H. M. FOSTER.

FOOD INSPECTING DEVICE.

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1,154,501. Patented Sept. 21, 1915.

Fig. 1.

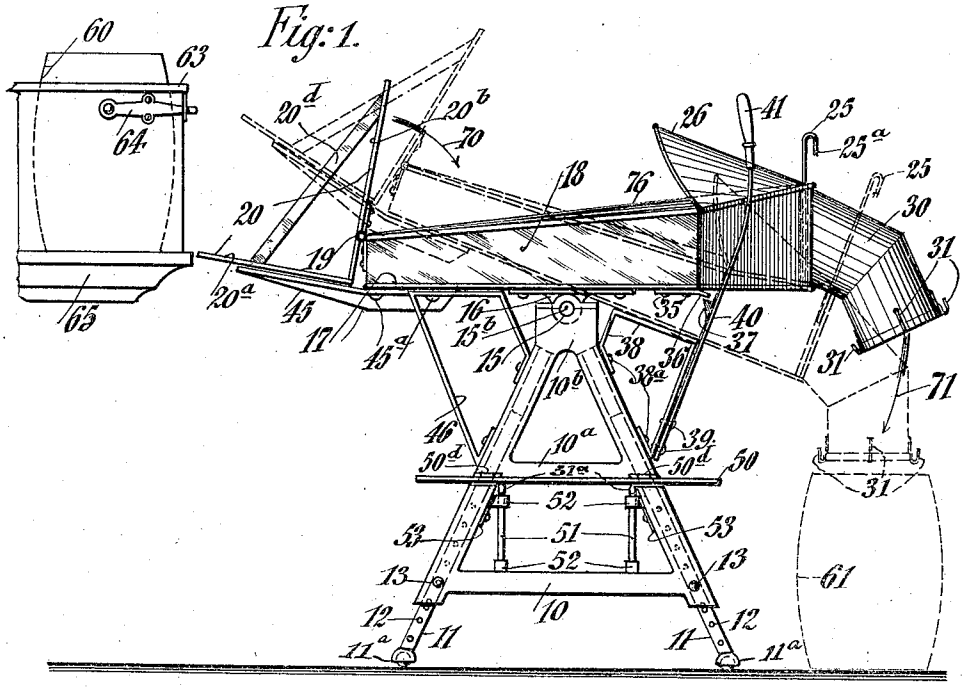
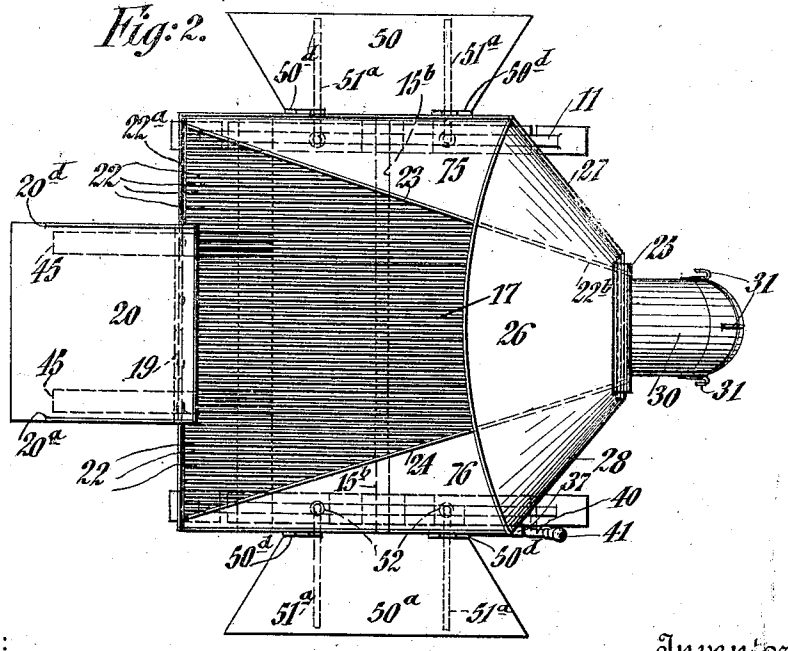


Fig. 2.



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FOOD-INSPECTING DEVICE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HUGH M. FOSTER, a citizen of the United States of America, and resident of the borough of Manhattan, city and State of New York, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Food-Inspecting Devices, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to inspecting devices and more particularly to those adapted to the inspection of fruits and vegetables, and has for its object to provide an improved device, by the use of which fruits and vegetables may be readily inspected.

Hitherto it has been customary for persons intrusted with the inspection of food supplies, as applies, oranges, melons, lemons, potatoes, carrots, turnips, cabbages, beets, parsnips, and the like, which food supplies are delivered to institutions, like hospitals, charitable organizations, wholesale dealers, etc., to examine the supplies delivered to the institutions by taking one sack, or bag, or barrel, and examining the same and permitting such examination to represent the remaining quantities delivered. Such a method necessarily is very inaccurate and resembles therein the well-known practice of examining only the top portion of a barrel or bag and judging therefrom that the remaining portion of the barrel or bag is of the same quality. It is readily seen that unscrupulous dealers can easily deceive persons buying goods in this manner, as for instance, in the delivery of a wagon load, of potatoes, apples or the like, the examination of one barrel would not be conclusive as to the quality of the remaining barrels delivered. For this purpose, an improved inspecting device has been devised by me, the use of which will render it possible to very quickly and carefully examine the articles delivered to the institutions referred to in the presence of the person delivering, and also the person receiving, so that an entirely fair and accurate examination may be had.

The invention is shown in the accompanying drawing and will be more fully described hereinafter and finally pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a side-view of my improved device, and Fig. 2 is a plan view thereof.

Similar characters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the various figures of the drawing.

Referring to the drawing, the device is supported by the standard 10 having a cross-bar 10^a and side-members meeting at a head 10^b. In order to adjust the standard vertically, it is provided with legs 11 having openings 12 engaged by pins 13 which pass through suitable openings in the standard 10. The head 10^b is provided with a bearing 15 in which a shaft 15^b is seated. A holder 18 is provided at its rear portion with a shaft 19 which acts as a pivot to a support 20, having members 20^a, 20^b at right angles to each other and inclined members 20^d at either side of the support.

The holder 18 is provided with a bottom 17 on which is arranged a plurality of slats 22 which are suitably spaced apart and which extend longitudinally of the bottom 17. Side-walls 23 and 24 converge from the rear-portion 22^a of the holder 18 to the front portion 22^b of the holder 18, and these converging side portions 23 and 24 serve to guide the material in the holder 18 toward the front portion 22^b. At this front portion 22^b a gate 25 is provided which has a hook 25^a and which gate is adapted to keep closed the front portion 22^b. By the raising of the gate 25, the opening at the front portion 22^b is uncovered and the material in the holder 18 may pass through the opening and into the spout 30. This spout 30 has a rearwardly extending curved portion 26 which extends to the sides 27 and 28 and to the outer edges of the inclined wings 75, 76, and the object of this curved portion 26 is to prevent any of the material from being thrown out of the holder 18 during movement of the holder. The spout 30 is provided with sharp hooks 31 which are adapted to engage a bag or other container which may be readily hooked thereto.

At its rear portion the bottom of the holder 18 has secured thereto, by suitable rivets 45^a, a rearward extending bracket 45 which is adapted to brace the support 20.

At the front portion of the holder 18 and at the bottom thereof a lug 36 is secured by the rivets 35 to the bottom of the holder 18 and this lug 36 is adapted to be seated on a tooth 37 of a spring lever 40 having a handle 41 and secured at its other end at 39 to an extension 38 secured by rivets 38^a to the standard 10. The upper wall of the extension 38 is inclined to the horizontal and acts as a rest for the bottom of the holder 18 when the bottom is lowered and seated there-

on. In order to enable the holder 18 to move downwardly, the handle 41 of the lever 40 is operated and by this, the tooth 37 is removed from the path of the lug 36. The support of the tooth 37 being thus removed, the holder 18 is free to swing on its pivot shaft 15^b and the front portion of the holder 18 moves downwardly by force of gravity to the position indicated in Fig. 1 in dotted lines. For suitably supporting the holder 18, in the position shown in full lines in Fig. 1, the standard 10 is provided with an upwardly-extending extension 46.

At each side of the device are arranged, on the standards 10, upper and lower bearings 52. The upper bearings are each secured to brackets 53 which in turn are secured to the inclined portion of the standard 10. Swinging in these bearings 52 are angular brackets, having vertical shafts 51 and horizontal extensions 51^a arranged at right angles thereto. On the horizontal portion 51^a, platforms 50 and 50^a are adapted to be supported. Each platform is hinged at 50^d to the standard and can be placed either in the horizontal position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 and supported in that position by the horizontal members 51^a, or they may be placed in vertical position by swinging the brackets inwardly. By thus moving the horizontal members 51^a out of the position shown in Figs. 1 and 2 into the position at substantially right angles thereto, the support of these members is removed and the platforms 50 and 50^a may thus be swung downwardly and allowed to hang in vertical position. By thus swinging the platforms they become inoperative and inactive in case the platforms are not to be used or the machine itself is not desired to be used.

At the rear portion of the device is indicated a portion of a support 65 which may be a part of a truck-wagon or other conveyance 63, and which is adapted to support a barrel 60 which contains the articles to be inspected. By releasing the tail-gate latch 64, the barrel 60 is free to be moved onto the support 20, the latter being in position shown in Fig. 1 in full lines. The gate 25 being closed, the support 20 is then swung upon its pivot shaft 19 with the part 20^b moving in the direction of the arrow 70, whereupon and by means of which movement, the contents of the barrel 60 are emptied into the holder 18 and by reason of the shape of the holder, as shown in plan view in Fig. 2, the contents of the barrel are spread over the bottom of the holder 18. The goods being thus spread, they are susceptible to an immediate detailed examination and the entire contents of the barrel are thus subjected to the view of the inspector. Any rotten goods or other of inferior quality are thus immediately noticed and either the entire or a portion of the contents of the barrel may be rejected. After the inspection has been completed, the gate 25 is opened. The inspector who is acting for the buyer takes a position on the platform 50^a and manipulates the lever 40 by means of the handle 41, thus removing the tooth 37 from the lug 36. The uneven balance of the holder 18 will cause the forward portion of the holder to descend into the position shown in dotted lines and all the articles in the holder 18 will be moved forwardly toward the spout 30 and then drop out of the end of the spout 30 either into a sack attached to the hooks 31 or into a barrel, as shown at 61 in Fig. 1. After this operation has been completed and the holder 18 has been emptied of its contents, the holder 18 is returned into its horizontal position as shown in full lines in Fig. 1 and the gate 25 is closed. The next barrel is then placed on the support 20 and is then emptied into the holder 18 and the contents thus spread out are examined, whereupon the holder 18 is again tilted and the contents are precipitated into the container 61. Of course, after each barrel is emptied into the holder 18, it is removed from the support 20 so as to have this support 20 relieved of the weight of the barrel, when the tilting operation takes place.

The empty barrel removed from the support 20 is immediately placed beneath the spout 30, and the goods after inspection are thereby received back in their original container. The platform 50 serves to support the person who is in charge of the delivery of the articles to the buyer.

In the case of goods in bags instead of barrels, the side-members 20^d of the support 20 retain the bag in position during the emptying thereof into the holder.

The support 20 has the further advantage of holding the bag in such a position that when the support is tilted, the contents of the bag will empty out the bag without being obstructed by the collapse of the upper portion of the bag. This collapse usually results in bags of a soft material, the upper portion of which bags folds over on itself, and produces a choking, and thus prevents the remaining contents of the bag from being emptied. The advantage of the slats is that the dirt falls between the slats, and being gathered therebetween, it is not passed through the spout and into the container. By this arrangement, the buyer is assured of obtaining only the fruits or vegetables, and does not pay for a considerable portion of dirt. Another advantage is that the vertical adjustment permits the improved device to be raised or lowered depending upon the height of truck or freight car, and the advantage of the rollers 11^a is that the device may be readily moved from place to place.

My improved device has special advantages in enabling the articles to be readily examined, and any fraud or any possibility of having goods delivered which are not up to the standard may thus be prevented.

I claim:

1. An inspecting device of the character described, comprising a tilting holder adapted to simultaneously receive and retain a certain quantity of goods in spread-out position for inspection, all of the goods being simultaneously and individually visible, means for supporting the said holder, comprising a horizontal portion adapted to support the holder in inspecting position, and an inclined portion for supporting the holder in inclined or tilted position, and releasable means adapted to retain the same in non-tilted position upon the said horizontal support, the said support adapted to be carried by the weight of the goods therein into tilted position upon the said inclined support upon release of the said releasable means.

2. An inspecting device of the character described, comprising a tilting holder adapted to receive a certain quantity of goods to be inspected and to retain the same in spread-out position for inspection, all the goods being simultaneously and individually visible, and a goods container support, having an unobstructed emptying end, pivoted at the entrance end of the said holder and at a stationary point above the bottom of the said holder, the said support being adapted to be tilted into container-emptying position into the said holder.

3. An inspecting device of the character described, comprising a tilting holder having a slotted bottom adapted to receive a certain quantity of goods to be inspected and to retain the same in spread-out position for inspection, all the goods being simultaneously and individually visible, a front wall, side-walls converging toward the discharge end of the holder, a goods support having an unobstructed emptying end pivoted to the upper edge of the rear wall of said holder, the said support being adapted to be tilted into container-emptying position into the said holder, and releasable means retaining the said holder in non-tilted position, the said holder being adapted to be tilted by the weight of the goods therein upon release of the said releasable means.

4. An inspecting device of the character described, comprising a tilting holder having a slotted bottom adapted to receive and retain a certain quantity of goods in spread-out position for inspection, all the goods being simultaneously and individually visible, a front wall, side walls converging toward the discharge end of the holder, a spout at said discharge end of the holder, a gate for said spout, a goods support, having an unobstructed emptying end, pivoted to the upper edge of the said front wall, standards supporting the holder, a horizontal support carried by said standards adapted to support the holder in inspecting or non-tilted position, an inclined support carried by the said standards adapted to support the said holder in tilted position, and releasable means operable from one of said standards, adapted to retain the said holder in non-tilted position, the said holder adapted upon release of the said releasable means to be tilted to rest upon the said inclined support.

5. An inspecting device of the character described, having a slotted bottom adapted to receive and retain a certain quantity of goods in spread-out position for inspection, all the goods being simultaneously and individually visible, a front wall, side walls converging toward the discharge end of the holder, a spout at said discharge end of the holder, a gate for said spout, a goods support, having an unobstructed emptying end, pivoted to the upper edge of said front wall, said holder being overbalanced at its discharge end by the weight of the goods therein, and a leaf spring hand-lever having a toothed projection in the path of the holder, for retaining the holder in non-tilted position, and movable outwardly for releasing the same, the said holder upon release being adapted to be tilted to rest upon the said inclined support.

In testimony, that I claim the foregoing as my invention, I have signed my name in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HUGH M. FOSTER.

Witnesses:
F. HOGG,
JOS. BISBANO.

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