beginning of new eras in the progress of any line of business. In no department of the industrial world have improved methods followed each other more rapidly than in the harvesting of grain, and, although, with the advent of the self-binder a few years ago it was thought that the ultimatum had been reached, it is now our privilege to chronicle the appearance of an improved type of self-binder that is as radical an improvement over the kinds now in use as the latter were superior to the old way of cutting grain with a reaper and binding by hand.

The machines now in market are known as "elevator" binders, because they carry the grain over an elevator from four to five feet above the platform on which the grain falls when cut, thus involving much friction and complicated machinery, and resulting in such heavy draft that it is necessary to use three and four horses to operate them easily. They do nice work, but the farmers have complained so much of their weight and heavy draft, that manufacturers for several years have been running an exciting race in trying to get up a "low-down" or "platform" binder. As a matter of course, some one had to win the race, and the lucky man was Mr. John S. Davis, of Cleveland, Ohio. As soon as his machine was perfected, capitalists united with him in the construction of an extensive establishment in

that city for the manufacture of what is known as the "Davis Steel Platform Binder," a machine that does not elevate the grain at all, and that two horses can easily handle.

One of these new binders came into our neighborhood about a week ago, and although it has been in operation but a few days, it has become the chief topic of conversation among our farmers and agricultural implement dealers. The interest awakened is so general among this class of our readers that a *Times-Herald* reporter was sent out yesterday afternoon to the farm of Mr. Rush, about one and a half miles west of Dallas, where the new candidate was found at work in a field of heavy wheat. Our representative found a large number of farmers and machine men watching the operations of the platform binder and an elevator binder in the same field, and the scene was truly a remarkable one. The elevator binder was drawn by two large mules and two medium-sized horses, and even this aggregation of muscular "brawn" had to keep right down to business to get along with any degree of comfort. The Platform Binder, on the other hand, was pulled by two little Texas ponies, who walked along without any apparent discomfort, and without "sweating a hair."

The reporter, in company with a score or more of other spectators, followed the machine around the field a number of times, and there is no disputing the fact that it bound tighter, handed the grain better, cut a wider "swath," moved over the ground faster, and did nicer, smoother work in nearly every respect than the elevator binder. The spectators, as far as inquiry was made and opinions expressed, were unanimous in the verdict that the new machine was a perfect success and destined in the near future to seriously interfere with the business of the older concerns, from the fact that it can reasonably be expected to lessen the cost of harvesting grain fully one-half.

We will not undertake to give a detailed description of this machine, as it would "smack" too much of "shop," and, anyway, it is not the province of a general newspaper to deal with details of mechanical construction. We are very glad, however, of the privilege of having thus given our readers the general features of an invention that bids fair to materially benefit so large and important an element of the great Southwest as its agricultural interests.

THE RED RIVER VALLEY.

Last week Mr. D. P. Anthony, representing the Davis Platform Binder Company, the headquarters of which are in Cleveland, Ohio, was in town introducing to our farmers the harvesting machinery turned out by this company, the Davis Steel Platform Grain Binder. It is as superior to all the old machines as electric illumination is ahead of tallow candles. It has been in use for the past three years in Illinois and Indiana, and has been a wonderful success. It is so simple in construction that anybody can run it. It has very little elevation. There is a complete separation of bundles

and no threshing out of grain. It was tried at the Benson farm and at the Casselton mill, and every farmer who saw it operate expressed himself as so well satisfied that he was bound to have one of these improved machines next season. Its introduction will effect a complete revolution in the work of harvesting. The Davis machine will as surely supplant the McCormick and the Deering as these supplanted the crude implements of a generation or two ago. No doubt thousands of these machines will be sold here in Dakota next year. Had it been introduced here last spring, there would have been such a demand for it that the house would have been crowded to its utmost capacity to turn out machines fast enough.—*North Dakota Republican*, Casselton, N. D., Sept. 6, 1889.

A MINNESOTA OPINION.

A representative of the *HERALD* had an opportunity Friday of witnessing some work done by the Davis Platform Binder on the farm of Wm. Calbert at Minnesota City. It would be useless to underrate the work now done by other binders in the market as the inventions and improvements made during the last twenty-five years are on record and have become a portion of our history of farming industries. The improvements of the Davis Platform Binder over others are so great that we must make special mention of them. In the first place there is no elevation to this machine and it does away with the draft and side draft usually found on elevator Binders. The portion of Mr. Calbert's farm, on which the work was done, is hilly and newly broken and under any circumstances would prove a severe test to any machine, yet the binder passed over the ground easily, doing the most perfect work without any strain upon the two horses, which is all required to do the work. Another important feature of the Davis Platform Binder is the simplicity with which the canvas can be loosened and tightened at will, thereby saving the necessity of removing them every night after work in case of rain. There is also a saving in the expense of the canvases, as they do not require to be renewed every two or three years at a cost of fourteen or fifteen dollars and the general saving on extras used on other machines is worthy of consideration.—*Winona Herald*.

"FARM MACHINERY."

The publishers of *Farm Machinery*, of St. Louis, the leading implement journal of the Southwest, reprinted the editorial of September 7th., from the *Ohio Farmer* in their October, 1889, number, under the heading "The Coming Binder," introducing the article editorially as follows :

A host of dealers and farmers will rejoice at an opportunity to see the new Davis Platform Binder at the Big Fair. Its advent has been long looked for. Its praises have been heralded far and wide. All that could

be produced in time to reach the field this year were sold. Almost universal satisfaction has been the verdict. The testimonials are the strongest possible. They come from every side. Even old binder experts who sunk fortunes seeking the same goal and are now out of the business, add their good words of approval to those of hundreds of others, and give us the title to this article. It has never been our privilege to see the machine, much less to see it work, so by the way of introduction by more favored hands, we copy from that standard authority, *The Ohio Farmer*, which has watched every step in the progress of the new company and its pet with a jealous eye.

FARMERS' TESTIMONIALS.

Below will be found an array of evidence that cannot fail to convince the most skeptical of the complete triumph of the Davis Binder in the harvest of 1889. These testimonials come exclusively from practical farmers and machine men, who, either as users or spectators, witnessed the operations of our machines in the field during the past harvest season, and every testimonial was voluntarily offered, without thought of reciprocal favors, either past, present or prospective.

They tell their own story clearly and conclusively, and we are quite willing to "rest our case" on the evidence without "plea" or comment:

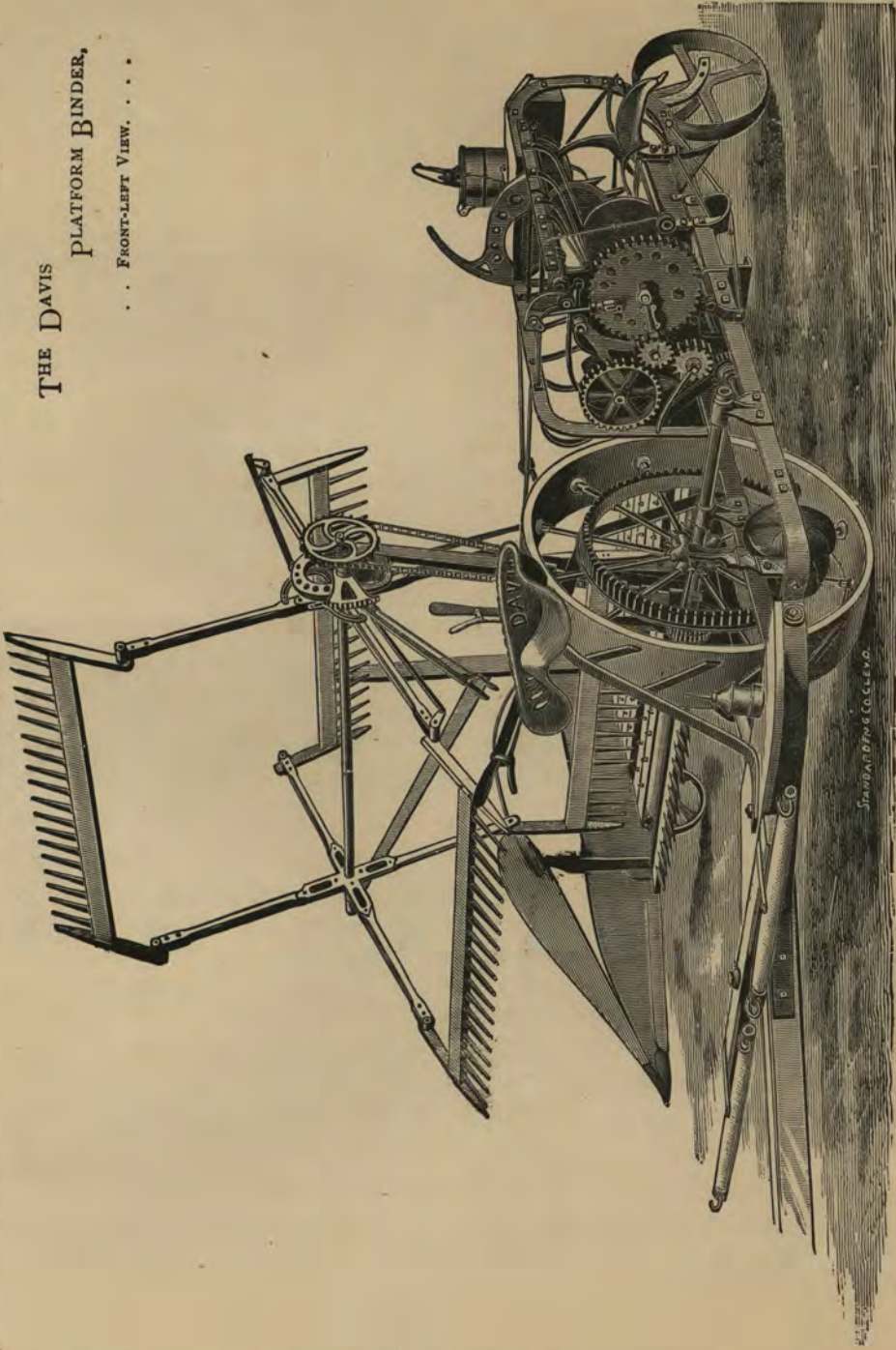
W. CALBICK, Minnesota City, Minn., says:—I have been running one of your Binders this season and know it will take the lead.

JOHN WRIGHT, E. BOYD, AND J. E. BOYD, Brecksville, O.:—We saw the Davis work in bad, green oats, and we are all satisfied it will do the business with two horses where the elevators use three.

HIRAM CROXTON, C. M. CRAIN, PETER ZIMMER, EDGAR FIELD, M. F. ROSE, G. R. POWERS, JOHN WHISLER, N. E. SICKLES, J. B. HOFF, C. N. DELANCY, CAL. SMILEY AND A. S. HALE, Angola, Ind.:—We witnessed to-day the work of the Davis Platform Binder, easily drawn by a pair of medium-sized horses, and the work was done in an excellent and satisfactory manner.

F. E. WELTON, Peninsula, O.:—I cut some very heavy oats with your machine yesterday. They were down, and in very bad shape, but I got them all up nicely. It did extra good work; better than I expected it could do.

THE DAVIS
PLATFORM BINDER,
... FRONT-LEFT VIEW. ...



A. B. SCRIBNER, Napoleon, O.:—I am glad to report that the Davis Binder is a grand success here, and think it has come to stay. We tried it in heavy, down wheat, and it picked the grain up in good shape and took care of it splendidly.

LATER.—We cut in badly tangled oats to-day and found the Davis all O. K. It does splendid work. We are greatly elated over the good execution in trying places.

GARLINGHOUSE BROS., Tecumseh, Mich.:—Both machines are working finely and we cut lodged wheat yesterday that the Wood machine had left. The Davis Platform Binder is a "daisy" and stands at the front here over all other machines.

H. KELLOGG, Hudson, Mich.:—The Platform Binder started in big, down wheat and did its work without a fault. It has been operated so far with two light horses, apparently with no more work than drawing a mower. It is a surprise to all to see the excellent work and the ease with which it cuts, binds and separates the grain. The Davis is the queen of the harvest, and will be crowned with superiority over all other binders.

A. T. MURRAY, Middletown, O.:—I sold one of your Platform Binders to one of our best farmers, and he is satisfied with its work beyond his expectations. I fully endorse all that has been said in its favor and am sure it is the coming machine, on account of doing away entirely with the elevation of the grain, doing fully as good work in every respect and with very much lighter draft than any elevator binder.

H. C. PINNEY, Norwalk, O.:—I have this day witnessed the work of your Platform Binder in a field of very heavy, partially green oats, and have backed up my opinion of the same by paying your agent \$155 for it.

A. J. STENGER, Antwerp, O.:—I have used the Davis Binder for my entire harvest of wheat and oats, and it did splendid work. A number of farmers witnessed the exhibition and pronounced it the lightest running machine they had seen, doing equally as good work.

W. F. BENNEHOFF, Bellevue, O.:—I am well pleased with the work of your Binder. I can cut a cleaner swath and do better work than I can with my elevated binder.

A. JAQUA, O. M. HAWES, THOS. MILLER, ELERY MILLER, and J. H. HAWES, Norwalk, O.:—We to-day witnessed the working of your Platform Binder on the

farm of Thos. Miller in a field of very heavy lodged oats, some of them quite green, and can unhesitatingly say that for light draft, close cutting and nice, compact bundles, both in down and standing grain, we think this Binder cannot be excelled by any binder on the market.

GEO. M. BOWEN, Hicksville, O.:—I took a Davis Platform Binder on trial, and can say it is a complete surprise to me, doing better work than I supposed any binder could do, taking into consideration the condition of the ground which was so soft in places that my horses would tramp in as deep as if it had been plowed, and the machine did its work neatly and without an accident, running light and giving perfect satisfaction in every respect.

J. D. CLUGSTON, LaGrange, Ind.:—We went out this afternoon to try your Binder in a field of very green rye. The machine cut a nice, clean swath, put grain into bundle in good shape and bound it nicely. The separation is complete. The machine was drawn by two light horses and it seemed like play for them to pull it. The machine handles very easily while in operation; is easily turned at corners; we could not discover any side draft; the reel does its part to perfection; in fact, I cannot see any room for improvement throughout the entire machine.

B. L. CLEVENGER, Gomer, O.:—I cut over fifty acres of wheat with the Davis Binder; had grain in all conditions—short, some five feet tall and so thick you could not see through it, with a great deal of it flat and badly lodged in every point of compass—it took up and delivered grain to Binder in an entirely satisfactory manner, much better than elevating. Separation of grain is complete, each sheaf being thrown off separately in lodged grain. The reel rake is most satisfactory in all conditions, especially in short or straw-broken grain. The spudded carrier belts and method of tightening and handling them are very much superior to the aprons. Raising and lowering grain end of platform is very useful, especially in down grain, and is easily and quickly done from the seat without stopping the machine. Easy to turn on corners; can cut up close to stumps and back easily; impossible to put any weight on horses' necks, and no side draft. It is strong, well built, little machinery, and a complete success. I have run reapers twenty-five years, and self-binders twelve years. The Davis is my choice.

P. F. BRUNSON, Eagletown, Ind.:—Last week I made a trip to your city on purpose to see the Davis Binder, and am pleased to say that I had the opportunity of seeing one at work in oats. It was doing excellent work and I think it the greatest grain and labor-saving machine that has ever been invented in this age of harvesting machinery.

R. GALLUP, Casselton, Dak.:—I went out to the Nyhurt farm on the 26th to see your Binder work in flax, after headers and apron machines had failed to

work. I was surprised to see Messrs. Anthony and Robinson attempt to cut and bind it, but I assure you they did it in a good, workman-like manner. Starting around a fifty-acre field, they cut, bound and separated every bundle without a skip or "bluff-up." I am free to say you have the coming machine, in my opinion.

J. M. CRISSINGER, Metz, Ind.:—I can cheerfully say your Binder worked beyond all expectation in every respect, bound nice bundles in rye and wheat, and left a nice, clean stubble. The machine stood the knocks like a little giant. We used two ordinary horses, and can say the machine runs as light as any ordinary reaper, rides as easy as a buggy and is the "queen of binders." For neatness and durability it has no equal on the market to-day. To our farmers we say, "take no other than the Davis Platform Binder."

JAMES SWANN, Upper Sandusky, O.:—I am harvesting with one of your Platform Binders purchased of your agents, Pontius and Juvinal. I am glad to say its work pleases me in every way, and the draft is fully as light as my champion mower. Your representatives have not exaggerated its good qualities, and I believe it is the coming harvester and binder.

JONAH CRITZ, Smithville, O.:—I saw your machine operate to-day in a heavy piece of oats, and was pleasantly surprised with its work. The machine was drawn by two horses. In many places the oats was matted with weeds, which the machine cut and bound as easily as ripe grain, which I never saw done with elevated machines. There will be many orders for machines next year, as the result of the work of this machine.

W. A. DUNCAN, Piqua, O.:—I bought one of your Platform Binders this season, and harvested my grain which was very heavy some of it being lodged and tangled, and I am pleased to inform you that I think it is much superior to any binder I ever used or saw run, on account of good work, light draft, ease of handling and doing away entirely with the elevation of the grain. We don't need a ladder to get on and off the machine. The Davis is a success sure.

THOMAS MCCALL, Bellefontaine, O.:—I purchased one of your machines this season, and it is the best machine I ever saw in the shape of a binder. Two horses are all that is necessary to run it. I cut by the side of a neighbor who had an elevator binder, the grain being badly down in both fields. My neighbor had to cut his all one way, while I cut around my field, and did a first-class job. The machine runs very light, handles easily,—to make a long story short, it is the machine for farmers to buy.

J. M. MITCHELL, Bellefontaine, O.:—One of your binders was placed on trial this year by F. D. Outland, agent, and I cut my harvest with it, to my entire satisfaction, with one span of horses, one of them being a colt three years old. The machine will run as easily with two horses as any elevated binder will with three. My oats was badly down, but the Davis Binder did good, clean work. I can recommend this Binder to farmers who need a harvester. It will do all it is represented to do.

RALPH JAMES, Parma, O.:—I purchased one of your Binders this season, and at the commencement of my trial was completely disgusted, so much so that I wanted to throw up my contract. I reported the same to the company, and they sent me an expert, who adjusted the binder without adding to or taking anything from it, and I then finished my harvest of twenty-two acres, without making a skip, and to my entire satisfaction. I hauled the binder with a pair of horses not weighing over two thousand pounds, with ease, and my grain was heavy and down. I heartily recommend the Davis to all who need binders.

J. G. ROBERTS, Tecumseh, Mich.:—One of my neighbors bought one of your Platform Binders this season. It was something new, and attracted a good deal of attention. It proved to do its work well. They tried it on my farm in badly lodged and tangled wheat, and it cut and divided the bundles, best of any machine I ever saw. I have no hesitation in recommending it as one of the best and most complete harvesters I ever saw.

R. M. and A. R. BOYD, Tecumseh, Mich.:—We are pleased to inform you that we think you have made a big stride forward in harvesting machinery, as we have demonstrated here with one of your Platform Binders. We can do fully as good work and make a better separation of grain, without the cumbersome machinery and power necessary to elevate grain. We cheerfully recommend it to any farmer and say, "if you want an improved harvester and binder, buy the Davis Platform."

O. H. BEACH, Adrian, Mich.:—I have used the Davis Binder, and think it does better work in lodged grain than any elevator binder in use. It is lighter in draft, and easily managed. I would recommend it to all who wish to buy binders.

HIELMER GRIFFIN, Fitchville, O.:—I started one of your Platform Binders in green oats to-day. The machine draws light for two horses. Missed one bundle in cutting four times around an eight-acre field. I have settled for the machine.

J. L. HIBBARD, Fitchville, O.:—I watched the operation of your Platform Binder on H. Griffin's farm to-day and am well pleased with same—light draft for two horses, bound well and is easily handled.

M. MAEDY, Milan, O.:—I used your six-foot Platform Binder in a field of oats and can certify it did as nice work as any binder I ever saw. (Geo. Hart and G. L. Sands signed the above as spectators.)

JACOB KURTZ, I. W. DOWLING, L. J. REECE, B. M. REECE, W. F. HURR, JAC. B. KERR AND D. L. BULHARARD, Bucyrus, O.:—We have witnessed the operations of the Davis Platform Binder on the farm of Wesley Neff, near Martel, Marion Co., O., sold by Diller & Hurr, and can certify that it performed its work well, accurately and successfully. It is a triumph, a king among binders.

WILLIAM BRAYTON, Carey, O.:—I purchased one of your Harvesters and Binders this season and did my harvesting very easily for my team and in first-class shape. My oats were very heavy and badly lodged and the machine picked them up clean. I think you have the coming machine, which will take the place of the elevator binders.

J. W. NEFF, Martel, O.:—I bought one of your Platform Binders of your agents, Diller & Hurr, at Bucyrus, and have cut about 75 acres of wheat and oats badly tangled. I find the Davis the lightest draft harvester I have ever seen, and it stays on top of the ground when so soft other binders could not live a moment, and it does its work. I believe that your machine will revolutionize the mode of harvesting and can cheerfully recommend your Binder to any who want a first-class light running machine for two horses.

WERNER BROS., West Mecca, O.:—We purchased one of your Platform Binders for the harvest of 1889. It went through the harvest splendidly, doing its work easily with two horses, weighing not over ten hundred each. We did not change teams, using them right along during the day, cutting on an average of one acre per hour. This Binder surpasses anything we have ever seen in lightness of draft, both in lodged grain and on soft and uneven ground and in turning at the corner, and in passing narrow gateways we do not need to go to the extra trouble of transferring it to trucks, as it will pass through an eleven-foot gate without any trouble. It also excels any machine we ever saw crossing deep dead furrows. Instead of the weight of binder and driver being thrown upon the necks of the horses it is the exact opposite, as the pole is loose and acts independently, the same as a farm wagon pole. There is no apparent wear upon the machinery and to all appearances it will surpass anything as to durability. In conclusion will say words are inadequate to express our appreciation of the merits of this machine and simply say "Eureka."

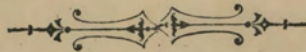
GEO. LYMAN, Conneaut, O.:—I take pleasure in saying that through the kindness of W. H. Durkee, of Monroe, I had the privilege of cutting about four acres of

oats. They were on very mellow, sandy ground and a horse would sink in nearly fetlock deep, but the size of your drive wheel and the small amount of gearing enabled me to handle the machine with two four-year-old colts. As for the quality of work the Davis can't be beat.

W. J. HOWARD, Monroe, O.:—This is to certify that I used one of your Binders to cut a field of wheat and also a field of oats, and was fully satisfied with the work done by the same. My wheat field had some very heavy ditches in it, but your Binder went over them in splendid shape. I handled the machine with a pair of horses that would not weigh over nine or ten hundred each with perfect ease. Any one that wants a binder that will suit them had better try the Davis before buying any other kind. That is what I intend to do.

G. B. WATSON, Conneaut, O.:—At the request of your agent, (W. H. Durkee, of Monroe) I used one of your Binders to cut my oats with last season. The oats were very heavy and tall and badly lodged in places. A portion of them were also filled with an immense growth of Canada thistles, but under all of these disadvantages your Binder did the business in a workman-like manner and with at least one horse less draft than any other binder I ever saw. In conclusion I will say that I am satisfied that your Binder is bound to drive all elevator binders out of existence. SUCCESS TO THE DAVIS.

A. E. HURD, Bennett's Corners, O.:—I harvested about fifty acres with one of your Platform Binders this season and am pleased to inform you it is the most perfect working, lightest draft Harvester and Binder I ever saw in the field. The Reel picks up the lodged grain perfectly. No shelling out the grain as it does with the elevator binders, and the farmers all say it is just the machine they have been looking for and is sure to take the place of the elevator binders.



ACTUAL CASH SAVED.

By using a Davis Binder a farmer will save enough in actual cash, in from two to three years, to pay for his machine.

He saves the interest on the value of one horse and the cost of keeping it, besides the wear and tear of an extra harness.

He saves the value of one bushel of grain for every acre of his harvest.

He saves the difference in the expense of keeping in repair a heavy, complicated machine and a binder several hundred pounds lighter and with less than one-half as many parts. (This is especially noticeable in the cost of renewing every season the expensive elevator aprons, which are not used at all by the Davis Binder.)

He saves a large amount of uncut grain that an elevator binder cannot pick up (where badly lodged), and that a Davis Binder, with its reel-rake, is perfectly adapted to secure.

He saves from two to three inches of cord for every bundle his machine binds.

He saves a vast amount of worry, impatience and delay, and a careful reading of this catalogue will show many other ways in which he saves money, directly or indirectly. All of the above statements are fully explained and verified elsewhere in this publication.

SOME PERTINENT HISTORY.

Our friends who have read the catalogue issued last year, will pardon us for reprinting a portion of the matter appearing in 1889, but, as there are some facts heretofore recited, with which we wish all of our new friends in 1890 to be conversant, we think it advisable to reproduce for their benefit a part of last year's catalogue.

The *Cleveland Leader*, of May 26, 1888, in an able and exhaustive review of the methods now in vogue for harvesting grain, has the following brief, but clear and comprehensive paragraph, which we take the liberty of quoting :

“ Without undue disparagement of the binders now in the market, it is nevertheless a well-known fact that all elevated binders are necessarily more or less cumbersome affairs, requiring three and four horses to operate them easily, but they have performed a wonderful work and will occupy an enviable place in the history of this century of marvellous inventive achievements; they were so far in advance of the old method of binding by hand that the farmers hailed their advent with delight, and

their annual manufacture has now reached the stupendous number in this country alone of nearly 200,000 machines. But having secured a self-binder, it was then but a few years until the cry went up from the tillers of the soil for a machine that would not kill their horses by the heavy draft that was unavoidable with the complicated and cumbersome machinery necessarily entering into the construction of an elevated binder. It was finally agreed that the only way to overcome these difficulties was to dispense entirely with the elevation of the grain, which is carried up five feet or more above the platform, and to simplify the whole operation of binding by confining it to mechanism located on a level with the platform on which the grain falls when cut."

The Davis Binder complies to the letter with this view, and, in addition to the important fact that it does not elevate the grain above the platform, either before or after binding, it is far superior in many other vital points to any and all of the binders now in the market.

It is a complete departure from the old plan of construction, and its fundamental principles are entirely independent of all the elements entering into the Appleby, Wood and all other machines.

Farmers and agricultural implement dealers are well aware of the fact that for six years there has been the most indefatigable effort on the part of manufacturers, with unlimited means and the highest order of inventive talent at their disposal, to produce a harvester on the platform binder principle, and it is a fact equally well known that, with one exception, absolute failure has been the result.

This leads very naturally to the skeptical query, "How could one inventor, with comparatively small means, meet with success in this venture, while scores of others, with practically exhaustless resources, have been doomed to failure and disappointment?"

A word of explanation will answer the question clearly and to the satisfaction of any unbiased mind.

In 1879 about 150,000 elevated wire binders were made and sold in this country alone, and it was without question a wonderful machine in comparison with its predecessors, reducing the cost of harvesting grain more than one-half. But the wire was objectionable for various reasons that need not be outlined, as every farmer is familiar with them.

For some time, Jno. F. Appleby and H. A. Holmes, two men whose names will be accorded most exalted places on the monument of harvesting fame, had been at work on contrivances for tying cord by machinery. In 1880 their inventions

for binding grain with cord tied by metal fingers were given to the public, and farmers welcomed the elevated cord binder with such enthusiasm that in 1881 there was not a wire binder made throughout the length and breadth of the land.

The *ne plus ultra* in harvesting machinery had been attained, inventors were sent on a vacation, and manufacturers went to work in dead earnest to reap a financial harvest in the manufacture of elevated twine binders.

It, however, was not long before murmurs arose from the agricultural districts because of the heavy draft of the binders, due to their weight and complicated mechanism, and before the close of the harvest of 1881, John S. Davis, who had been inventing and manufacturing mowers and reapers for twenty-five years, set out to overcome these and many other difficulties necessarily attributes of the elevator binder.

After two years of the closest study and most laborious effort, he evolved the foundation plan upon which to build a binder that would throw away the entire elevating machinery and confine the whole binding mechanism to the level of the platform.

The issuance of a number of his patents had then begun to attract the attention of elevator binder manufacturers, their inventors and mechanical experts were recalled from their furloughs, and all hands were put vigorously to work to get up a platform binder.

Fortunes were expended and every possible means applied to the work, but dismal failure was the universal result. Why?

Mr. Davis had a two years' start in the Patent Office, and, as his patents broadly covered the only available basis for the construction of a practical platform binder, the doors were thus effectually barred against all other inventors.

All kinds of plans were followed, but, one after another, the efforts were abandoned, and elevator binder men finally united in declaring the platform binder idea a failure, and devoted all their energies to reducing the weight and height of their machines, but necessarily retaining all of the old features which occasioned the heavy draft and the innumerable other disadvantages that are absolutely inseparable from the elevator plan of building harvesting machinery.

In the meantime, Mr. Davis, by the most patient toil and the expenditure of a large amount of money, successfully reduced his machine to practice, and we now have a binder that weighs several hundred pounds less than any other successful binder made, will handle longer, shorter, heavier and more tangled grain (with complete separation of bundles) than any machine in the market, absolutely avoiding

threshing out grain, can be operated day after day through an entire harvest by a team no heavier than is required to handle a light reaper, and more easily than three horses will handle any other binder in the market, and which has very many other advantages that are outlined in detail in this catalogue.

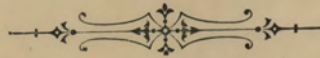
OUR PATENTS.

The patents of the Davis Platform Binder Co., the inventions of Mr John S. Davis, represent an investment of nearly a hundred thousand dollars, and so broadly do their claims cover all essential devices entering into the construction of Platform Binders, that we think it practically impossible to produce any other Platform Binder to compete with ours for the honors of the harvest field. Mr. Davis has been constantly employed for nearly 30 years in the invention and manufacture of mowers and reapers, that are most favorably known over this entire country, and the reception that is being accorded this binder is another most flattering testimonial to his inventive talent and mechanical ability

Appended is a list of Mr. Davis' patents on harvesting machinery, the first one having issued in 1865. Patents on new devices are now being taken out at the rate of about one a month.

DATE.	TITLE.
Aug. 22, 1865.	Harvesting machine.
Oct. 31, 1865.	Harvesting machine.
Mar. 10, 1868.	Harvesting machine.
May 20, 1873.	Harvesting machine.
Jan. 10, 1882.	Grain Carrier.
July 4, 1882.	Grain Binding Mechanism.
July 25, 1882.	Grain Binder.
July 25, 1882.	Grain Binder.
Nov. 7, 1882.	Clutch.
Jan. 30, 1883.	Harvester.
Feb. 13, 1883.	Harvester.
Feb. 13, 1883.	Harvester.
Mar. 30, 1883.	Grain Binder.
Apr. 3, 1883.	Grain Binding Harvester.
May 22, 1883.	Harvester Reel.

DATE.	TITLE.
June 5, 1883.	Band-securing Mechanism for Grain Binder.
July 31, 1883.	Band-securing Mechanism for Grain Binder.
Aug. 28, 1883.	Gavelling Mechanism.
Sept. 25, 1883.	Grain Carrier for Harvester.
May 27, 1884.	Harvester.
July 8, 1884.	Band-securing Mechanism for Grain Binder.
Oct. 14, 1884.	Double Crank.
Jan. 27, 1885.	Mechanism for Actuating Grain Binder
Feb. 24, 1885.	Grain Binding Harvester.
June 16, 1885.	Band-securing Mechanism for Grain Binder
Aug. 16, 1887.	Harvester.
June 5, 1888.	Harvester.
Aug. 28, 1888.	Packing Mechanism for Grain Binder
Aug. 28, 1888.	Harvester.
Sept. 18, 1888.	Reel Support for Harvester.
Nov. 13, 1888.	Grain-binding Harvester Frame.
Apr. 9, 1889.	Band-securing Mechanism for Grain Binder
June 11, 1889.	Grain Binder.
July 23, 1889.	Grain Conveyor for Harvester.
Aug. 6, 1889.	Carrier-belts for Harvester.
Oct. 15, 1889.	Band-securing Mechanism.
Dec. 3, 1889.	Grain Binder.
Dec. 17, 1889.	Grain Binder.
Jan. 20, 1890.	Starting Mechanism for Grain Binders.



POINTS OF EXCELLENCE.

THE CHIEF POINT

Of superiority is unquestionably the fact that we absolutely dispense with all elevation of the grain, either before or after binding. The grain falls on the platform, glides smoothly in the rear of and across the path of the drive-wheel into the binding receptacle at the end of the platform, is bound and the bundle discharged, the grain at no time being more than *nine inches* above the stubble, the binding receptacle being provided with a gently inclining steel spring bottom which raises the grain gradually about four inches above the platform belts, to enable an easy and clear discharge of the bundle.

It would be impossible to delineate a tithe of the advantages such a method of handling grain possesses over the cumbersome machinery that elevates the grain four to five feet, between friction aprons, over a structure whose weight on the scales is not less than five hundred pounds, and whose complicated mechanism adds from one to one and a half horses to the draft.

We could fill a volume with this feature of our machine alone, but are content to make but this brief statement, knowing that the plain, naked fact will itself speak volumes in its own praise to the mind of any man in the slightest degree familiar with the operations of a harvesting machine in a field of grain.

SEPARATION COMPLETE.

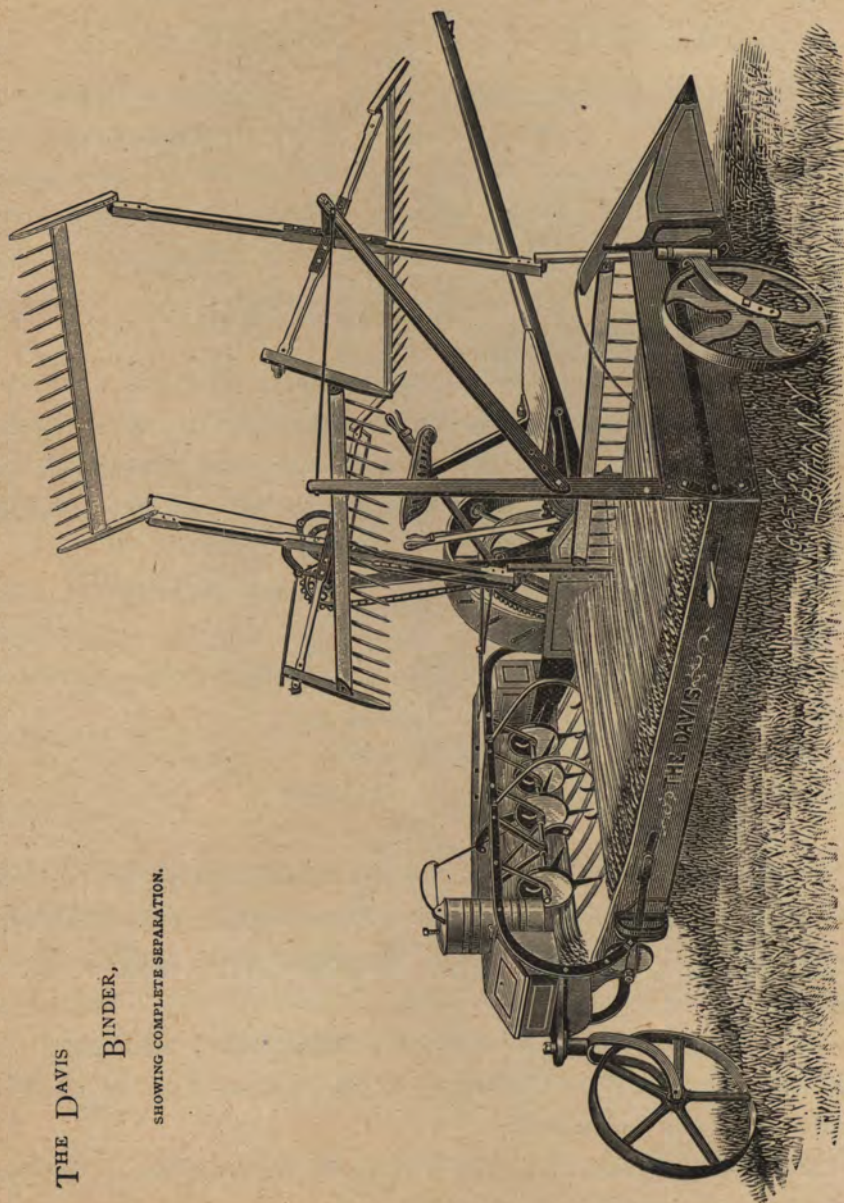
A most vital requisite in the construction of a Platform Binder (or any other, for that matter), must necessarily be some means for separating the incoming grain from the bundle being bound. Elevator binder men, apparently losing sight of the fact that their machines make no separation at all, and that a very common occurrence is the hanging together of several of their bundles, have a dismal story to tell about the impracticability of the platform binder idea, because of the impossibility of separating the grain on the platform.

The Davis Binder makes a *separation of nearly three feet* between the grain on the platform and the grain in the binding receptacle.

After the series of continuously running spudded platform belts have carried sufficient grain into the binder to form a bundle, and the binding mechanism,

THE DAVIS
BINDER,

SHOWING COMPLETE SEPARATION.



automatically tripped by the bundle, begins to operate, its first work is to raise to an upright position between the belts six cut-off arms about twelve inches long, which are fastened to a shaft located in the platform beneath the belts, thus effectually arresting the stream of moving grain on the platform until the bundle is bound and discharged, when they drop back to their hidden position in the platform and allow enough grain for another bundle to go into the binder.

During the operation of binding the continuously revolving rotary packers, in connection with the spudded belts beneath, gather every spear of grain within the compass of the needle-arm, so that the latter descends in *an absolutely clear space* to pass the cord around the bundle, unlike the elevator binder whose needle-arm pierces the stream of moving grain. By actual measurement there is invariably a space of two feet and eight inches between the grain on the platform and the bundle in the binder absolutely free from straw.

This is a feature of incalculable benefit in many ways, and would furnish material in itself for a second volume, but the mere statement that we make a *complete separation*, something that no other machine pretends to accomplish, is sufficient to impress its importance upon anyone understanding the necessities of the harvest field.

A MOST WONDERFUL FEATURE

Of the Davis Binder, and the only invention of the kind ever put on a grain binder, is its REEL RAKE. One of the most serious difficulties to be overcome in the construction of a harvesting machine is to adapt it to handling with equal facility all of the various kinds and conditions of grain. After many years of observation and experience in the field, Mr. Davis conceived the idea of attaching rakes to the ordinary reel arms in place of the usual "blade" or "bat," and so constructed as to "dump" at any point in front of or above the platform that the driver may elect, and it is no exaggeration to say that this one invention overcomes more obstacles than any other one improvement in the harvesting line. By the manipulation of a light lever within easy reach, the driver adjusts his reel rake to handle the shortest grain ever bound by a machine, and in one second he can change it to lay in the proper place on the platform the longest straw ever grown in the most fertile soil. He has a scope of about two feet for adjusting his band; or, to be more explicit, he can put a band around the sheaf within six inches of the butts, or at any greater distance up to two feet and six inches. Any boy old enough to drive a team, and with strength

enough to lift six ounces on a lever, can operate the rakes while the machine is in motion, and so place his grain on the platform that the cord will be tied around every bundle at a uniform distance from the butts. This, any farmer can readily see, is immeasurably superior to the complicated and cumbersome "shifting binder" of the elevator type of harvesters, which is limited in its scope to a maximum of eight inches.

Another very important function of the reel rake is its adaptability to handle "down" and tangled grain. Every man who has seen an elevator binder at work knows that tangled grain falls on its platform in great confusion, and that the straws in the bound bundle are no straighter than they were when thrown on to the platform. Butt-guides will even the butts of straight grain, but they are powerless to bring order out of the chaos of tangled grain. We challenge any man to produce a field of grain that the Davis Binder cannot harvest better and make every sheaf straighter and more symmetrical than can be done by any other binder.

An elevator binder reel is five to six feet in diameter, and if grain is down, tangled or short, it cannot touch it; the Davis reel rake is eight feet in diameter, and can be adjusted to reach far ahead of the cutter-bar and comb the grain out straight before the cutter-bar reaches it.

The Davis Platform Binders have harvested many hundred acres of as badly lodged grain as a machine was ever put into, and, without a single exception, left the stubble as closely cut as could be done with a mower, and the field as free from scatterings as would have been the case had the grain stood up straight.

Any farmer can readily see that this device provides a remedy for many of the most annoying and most disastrous evils attending the use of the elevator binder.

Operating in close sympathy with the reel-rake in the straightening of grain is the series of

SPUDDED CARRIER BELTS.

These consist of eight belts, three inches wide, running over one roller at the extreme grain end of the platform and another at the extreme stubble side of the binder. They are provided with malleable spuds, one inch high and placed eight inches apart, which enables them to readily move the grain toward the binder. If by any possible circumstance the rakes have failed to straighten all of the grain before it falls on the platform, these continuously moving belts carry it against the cut-offs, so that by the time the bundle being bound is discharged every straw on the

platform that will be a part of the next bundle is straightened, and the result is a thoroughly symmetrical bundle. The heads of the grain are thus saved the inevitable "crushing" that an elevator binder inflicts upon tangled grain, and the plumpest, finest kernels are saved for the market instead of being scattered along the ground.

Right here we want to call attention a little more fully to this subject that appeals with peculiar force to every farmer's pocket, the

THRESHING OUT OF GRAIN

By the grain harvester. There is no disputing the fact that the more you handle ripe grain the larger will be the percentage of kernels threshed out and lost. We have just noticed the loss incident to the binding of grain without first straightening it. This is serious enough, but a still more potent factor of loss of this character, and one that applies with about equal force to straight grain, is the system of elevation by all binders of the elevator type.

The grain is carried by elevated binders four feet or more above the platform between two canvas aprons. How?

Solely by friction.

Imagine the effect of "crunching" ripe grain between two unbroken surfaces, which must necessarily press it very tight in order to carry it up at all. How is it possible to subject ripe grain to such an ordeal without shelling out and losing a very large percentage of its best kernels?

This evil is so patent, and has caused so much complaint, that elevator binder men have actually begun to devise some means to catch the grain they thresh out in the act of binding.

We have their own statement to the effect that *the loss is not less than a bushel to the acre*, as will be seen by the following paragraph, which appears in the catalogue for 1888 of the Milwaukee Harvester Co., in describing their "grain-saving attachment:"

"Experience has shown that there is a large percentage of loss caused by the threshing out of ripe grain with all machines. We have, therefore, devised this plan for saving all the grain usually wasted in binding. The amount lost on the average farm is astonishing, and hardly to be believed, unless one has had the good fortune to use our Grain Saving Attachment one season, thereby acquiring the knowledge; but it is a well proven fact that in cutting wheat of the usual ripeness, one bushel per acre can easily be saved, and that of the very best quality, as the plumpest and heaviest grain shells out the easiest.

In all cases, the amount required for seeding the land can be taken out of the receiver. This is one of the most important inventions for harvesting machines since we built the first successful Binder. It will, in cutting one harvest, save the entire expense of team, driver, and twine, and return to the user the seed necessary to sow for another crop."

The most conclusive evidence against a criminal is his voluntary confession, and here we have the voluntary confession of an elevator binder manufacturer that machines of the elevator type *waste enough grain to pay for the entire expense of harvesting, and in addition to pay for the cost of seeding the next year.*

As a substitute for this dismal picture, what does the Davis Platform Binder offer? Simply this: from the time the grain is cut till the discharge of the bundle there is absolutely no undue compression on any portion of the straw, except when the knot is being tied, and then the pressure is wholly on the middle of the stalk and has no effect upon the head.

Let us return to the carrier belts and note another important saving to the farmer, for which they directly deserve the credit.

An examination of an elevator binder will disclose the fact that between the end of the platform apron and the beginning of the elevator apron there is a space of from two to four inches, and any casual observer of an elevator binder at work in the field will see a constant wasting of straw through this wide space. Individual straws will not only scatter out, but frequently a veritable "rope" of grain will form and trail out behind the machine.

The carrier belts used on the Davis Binder entirely prevent this serious waste, in the fact that they extend clear under the binding receptacle, and every straw that falls on the platform is positively carried into the binder and cannot leave the machine except as part of a bound bundle.

These carrier belts, by their perfect construction, play an important part in contributing to the lightness of draft for which the Davis Binder is noted. We

DISPENSE ENTIRELY WITH BUCKLES,

Fastening the ends of a belt together with malleable iron clamps, securely bolted together and rising above the surface of the belt to the same height of the spuds, one inch. This secures a perfectly smooth surface for the under side of the belt and enables it to pass over the rollers where its ends are joined together with as much ease as at any other point. Thus, it will be seen that the belts can be operated with very much less tension than if buckles were used, as the tension must necessarily be

very taut to pull the buckles and thick, stiff straps over the small rollers that are used in all machines.

Another reason for the need of excessive tautness of the platform apron of an elevator binder is because of the power necessary to force grain between the elevator aprons sufficiently to enable them to get a firm hold of it. In our construction, as soon as the carrier belts have carried the grain within reach of the packer fingers, they push it along the gently inclining steel springs into the binding receptacle, thus allowing the belts to pass on around the roller without the necessity of using power to get rid of their load of grain at its destination.

A little reflection upon this point will readily disclose to any farmer that this has a much more important bearing upon the matter of draft than would appear at first sight.

In this connection we wish to call special attention to our device for

TIGHTENING AND LOOSENING

Our belts. As stated, we use no buckles, and this simple statement means much to a farmer, who, after a hard day's work, has tugged for half an hour to loosen the buckles of his elevator binder aprons; or, if he neglects to do so at night, works twice as long in the morning to unbuckle his canvas, which the dew or rain has shrunk so tight that the buckles will not pass around the rollers at all without tearing the canvas.

It takes just one second, and no more, to loosen the Davis carrier belts at the end of a day's work, and the same length of time in the morning to tighten them.

The roller at the grain end of the platform is journaled in a frame that can be moved back and forth in a groove by a lever extending through the rear side of the platform, and which fastens on a ratchet bolted to the platform. Thus it can be seen that "undogging" the lever and pushing it to the left loosens every belt instantly and at the same time, and by pressing it to the right it can be placed in any tooth of the ratchet in an instant and secure any tautness of the belts desired. In the morning the dew or rain will have caused some shrinking of the belts and they will need to be tightened but little, and, as the warmth of the sun dries and expands them, it is the work of but a moment to push the lever one or more notches and the slack is all taken up.

THE DAVIS BUTTOR

Is constructed and operated on the simplest, most practical plan of any butting device now in use. Its motion is imparted directly from the sprocket chain that runs the reel, and its mechanism is simplicity personified. It is so hinged as to secure an elliptical, or oblong movement, with just enough "patting" motion to even the butts, and then it moves onward in the direction the grain is traveling with an accelerated speed that hastens the butts toward the binding receptacle.

The position of the buttor is in perfect control of the driver, as, by means of a rod running along the lifting lever, he can instantly adjust it, in or out, to suit the requirements of the length of grain being handled.

THE LIFTING AND TILTING

Device of the Davis Binder challenges the world for simplicity and effectiveness. It consists of but one lever rigidly attached to the angle steel finger-beam and sliding up and down a wrought steel standard attached to the main axle. Without stopping his team the driver, *by lifting less than twenty pounds*, can place his cutter-bar to cut inch stubble or raise it to cut as high as may be desired for the tallest grain, at the same time *perfectly tilting the platform*.

It is only necessary for a farmer to compare this simple, instantaneous method of lifting and tilting in the same operation with the complex raising and lowering and tilting mechanism of an elevator binder to decide how far superior our system is to any ever before given to the public.

Another most essential element in this connection, and one entirely new to the harvester world, is the fact that the driver can, *without leaving his seat*,

RAISE AND LOWER THE OUTER END,

Independently of the inner end of the cutter bar. This is done by means of a wire cable running under the platform and attached to a lever placed on the main axle, that can be operated with the greatest ease by the driver from his seat. By this simple device either the grain wheel or the main wheel can run clear across the field in a furrow and the cutter-bar at the same time may be kept *at a uniform height from the ground at both ends*.

The great advantages of such an arrangement are too palpable to need elaborating.

Every feature of our machine outlined thus far is an entire innovation in the harvesting line and all of very great importance; one, however, that we think will not fail of the fullest appreciation is the fact that it has

A LOOSE TONGUE,

Like that of a wagon. No matter what the character of the surface of the ground, the team are as free from annoyance as if the binder were running over a smooth road.

It can readily be seen how the loose tongue prevents any strain or pressure, up or down, on the horses' necks when the binder is going up or down hill, thus avoiding chafing by the collar, a most harassing affliction that inevitably attends the use of a rigid tongue that all elevator binders must necessarily use.

There is absolutely

NO SIDE DRAFT,

Because there are three wheels instead of two, and the rear wheel is a castor wheel. If the grain wheel runs over a stone, or across a furrow, it is necessary for the rear wheel to castor before there is the slightest lateral movement by the tongue, and before the castoring is fully accomplished the grain wheel is over the obstruction. The castor wheel thus invariably *takes the entire shock* of side draft, and the grain-side horse is relieved from the severe thumps on the side that an elevator binder is continually worrying him with.

THE DAVIS KNOTTER

Is the *simplest*, and, at the same time, the *most positive knotter ever made*. It has *fewer pieces by one-half* than any other knotter, and every movement is of the most positive character. It is simply a marvel of mechanical perfection, and, all conditions being equal, it will tie more bundles in a given time than any other knotter in existence. It is essentially different from any other type of knotter, the old system having so many disadvantages that a much simpler, entirely new plan was adopted, and with the most gratifying results.

The Davis Knotter *will bind tighter and with less cord* than any other, and works with such ease that there is no perceptible increase in draft when the bundle is being bound.

As the Davis Knotter discharges the knot against the bundle, instead of two to

three inches away from it, as do the Appleby and Wood knotters, we can bind tighter and with far less compression, saving at least half a horse in draft and the cord and binding mechanism from undue strain.

THE MAIN FRAME,

As well as the wheel frame, is made entirely of steel and so braced and trussed that every part of the gear and other mechanism is rigidly held in its proper position.

In this connection we wish to call particular attention to a simple and substantial arrangement for keeping the drive-wheel gear

CONSTANTLY IN PROPER "MESH"

With the "bull" or spur pinion that runs the beveled gear, which drives the entire binding and cutting mechanism.

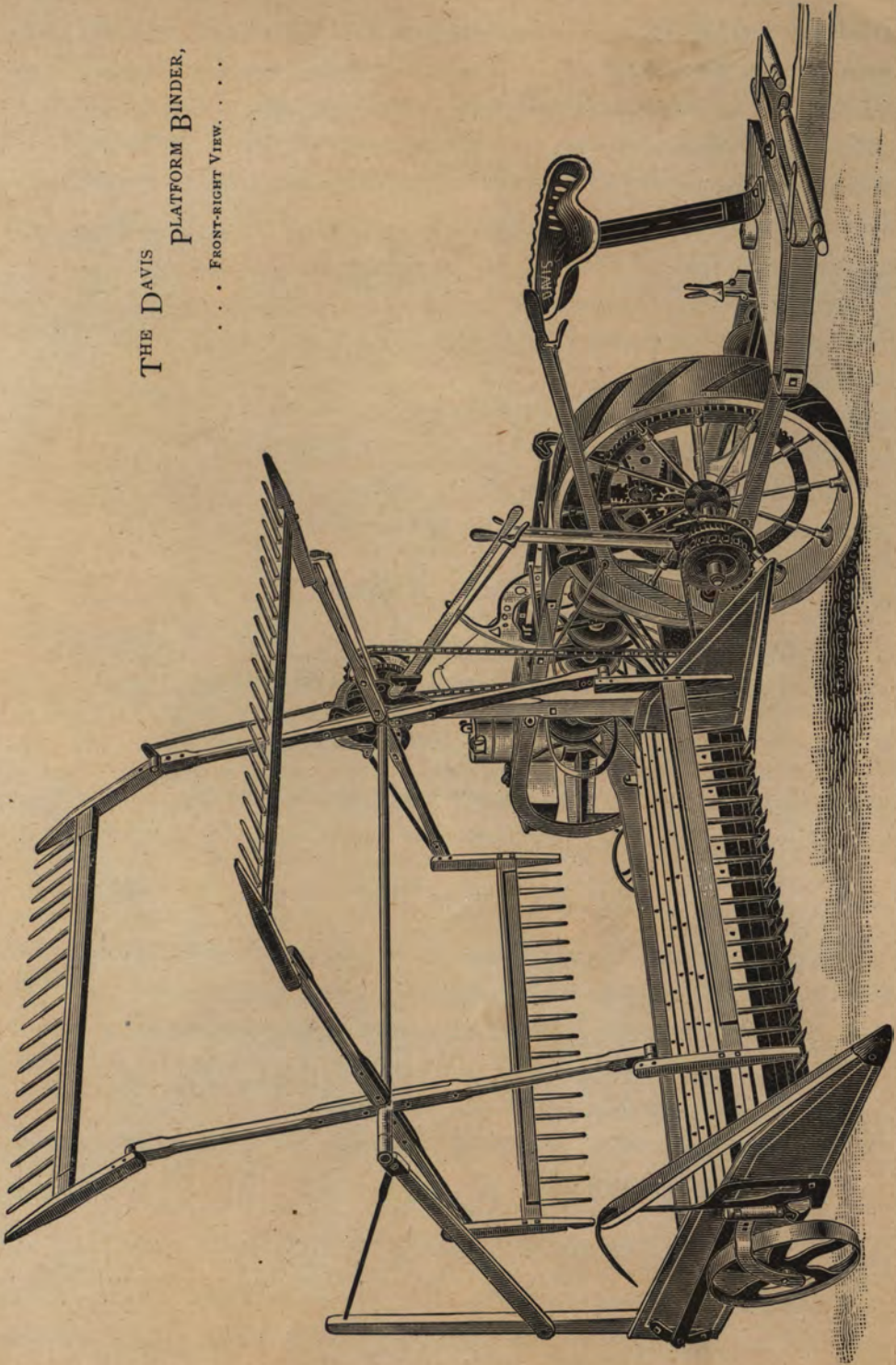
In all other binders the pole is attached to and pulls directly on the front of the wheel frame, in which is located the beveled gear and its "bull" pinion. As the wheel frame is more or less likely to spring, the result is a tendency to pull the "bull" pinion a little ahead of its normal position. At the same time, the entire resistance of the binder being centered in the main wheel, the tendency of this wheel is backward, and its "boxes" are gradually but surely worked backward from an upright position. The inevitable result is that the "bull" pinion and the gear on the drive-wheel, being constantly strained in opposite directions, are slowly separated, and the cogs coming in contact near the points will rapidly wear out. As the elevator binder people provide no means to remedy this serious difficulty, it soon becomes necessary for the farmer to get a new main wheel or a new "bull" pinion, or both.

We have guarded against such an annoying and expensive contingency, by a wonderfully simple yet very important arrangement.

We run a half-inch rod from each "box" in which the drive-wheel axle runs, to and through the front of the wheel frame at the points where the pole and pole brace are attached to this frame. *The strain is thus taken entirely off from the frame and placed directly on the main axle*, and the front bar of the wheel frame and the main drive-wheel axle are thus kept positively in the same relative positions, no matter how long the machine may be in use.

These two "tie" rods are provided with "jam" or "lock" nuts, thus enabling any farmer, with a wrench, to either separate or bring closer together the drive-

THE DAVIS
PLATFORM BINDER,
... FRONT-RIGHT VIEW. ...



wheel gear and the "bull" pinion, and he can thus regulate the depth of their "mesh" to the utmost nicety.

This may appear at first glance to be a very simple and ordinary device, and yet it is so entirely new and such an important invention, that the Patent Office has insured our monopoly of its use by granting us a very strong and broad patent on this construction.

THE DRIVE WHEEL

Is 40 inches in diameter, and 8 inches wide, thus insuring lightness of draft in very soft ground.

It is made of grey-iron hub and gear, which are cast around wrought-steel spokes, and the latter are securely fastened to a wooden rim, around which is bound a tire of the best steel, to which steel spuds are bolted, making a wheel combining beauty and lightness with the largest percentage of strength and durability.

THE CUTTING APPARATUS,

Consisting of angle steel cutter bar, with malleable guards lined with steel, is of the most improved type, and its capacity is equal to that of the best mowers.

THE MAIN GEAR SHAFT

Is so located as to drive the knife, carrier belts and the whole binding mechanism, so that one main shaft performs all the operation of cutting and binding the grain.

THE POSITION OF THE DRIVER

Is most convenient, the seat spring standard being placed on the rear of the tongue, in front of and to one side of the binder frame, where he can easily see and control the whole operation of his machine, and be within easy stepping distance of the ground. The levers are within easy reach of his right hand, and he is at the same time in a position to exercise the most perfect control over his team.

The Davis Binder *needs no "folding" apparatus* to permit its transportation about a farm, as it will pass readily

THROUGH ANY ELEVEN-FOOT GATE,

And it *needs no transportation trucks*, because it can be moved from place to place as easily as a common reaper, and requires no more room for storage when not in use.

The tongue even will not take up an inch of room on the barn floor, as it can be folded back over the machine without detaching.

Every working part depends entirely upon

STEEL AND MALLEABLE IRON,

Thus securing strength and durability with lightness.

Many other points of excellence can be enumerated, but we have already outlined enough, we think, to convince anyone that the elevator binder is not to be compared with this, the first and only successful platform binder in the world. *We have for seven successive harvests subjected the machine to the most severe tests of every character*, beginning with the early harvest in the South and following it north to Minnesota and Dakota. The experimental stage has long since been passed, and we present a binder perfect in its construction and operation.

WARRANTY.

Every machine is warranted to be well made, and of good materials, and to do good work with proper management when set up and operated as per printed directions. If, upon starting the machine, it should not work well, immediate written notice must be given to THE DAVIS PLATFORM BINDER CO., or the local agent from whom it was purchased, and reasonable time allowed to get to it and remedy the defects, if any, (the purchaser rendering necessary and friendly assistance); when if it cannot be made to do good work, it shall be returned, free of charge, to the place where received, and the payment of money or notes will be refunded. Failure to immediately give notice as above, or continued possession of the machine, whether it is kept in use or not, shall be deemed conclusive evidence that the machine fills the warranty. No one has any authority to add to, abridge or change this warranty in any manner.

We are very particular to have every part of our machines properly made, carefully adjusted, and every machine run with steam power before leaving the shop, but if through any carelessness, or defect in material, any part is not up to the highest standard, we will promptly repair the defect or reimburse the purchaser.

PRICE LIST.

Appended are the prices of our Binders, and agents are not permitted, under any circumstances, to deviate from them :

	CUT.	PRICE.
The Davis Steel Platform Binder,	6 feet 3 inches.	\$155.00
The Davis Steel Platform Binder,	5 feet 9 inches.	150.00

