No. 653,385. Patented July 10, 1900.

J. E. HOWELL & W. A. CHAMBERLAIN.

POTATO CUTTER.

(Application filed Sept. 5, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1.

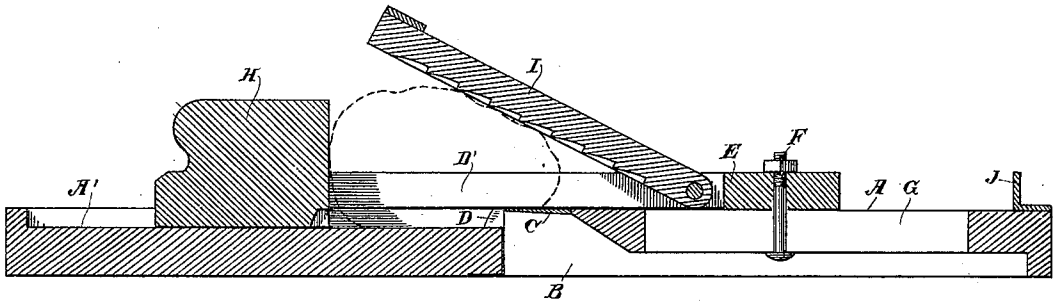
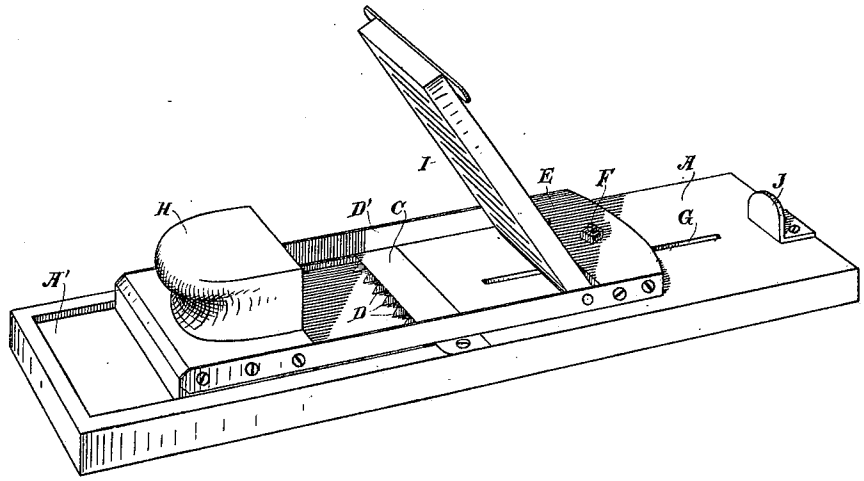


Fig. 2.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN E. HOWELL AND WILLIAM A. CHAMBERLAIN, OF MONTAGUE, CALIFORNIA.

POTATO-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 653,385, dated July 10, 1900.

Application filed September 5, 1899. Serial No. 729,456. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JOHN E. HOWELL and WILLIAM A. CHAMBERLAIN, citizens of the United States, residing at Montague, county of Siskiyou, State of California, have invented an Improvement in Potato-Cutters; and we hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same.

Our invention relates to a device for cutting and slicing potatoes into the form for cooking what are known as "French-fried" potatoes.

It consists of the parts and the constructions and combinations of parts hereinafter described and claimed.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal vertical section through the cutter. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the same.

The bed or table is so constructed that it has two surfaces A and A′ at different elevations, and between these two sections is an open space or channel B for the discharge of the manufactured article. Abutting against the higher portion of the table is fixed a horizontal knife C, which lies above the open space or channel B between the adjacent ends of the two parts of the table and with its edge presented toward the lower portion, above which it projects slightly. Vertical cutters D are fixed in this lower portion at a short distance apart, with their upper ends approximately on a level with the edge of the blade C. These vertical cutters also present their edges toward the lower portion of the table, so that when the potato or other article to be cut is laid upon this lower portion and is pushed toward the cutter it is simultaneously divided horizontally, and the portion cut off is subdivided by the vertical cutters so that it forms long slender strips, these strips passing out through the channel B and being deposited into any receptacles beneath, over which the table is supported.

In order to properly hold and reciprocate the article to be cut, we have shown a slidable frame comprising two heads E E′ and connecting sides D′, one of which heads, E, has a bolt F passing through it and through a slot or channel G made in the higher portion of the table. This bolt has a nut or other keeper beneath the table, so that the frame E can be moved backward and forward and properly guided and prevented from being lifted out of place. At the opposite end of this frame and secured to the head E′ is an elevated block H, which forms an abutment against which the potato rests and by which it may be pushed forward against the cutters.

I is a cover hinged between the sides D′ of the frame, so that it may be closed down between said sides and substantially occupy the open center of the frame, said cover having its movable end presented toward the block H and having finger-pieces or other means by which it may be raised and turned about its hinges.

The operation will then be as follows: The sliding frame being drawn back to its farthest distance, the potato is laid upon the lower portion of the table between the sides of the frame and abutting against the raised block H, and the cover I is closed down to rest upon the potato, the hand of the operator grasping the curved top of the block H and holding the sides of the cover between the fingers. The slidable part may be pushed forward, thus forcing the potato against the cutters, as previously described, and forming strips which fall through the opening. It is then withdrawn and the potato will drop upon the lower surface of the table, and being again pushed forward another slice and series of strips will be cut, and so on until the entire potato has been cut up. The block H moves up close against the edges of the cutters and may be grooved or channeled for this purpose, if desired.

In order to prevent the cutters from entering the block too deeply or injuring it, a stop J is shown at the rear end of the higher portion of the table, and against this the end of the slide strikes when it has finished its stroke in that direction, thus forming a stop to arrest the slidable portion and prevent the cutters from injuring the block H.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. A device for cutting and slicing vegetables, fruits, &c., including a table or support having surfaces at different elevations and one of said surfaces provided with a longitu-

dinally-extending slot, vertical and horizontal knives or cutters secured to said surfaces, a slide including end heads and connecting sides forming an open center adapted to receive the article to be operated upon, a bolt passing through one of said heads and the said slot, and a cover confined between said heads and sides and hinged at one end whereby it may be closed upon said article.

2. A device for cutting and slicing vegetables, fruits, &c., comprising a table or support provided with knives or cutters and a longitudinally-extending slot, a horizontal frame having means engaging said slot whereby it is guided, said frame including end heads and connecting sides forming an opening for the article to be operated upon, one of said heads having a block or abutment to close up against the knives and to serve as a handpiece for operating the frame, a stop on the table or support against which the sliding frame strikes to limit its movement, and a cover occupying the opening between the heads and sides of the sliding frame and pivoted at one end to said sides whereby its free end may engage the said article.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands.

JOHN E. HOWELL.
WILLIAM A. CHAMBERLAIN.

Witnesses:
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