(No Model.)

C. M. VAN BUREN.

TOY CANNON.

No. 541,191. Patented June 18, 1895.

FIG.1.

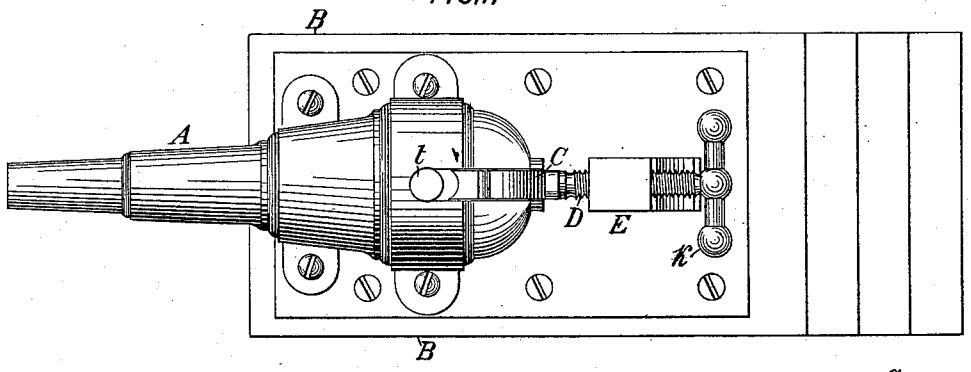


FIG.2.

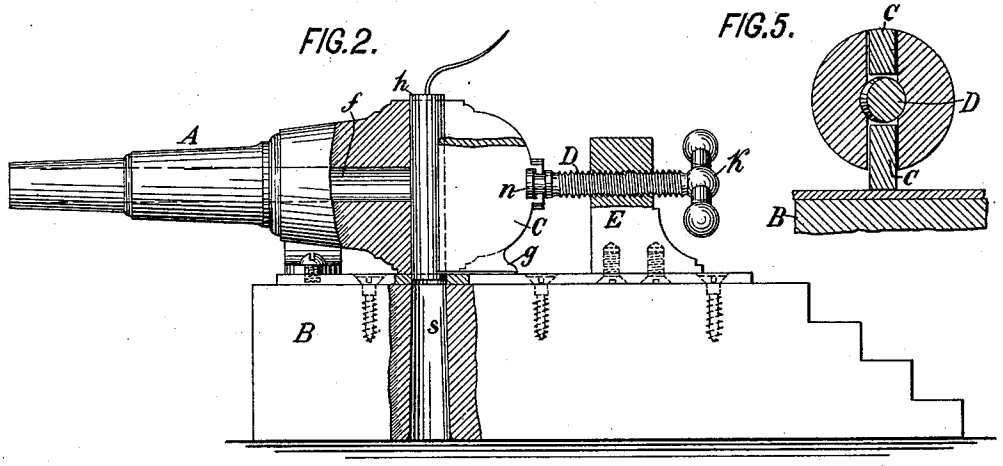


FIG.5.

FIG.3.

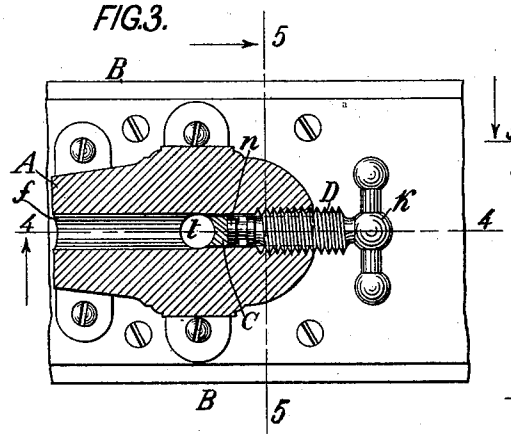
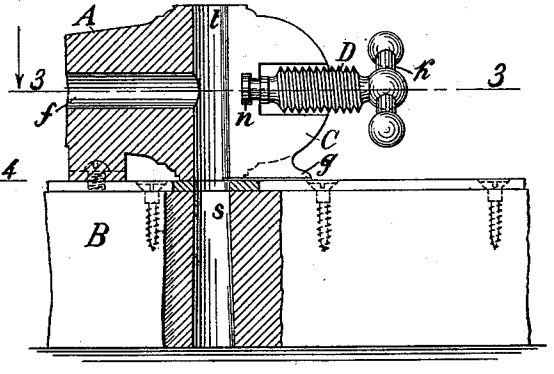


FIG.4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOY CANNON.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,191, dated June 18, 1895.

Application filed March 9, 1895. Serial No. 541,117. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES M. VAN BUREN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Paterson, in the county of Passaic and State of New Jersey, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Toy Cannons, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to breech-loading cannons in which firecrackers are to be exploded; and the object of my invention is to provide such a toy cannon which shall be safe and harmless in its use. I accomplish this by the novel construction and arrangement of parts shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view of a toy cannon embodying my invention. Fig. 2 is an elevation of the same, partly in section, showing a firecracker inserted in the firecracker-chamber. In this figure the slide C is shown as screwed up against the fire-cracker, a part of the breech of the cannon being removed from one side of the slot in which the slide is designed to move to show the slide within the slot, and the upper part of the slide is broken off, showing the whole of the upper end of the firecracker in elevation. Figs. 3, 4, and 5 are views of a portion of a cannon, showing a modification of the adjustment of the operating-screw D. Fig. 3 is a horizontal longitudinal section of such a modification on the line 3 3 of Fig. 4. Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same on the line 4 4 of Fig. 3, and Fig. 5 is a vertical transverse section of the same on the line 5 5 of Fig. 3.

A is the barrel.

B is a block upon which the cannon may be mounted.

C is a slide or plug to close the breech and compress the firecracker within its chamber.

D is a screw which is adapted to operate the slide or plug C.

E is a post which supports the screw D.

My improved toy is essentially a breech-loading cannon, having a chamber for the reception of a fire-cracker at the place where the breech and barrel portion come together and means for opening the said chamber to allow of the insertion of a firecracker and then pressing the latter tightly therein.

By referring to the drawings the operation of the device will more clearly appear. The firecracker chamber is a cylindrical opening *t*, passing through the cannon at the inner end of the bore *f* and at right angles to the latter. This chamber opens at about its center directly into the bore of the barrel, as shown in Fig. 4. A slot, slightly narrower than the diameter of the chamber *t*, is cut in the breech portion of the cannon, extending longitudinally from the chamber *t* to the end of the breech, as shown in Fig. 1. In this slot the slide or plug C is adapted to move. The inner end or face of the slide C is made concave so that when the breech is closed the inner end of the slide will form the rear wall of the cylindrical chamber *t*, as shown in Fig. 3. The bottom of the slide C may be extended, as shown at *g*, Figs. 2 and 4, to steady the slide and prevent its tipping as it is moved in and out of the slot. The rear of the slide C is provided with a recess or other device for receiving and retaining the head of the screw D, as shown at *n*, Fig. 2. When the cannon is mounted upon a block, it is desirable to have the chamber *t* connected with an opening through the block, as shown at *s*, Figs. 2 and 4, to facilitate the removal of the exploded firecracker.

The operation of the device is now apparent. By turning the screw D the slide C may be withdrawn from its slot sufficiently to permit a firecracker to be inserted in the chamber *t*, the fuse protruding, as shown in Fig. 2. The screw D is then turned in the opposite direction, causing the slide C to move inward, and as the slide is slightly narrower than the diameter of the chamber *t*, the firecracker may be compressed within its chamber as tightly as desired. The cannon is then ready for firing, and as the firecracker is pressed tightly on all sides, except at its center and on the side opposite the bore of the cannon, the firecracker will explode into the barrel of the cannon and the desired result will be attained.

Instead of the screw D being supported by and working in the post E, the latter may be dispensed with entirely, and the screw D may work in the breech portion of the cannon, as shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 5. In this case a slot is cut in the slide C sufficiently wide to allow the screw D to be turned therein without touching its sides, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5.

The head of the screw D is attached to the slide C at the inner end of the slot, as shown at *n*, Fig. 4. The threads of the screw D engage corresponding threads cut in the body of the breech portion of the cannon, and as the screw D is turned the slide C is caused to move in or out, as the case may be. For simplicity and cheapness of manufacture this form is preferable to that shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

What I claim is—

1. In a toy cannon, the combination of the barrel portion and a chamber at the bottom of the bore of said barrel, running transversely thereto and having communication therewith, said chamber being adapted to receive a fire cracker, a slide adapted to move in a slot cut in the breech of the cannon and to compress the fire cracker within said chamber, and means for moving the slide in said slot, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a toy cannon, the combination of the barrel portion and a chamber at the bottom of the bore of said barrel, running transversely thereto, and having communication therewith, said chamber being adapted to receive a firecracker, a slide adapted to move in a slot cut in the breech of the cannon, the inner end of which slide forms the rear wall of the said firecracker chamber, and means for moving said slide in and out, substantially as shown and described.

3. In a toy cannon, the combination of the barrel portion, a firecracker chamber at the bottom of the bore of the barrel running transversely thereto and communicating therewith, a slide adapted to move in a slot in the breech of the cannon, the inner end of which slide forms the rear wall of said firecracker chamber, and a screw engaging with said slide and adapted to move the same within said slot, substantially as shown and described.

4. The toy cannon consisting of the combination of the barrel portion and breech, the firecracker chamber *t*, the slide C adapted to move in a slot in the breech of the cannon, the screw D supported by and operating in the breech portion of the cannon, which screw D engages with and is adapted to move the slide C, substantially as shown and described.

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