

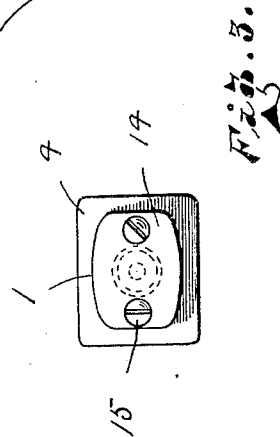
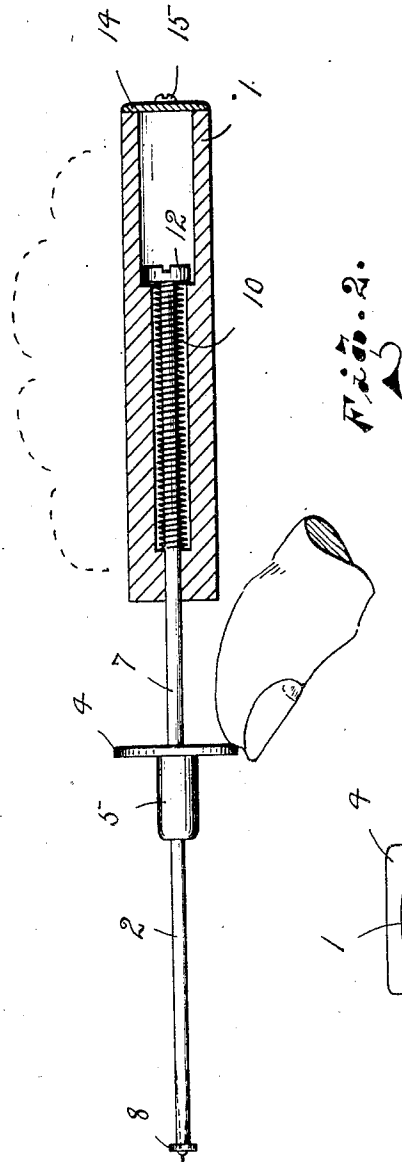
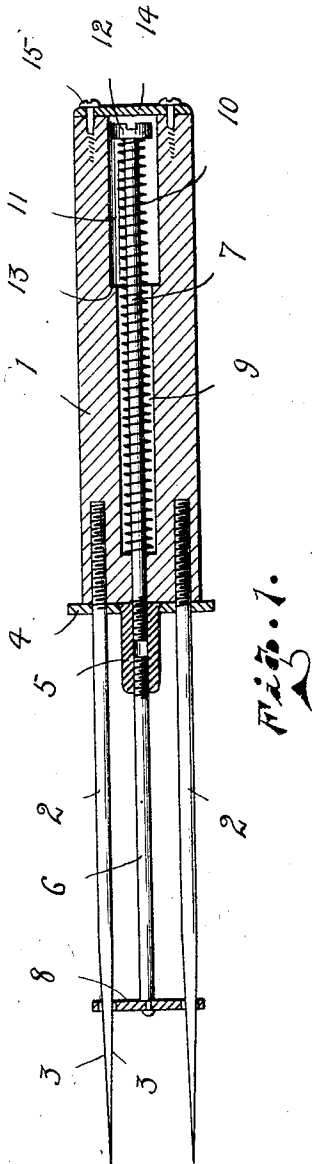
April 14, 1931.

J. HUIE

1,801,084

FORK

Filed March 13, 1930



Inventor

Joseph Huie.
By *Geo. Stevens.*
Attorney

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

JOSEPH HUIE, OF DULUTH, MINNESOTA

FORK

Application filed March 13, 1930. Serial No. 435,447.

This invention relates to forks and has special reference to a fork such as used in the handling and serving of cooked meats, vegetables, and the like.

5 The principal object is to produce a more practical, simple, and sanitary instrument of this character than heretofore known.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will appear in the following description thereof.

Referring now to the accompanying drawing, forming part of this application, and wherein like reference characters indicate like parts:

15 Figure 1 is a vertical central section through one of the improved forks embodying the invention and in which portions are illustrated in elevation;

20 Figure 2 is a central section at right angles to Figure 1 through the handle portion of the fork and showing other portions in elevation; while

Figure 3 is an elevation of the rearmost handle end of the fork.

25 1 represents a handle preferably made of wood or the like and either round, oval, or square in cross section, as preferred; the same being axially bored preferably as by a graduated or stepped hole formed centrally 30 thereof.

2 represents the spaced tines of the fork, which are shown as being screw threadedly mounted within the forward end of the handle. These tines are sharpened preferably 35 as by opposed flattened sides as illustrated at 3 tapering to a point at the innermost end, the full diameter of each tine being carried materially forwardly of the flattened portion. This is done as it is found such a shaped 40 termination of the tines tend to hold much more readily and firmly when the fork has become engaged in the material to be conveyed.

45 A shield like metal cap is illustrated at 4 which normally impinges and covers the forward end of the handle, and is made to project thereabouts on all sides for purposes hereinafter described. This cap is provided with a cylindrical hub-like projection 5 at its center, intermediate of the tines of the 50 fork and which hub portion may be formed

integral with the cap or fastened therein as illustrated. The hub is screw threaded internally for the reception of the cross head spindle 6 in its outer end, and the pitman or plunger 7, in its innermost end.

55 The cross head is illustrated at 8 and comprises a simple flat cross-piece, fixed in any desired manner to the outermost end of the spindle 6 and having a hole adjacent either end through which the tines of the fork extend. The plunger or pitman 7 extends axially of the graduated hole in the handle, said hole, adjacent the forward end of the handle, 60 being preferably of a reasonably close fit about the plunger while for a predetermined distance from said smallest portion of the hole the latter is enlarged for example as indicated at 9; this portion of the hole being for the reception of the expansive 65 helical spring 10 which surrounds the plunger. Then that portion of the hole in the handle adjacent the rearmost end thereof is further enlarged as at 11 to accommodate the head 12 of the plunger which 70 is integral therewith and provided with a transverse slot so as to be manipulated as a screw. Now the distance intermediate of the head 12 of the plunger and the shoulder 13 formed at the junction of the two larger 75 portions of the bore is designed to be just equal to the desired throw of the cross head 8, which, when in its outermost position, is in close proximity to the termini of the tines of the fork.

80 A metal cover 14 is provided for the rearmost end of the handle and held in position by suitable screws 15 which are readily removable for access to the interior of the handle for adjustment or the like.

85 The operation of the device as is obvious is accomplished by thumb or finger manipulation of the cap 4, as when it is desired to eject anything from the extreme ends of the tines a forward extension of the cap 4 advances the cross head 8 and thrusts off such 90 object, when on release of the cap the expansive effect of the spring 10 will instantly return the cap and its associated parts to their normal closed or retarded position.

I am aware that somewhat similar devices 100

have been used but the advantages of simplicity in the instant invention are obvious together with its sanitary properties as nothing extends beyond the handle to gather objectionable foul matter except the tines
5 and the cross-head spindle.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:

10 A serving fork of the type described including a hollow handle, spaced tines projecting from the handle, ejecting means carried upon the tines, a reciprocable pitman within the handle for operating the ejecting means, a shieldlike cap normally adjacent the
15 end of the handle and about the tines, an elongated hub upon said cap having a screw-threaded bore into which the pitman is mounted, and a spindle connecting the ejecting means and the hub.

20 In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
JOSEPH HUIE.

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