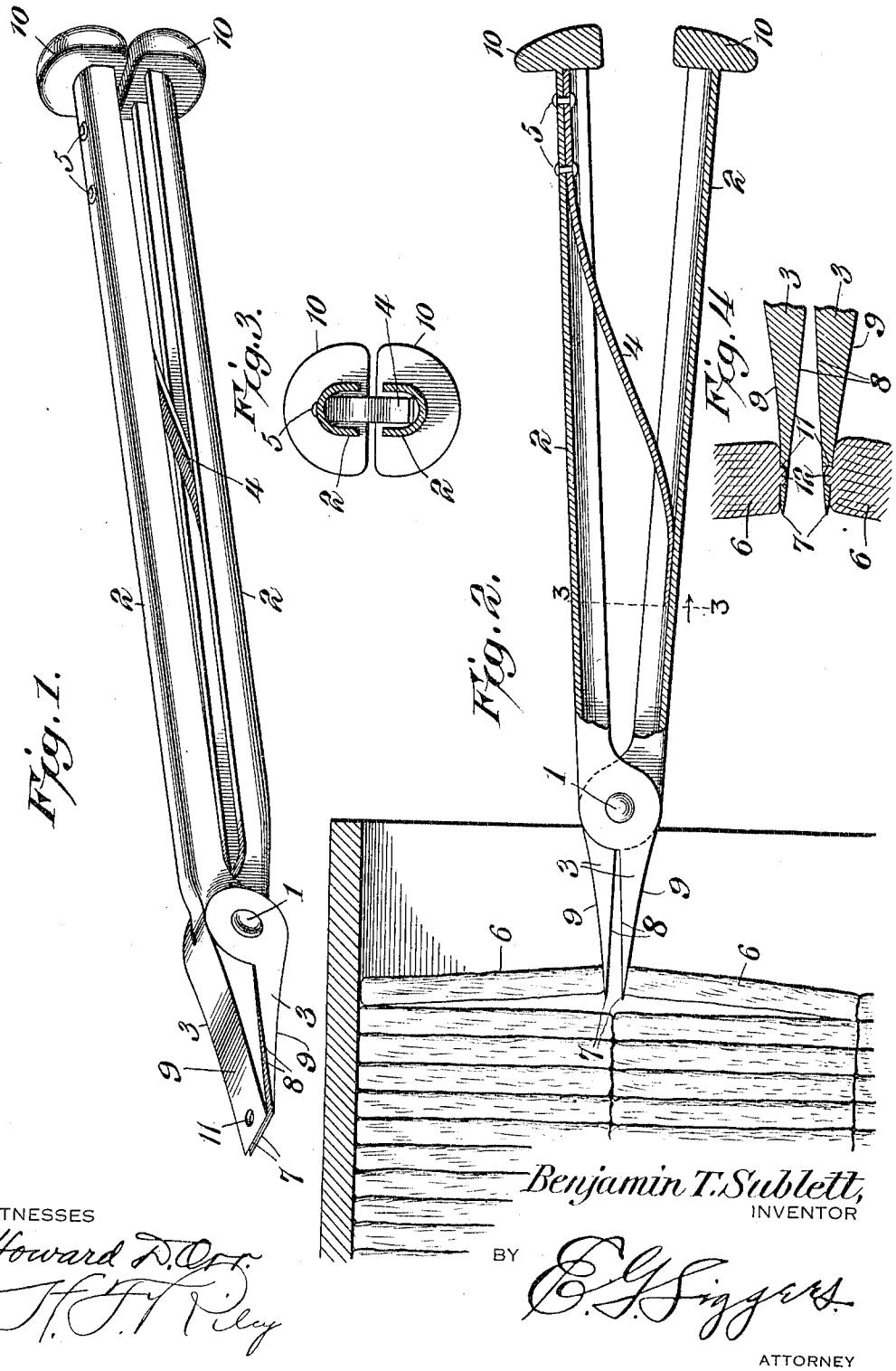
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TOBACCO PLUG EXTRACTOR.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 26, 1913.

1,081,786.

Patented Dec. 16, 1913.



WITNESSES

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TOBACCO-PLUG EXTRACTOR.

1,081,786. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 16, 1913.

Application filed May 26, 1913. Serial No. 769,913.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, BENJAMIN T. SUBLETT, a citizen of the United States, residing at Danville, in the county of Pittsylvania and State of Virginia, have invented a new and useful Tobacco-Plug Extractor, of which the following is a specification.

The invention relates to improvements in tobacco plug extractors.

The object of the present invention is to improve the construction of tobacco plug extractors, and to provide a simple, inexpensive and efficient implement adapted for extracting plug tobacco from the box after it has been manufactured, put in boxes and sold to the retail trade, and capable of being readily inserted between the plugs of a layer of tobacco and of engaging two plugs at the contiguous edges thereof and of removing the engaged plugs without tearing the tobacco or otherwise injuring or disfiguring the plugs.

A further object of the invention is to provide a tobacco plug extractor of this character, capable of being easily forced between tightly packed plugs, and after being inserted in position of being operated with one hand thereby leaving the other hand free for holding the box when necessary.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists in the construction and novel combination of parts hereinafter fully described, illustrated in the accompanying drawing, and pointed out in the claims hereto appended; it being understood that various changes in the form, proportion, size and minor details of construction, within the scope of the claims, may be resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention.

In the drawing:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a tobacco plug extractor, constructed in accordance with this invention, the jaws being slightly separated to show the construction more clearly. Fig. 2 is a side elevation partly in section, illustrating the manner of removing two plugs from a box. Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is an enlarged detail sectional view, illustrating the operation of the device in engaging the plugs.

Like numerals of reference designate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawing.

In the accompanying drawing in which is illustrated the preferred embodiment of the invention, the plug extractor comprises in its construction two members connected at an intermediate point by a suitable pivot 1, and each consisting of an inner handle 2 and an outer jaw 3. The handles, which are arranged in the same transverse plane, are semitubular or approximately U-shaped in cross section to provide a light hollow structure, and they also constitute a partial housing for a spring 4, extending longitudinally of the tool between the handles thereof and secured at one end to one of the handles by rivets 5 or other suitable fastening devices, and having its other end free and bearing against the other handle to spread the handles and automatically open or expand the jaws, as hereinafter fully explained, to engage them with two contiguous plugs 6 of tobacco. The jaws 3, which are located beyond the pivot 1, are substantially wedge-shaped and tapered to a relatively sharp edge 7, and they present flat inner faces 8, which are adapted to abut when the jaws are completely closed. The tapered jaws 8 have flat angularly disposed outer faces 9 and when the instrument is closed, the two jaws fitting tightly together form a tapered or wedge-shaped terminal portion, which is adapted to be readily forced between the contiguous edges of two plugs of tobacco, while the same is tightly packed in a box in the usual manner.

In order to enable the instrument to be readily inserted between the contiguous edges of the plugs to be removed, the handles are provided at the inner ends of said members with relatively heavy approximately semicircular knobs or heads 10, having rounded outer faces adapted to be struck with the palm of one hand of the operator while the instrument is held in position with the other hand. The instrument is driven between the plugs a distance approximately equal to the thickness of the same, and the jaws are provided near their outer ends with relatively small apertures 11 into which portions 12 of tobacco are forced in the operation of the tool. The apertures in practice are designed to be approximately an eighth of an inch in diameter, but, of course, they may be of any desired size to suit the thickness of the plugs operated on, and they are located a short distance from the outer end edges 9 of the jaws and are designed to be positioned relatively to the

said outer edges so that when the jaws are inserted between the plugs about approximately a distance equal to the thickness of the tobacco, the apertures will be located in substantially a central position between the inner and outer faces of the plugs. The apertures will serve as a guide to enable the operator to determine approximately when the instrument has been inserted the proper distance between the plugs. After the jaws have been inserted between the plugs, the handles are relieved of pressure to permit the spring to separate them and force the jaws against the contiguous plugs. This operation slightly compresses the tobacco surrounding the openings 11 and causes the formation of the protuberances 12, which extend into the said openings. The engaged plugs may then be readily removed by drawing the instrument outwardly in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2 of the drawing. It is preferable to remove two plugs at each operation of the device, which will ordinarily take place at a sale of one of the plugs, thus leaving the other plug loose in the box for the next sale. This is an advantage as it is only necessary to use the instrument at every other sale. The instrument affords an efficient means for quickly removing plug tobacco from boxes without disfiguring the plugs.

While it is preferable to extend the openings 11 entirely through the jaws, as the latter in practice will be relatively thin, yet the said openings may terminate short of the inner faces of the jaws, sufficient depth being, of course, provided to produce the necessary interlocking of the tool with the plugs to insure a removal of the tobacco.

What is claimed is:—

1. A tobacco plug extractor including two pivotally connected members having inner handle portions and provided with outer jaws adapted when closed to be inserted between two contiguous plugs of tobacco and having an opening into which a portion of the tobacco is forced when the jaws are slightly separated, whereby the instrument is engaged with the tobacco.

2. A tobacco plug extractor including two pivoted members having inner handle portions and provided with outer longitudinally tapered or wedge-shaped jaws having flat inner faces adapted to abut when the jaws are closed, said jaws being adapted to be inserted between two contiguous plugs of tobacco, and each provided with an opening into which portions of tobacco are forced when the jaws are slightly separated, whereby the jaws are engaged with two plugs and are adapted to remove the same when the instrument is pulled outwardly.

3. A tobacco plug extractor including two pivoted members having inner handle portions and provided with outer longitudinally tapered or wedge-shaped jaws adapted when closed to be inserted between two contiguous plugs of tobacco and provided with openings into which portions of tobacco are forced when the jaws are slightly separated, relatively heavy heads or knobs arranged at the inner ends of the members, and a spring engaging the said members and arranged to separate the jaws automatically to engage the same with the tobacco.

4. A tobacco plug extractor including two pivotally connected members provided with jaws adapted to be inserted between two contiguous plugs of tobacco and having smooth outer faces, said jaws being provided with means adapted when the jaws are opened to compress the tobacco to form a protuberance for interlocking the plugs with the tool.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

BENJAMIN TASEWELL SUBLETT.

Witnesses:
J. R. Cook,
H. S. Powell.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."