R. J. BRENCKLE.

MACHINE FOR CLEANING VEGETABLES.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 23, 1919.

1,320,983. Patented Nov. 4, 1919.

FIG. 1

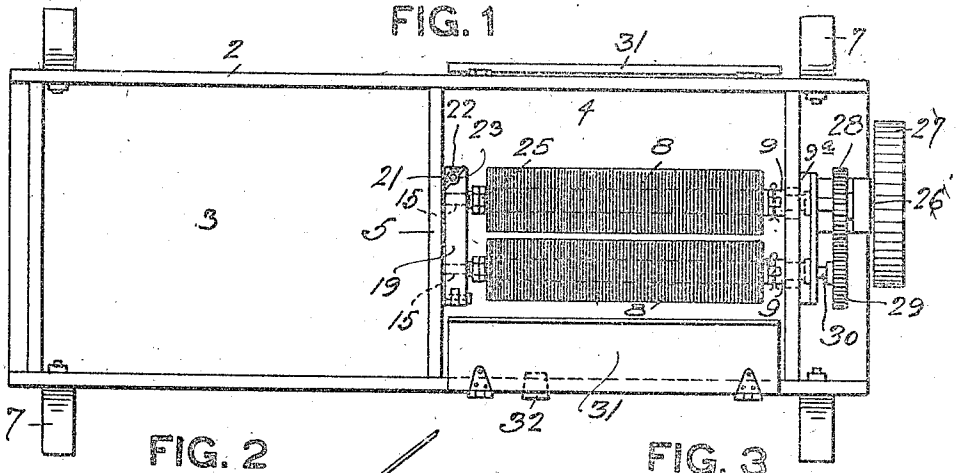


FIG. 2

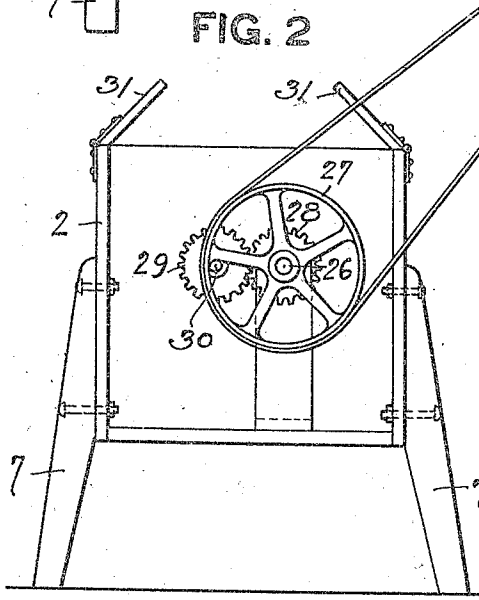


FIG. 3

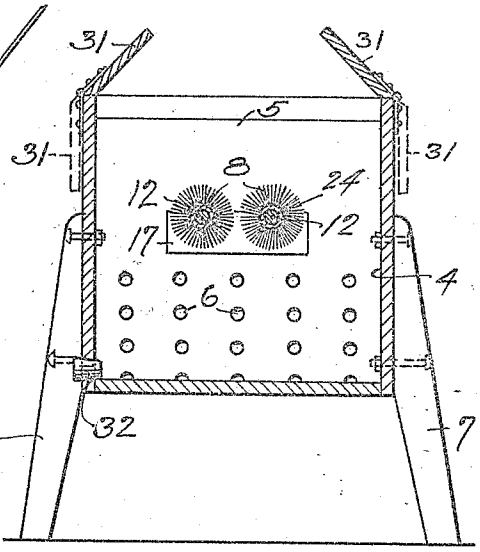


FIG. 4

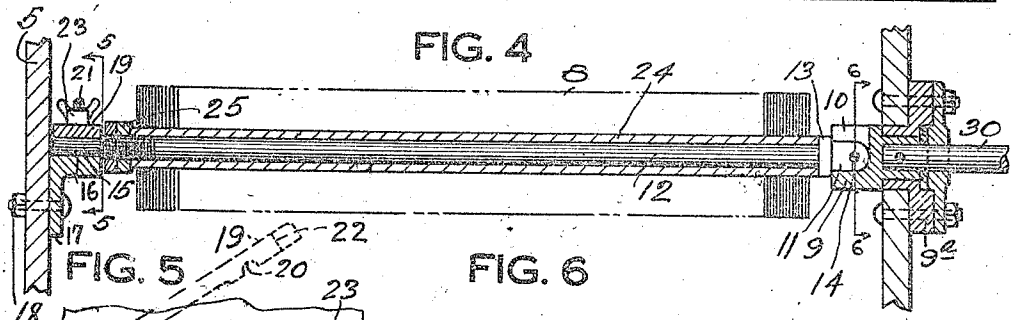


FIG. 5

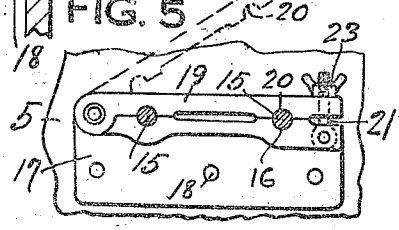
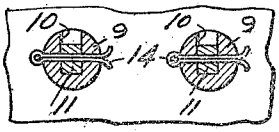


FIG. 6



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MACHINE FOR CLEANING VEGETABLES.

1,320,983. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 4, 1919.

Application filed June 23, 1919. Serial No. 306,255.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RAYMOND J. BRENCKLE, a citizen of the United States, and resident of Millvale, in the county of Allegheny and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Machines for Cleaning Vegetables; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description thereof.

My invention relates to machines for cleaning vegetables.

The object of my invention is to provide a simple and efficient machine of this character in which the vegetables to be cleaned are so handled as not in any way to injure or bruise the same, while at the same time the soil is thoroughly removed and the vegetables present a clean and attractive appearance.

To these ends my invention comprises the novel features hereinafter set forth and claimed.

In the drawing, Figure 1 is a plan view of my improved machine; Fig. 2 is an end view; Fig. 3 is a cross-section; Fig. 4 is an enlarged view of one of the brushes showing the manner in which the brush is journaled or mounted; Fig. 5 is a section on the line, 5—5, Fig. 4; and Fig. 6 is a section on the line 6—6, Fig. 4.

In the drawing the numeral 2 designates a suitable receptacle or tank, formed of wood or metal as may be desired, said tank being divided into two compartments 3 and 4 by the partition 5 which is provided with the apertures 6 which form communication between the compartments 3 and 4, so that water introduced into the compartment 3 will pass into the compartment 4.

The legs 7 support the tank 2. Within the compartment 4 are the brushes of cleaning devices 8, and in Fig. 4 I have illustrated in detail the construction of these brushes. It is desired to have these brushes arranged so as to be readily removable either for the purpose of renewal or for changing the brushes for different kinds of vegetables. Some vegetables will require a stiffer brush than others, and in Fig. 4, I have illustrated in detail means for the quick removal of the brushes and for the substitution of others. At one end of the tank 2 is secured the bearing-block 9^a within which are journaled the bearings 9, said bearings having the notches or recesses 10 to receive the angular end portions 11 of the shafts 12 provided with the collars 13. The angular ends 11 of the shafts 12 are secured within the recesses 10 by cotter-pins 14.

The opposite ends of the shafts 12 have the neck-portions 15 which are adapted to rest in the semi-circular grooves 16 formed in the bearing-bracket 17 secured by bolts 18 to the partition 5. The bearing-bracket 17 has the hinged top-plate 19 with semi-circular grooves 20 adapted to register with the grooves 16 so that when said plate 19 is secured in position shown in full lines Fig. 5, the reduced portions 15 of the shafts 12 will be journaled to the bracket-bearing so as to rotate freely therein. Any suitable means can be employed for holding the plate 19 in position shown, consisting of the eye-bolts 21 which engage the slots 22 formed in the plate 19. The thumb-nuts 23 are secured to the upper ends of the eye-bolts.

By this construction, the brushes mounted on hollow shafts 24 can be slipped onto the shaft 12 and readily secured in position. Jam-nut 25 on the shafts 12 hold the brushes securely in position.

The drive-shaft 26 has the pulley 27 which may be connected up to any source of power, or if desired an electric motor may be employed to drive the shaft 26. The shaft 26 is secured to one of the bearings 9 as indicated in Fig. 4. The gear-wheel 28 on the shaft 26 meshes with the gear-wheel 29 on the counter-shaft 30. In this manner the brushes 8 are driven in opposite directions.

Splasher-plates 31 are hinged to the sides of the compartment 4, and said splasher-plates are arranged in an inclined position, so that when the operator is holding the vegetables between the brushes the splasher-plates will protect the operator from the muddy water thrown up by the centrifugal action of the brushes.

In the operation of my machine, the vegetables to be cleaned are introduced into the compartment 3 containing water and the operator picks the vegetables from said compartment and standing at the side of the tank inserts the vegetables between the rotating brushes 8, the action of the brushes together with the water contained in the compartment 4 acts to thoroughly clean the vegetables in a rapid and efficient manner, and at the same time without tearing off the skin or bruising the vegetables. If the water

in the compartment 4 becomes too dirty for the washing the plug 32 is removed and the water allowed to run from the tank and the plug is then replaced and a new supply of water introduced to the tank 3.

It is apparent that in some cases it may be desirable to remove the dirt in a dry state and in such a case no water will be employed in the tank.

What I claim is:

1. In a vegetable cleaner, the combination of a receptacle for containing water, a pair of parallel brushes arranged therein, means for rotating said brushes in opposite direction, and a hinged splasher-plate along the side of said receptacle, and extending at an angle inwardly over the same.

2. In a vegetable cleaner, the combination of a receptacle for containing water, a pair of parallel brushes arranged therein, means for rotating said brushes in opposite direction, and hinged splasher-plates secured to the opposite sides of said receptacle extending inwardly and at an angle over same.

3. In a vegetable cleaner, the combination of a receptacle, bearings on the inside of said receptacle having recesses formed therein, shafts having angular ends adapted to engage said recesses, means for securing said shafts therein, portable bearings at the other end of said receptacle forming bearings for the other ends of said shafts, brushes having hollow shafts engaging said first named shafts, and means for rotating said brushes in opposite direction.

In testimony whereof, I, the said RAYMOND J. BRENCKLE, have hereunto set my hand.

RAYMOND J. BRENCKLE.

Witnesses:
ROBT. D. TOTTEN,
JOHN F. WILL.