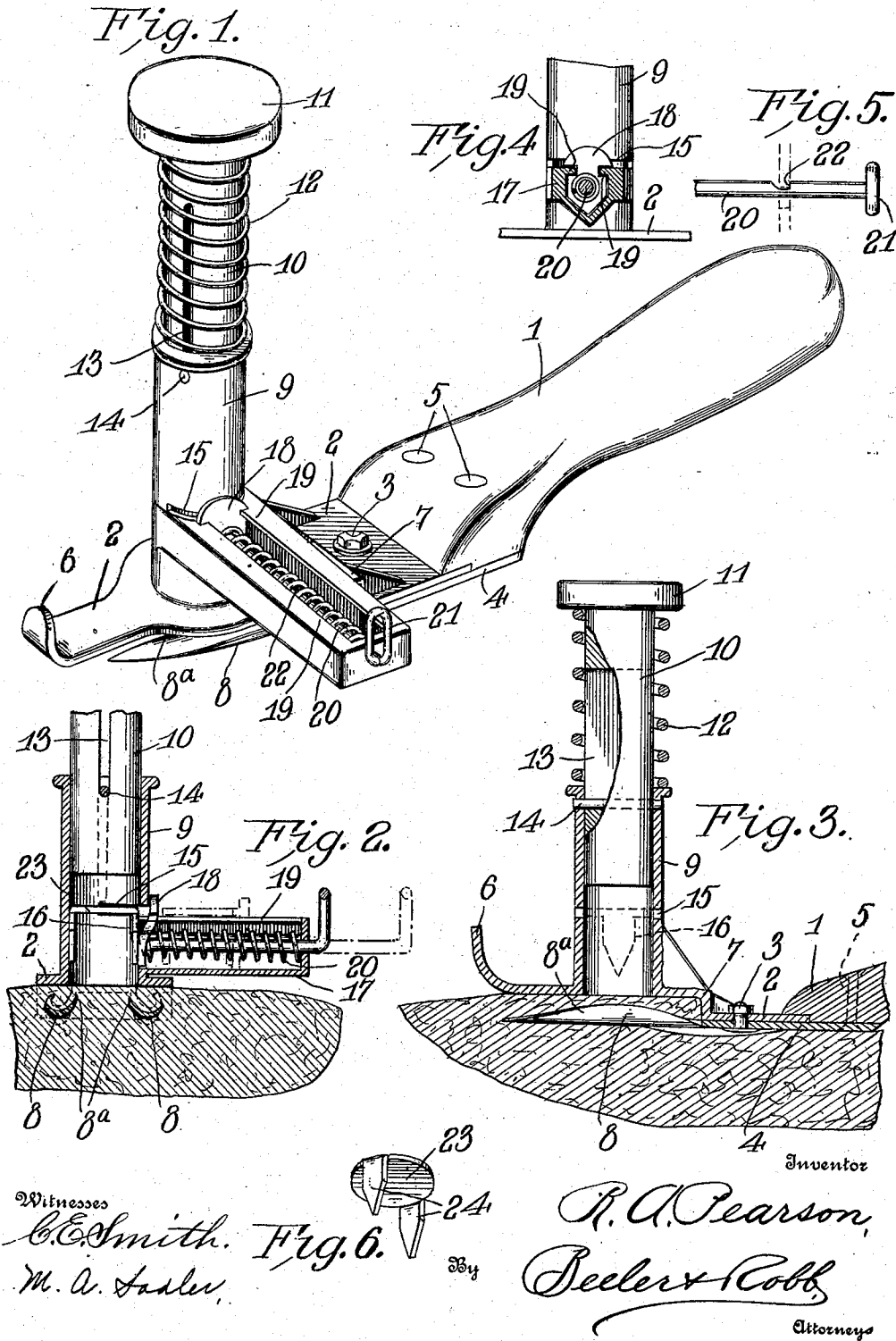


R. A. PEARSON.
MEAT LABELING MACHINE.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 17, 1908.

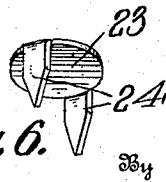
911,676.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.



Witnesses
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Fig. 6.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROBERT A. PEARSON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

MEAT-LABELING MACHINE.

No. 911,676.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.

Application filed February 17, 1908. Serial No. 416,280.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ROBERT A. PEARSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Washington, in the District of Columbia, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Meat-Labeling Machines, of which the following is a specification.

In packing houses where meats are commonly prepared for market, a rigid Government inspection is enforced, every piece of meat sent out from the packing house being previously carefully inspected and labeled
15 "inspected," the label also indicating the source or packer in whose establishment the meat is dressed. At the present time the common method of labeling or tagging dressed meat consists in using a gelatin label, with the inspection notice thereon, upon each piece as it is inspected, or frequently an ink
20 stamp is used to imprint upon the meat the notice that the same has been duly inspected. The disadvantages of the first label are many and obvious, while in like manner the stamped imprint upon meats is objectionable
25 for many reasons, and especially to consumers who buy from the retailers. Another method sometimes employed is that of branding on the meat the inspection notice, but this plan involves a longer operation
30 than that of pasting the labels, and other disadvantages are incidental thereto.

For the above reasons meat packers have long been desirous of securing a practical, and expeditious mode of applying inspection
35 labels or tags to meats, and also one which will necessitate the use of a label or tag which may be effectively applied without likelihood of accidental displacement. A metal tag has been thought to be most suitable for the
40 purpose.

In the practical embodiment of my invention, I provide a small machine, handy and convenient for carrying about the person, and which will quickly and securely apply a
45 metal tag or labels to meat for the purposes set forth hereinbefore, or whenever it is desired to label meats or the like, for any purpose whatsoever, the invention possessing many advantageous features of construction
50 and operation as will be pointed out fully hereinafter.

For a full understanding of the invention, reference is to be had to the following detail description and to the accompanying drawings, in which,

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a machine embodying the essential features of my invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse sectional view; Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view; Fig. 4 is a detail cross section of the
60 chute showing the form of the follower; Fig. 5 is a detail showing the locking device, and Fig. 6 is a detail of one of the metal tags before being applied.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the following description and on the several views of the drawings.

Specifically describing my invention and referring particularly to the drawings, the numeral 1 designates a handle by which my
70 device is supported and operated, under actual conditions of service. Extending from one end of the handle 1, and at a slight angle thereto is a base plate 2 upon which is mounted the labeling mechanism by which
75 metal labels or tags are affixed to the meat. The base plate 2 of the labeling mechanism is attached at its inner end portion by a fastening 3 to a supporting plate 4 arranged beneath the same, said supporting plate being
80 permanently attached to the handle 1 by means of rivets 5, or the like. A recess in the adjacent end of the handle 1 provides a space between this portion of the handle and the plate 4 in which the inner extremity of
85 the plate 2 is received, the construction affording a rigid mounting for the plates 2 and 4. The outermost end portion of the upper or base plate 2 is reduced toward the
90 outer extremity thereof and curved upwardly to form a guide extension 6. At its middle portion the plate 2 extends upwardly at about a right angle to its inner end, as shown
95 at 7 and this spaces the outer portion of the plate 2 from the adjacent portion of the plate 4, the latter being formed with spaced meat
engaging or penetrating members 8 which are arranged beneath the plate 2 and substantially in the same plane as the body portion
100 of the plate 4 with which they are integral. The penetrating members 8 are pointed to their outer extremities so as to facilitate the operation of forcing said members into the meat, preparatory to the application of a label or tag. Not only are
105 the members 8 pointed, but the adjacent or inner edges of said members curve upwardly forming deflecting surfaces and flanges 8^a, the purpose of which will appear more fully as the description proceeds.

The labeling mechanism employed as a part of my machine is very simple and consists mainly of a tubular guide or holder 9 in which is mounted for vertical movement a
 5 plunger 10, the latter being provided at its upper end with a head or handle 11. A coiled spring 12 encircles the plunger 10 and is interposed between the head 11 and the upper end of the guide or holder 9, said
 10 spring normally holding the plunger at the upper limit of its movement upon the member 9. The plunger 10 is provided with a longitudinal slot 13 through which passes a transverse guide pin 14 secured to the upper
 15 extremity of the holder 9. In the lower portion thereof, the guide or holder 9 is formed with a slot 15 extending about half way across the body thereof, a feed opening 16 leading downwardly from the central portion
 20 of the said slot. Projecting outwardly from the holder 9 is a small chute 17 in which is mounted a longitudinally movable follower 18 by which a tag or label received in the chute is fed therefrom through the slot 15
 25 and opening 16 into the guide or holder 9, and held in such position until the plunger 10 is actuated to apply said tag or label to the meat.

The upper edge portions of the sides of the
 30 chute 17 are formed with inwardly extending flanges 19 entering recesses in opposite sides of the follower 18 and preventing upward displacement of the follower as well as guiding it in its movement longitudinally of its
 35 support 17. The follower 18 is shaped so as to snugly fit in the chute 17 and said follower is operated by a rod 20 one end of which is screwed into an opening in the follower, while the opposite end of the rod extends
 40 through an opening in the outer end of the chute and is bent to form a finger piece 21. A spring surrounds the rod 20 and is arranged between the outer end of the chute 17 and the follower 18, normally tending to
 45 force the follower toward the guide or holder 9. In order that the follower 18 may be temporarily held in a position remote from the guide 9, the rod 20 is provided in a side thereof with a recess 22 adapted to be engaged
 50 by the outer end of the chute when the rod is pulled outwardly and given a slight lateral movement to effect such desired engagement. When the rod 20 is interlocked with the chute 17 to hold the follower in an
 55 adjusted position as described, a tag or metal label may be readily placed in the chute preparatory to being fed into the guide or holder 9 when the follower is released and forced inwardly by the spring cooperating
 60 therewith.

Above is described the general construction of my machine as preferred, the chute 17 being integrally formed with the holder 9 and base plate 2. The detail structure of
 65 the device, however, may be modified in

accordance with the spirit of the invention and scope of the appended claims.

Describing the operation of the machine, when it is desired to affix a metal label to the meat, and assuming that one or more of
 70 said labels are arranged in the chute 17, the operator by grasping the handle 1 forces the engaging members 8 into the meat until said members are embedded therein somewhat
 75 as illustrated in Figs. 2 and 3 of the drawings, the finger piece 21 having been manipulated so as to force the follower 18 inwardly, this movement of the follower feeding the label
 80 or tag into the guide or holder 9 where it is held by slight pressure of the follower thereagainst. The plunger 10 is forced downwardly until its inner or lower end engages the tag or label and ejects the latter from
 85 the guide 9 which is of course open at its lower extremity just above the engaging members 8. The tag, indicated at 23 may be of any suitable shape, conforming with the shape of the guide or holder 9 in cross section, and being provided with engaging projections or prongs extending from its under
 90 side. The flanged inner edges 8^a of the engaging members 8 project fully into the path of movement of opposite prongs of the tag or label 23 as the latter is ejected from the guide 9. Thus when the plunger 10 is operated to affix the label to the meat, as the said
 95 label passes from the holder 9 the prongs 24 thereof are embedded in the meat and by reason of the peculiar arrangement of the engaging members 8, the deflecting surfaces of the flanges 8^a deflect or bend the prongs of the tag or label outwardly and upwardly thereby effectively attaching the label to the meat in a manner which will be readily
 100 apparent. The engaging members therefore constitute not only means for engaging the device with the meat but said members are virtually anvils cooperating with the plunger 10 to deflect the prongs or projections 24 of the tag in such a way as to insure
 105 firm attachment of said tag to the meat.

The handle 1 is so arranged relative to the parts supported thereby as to avoid likelihood of contact of the hand with the meat as the device is engaged with the latter.
 110 Whenever it is found necessary to clean the parts of the machine, the supporting and base plates may be readily detached from one another by removal of the fastening 3. Having thus described the invention,
 120 what is claimed as new, is:

1. In a meat labeling machine, the combination with a meat penetrating device constituting an anvil, of labeling mechanism including means for forcing labels against the
 125 penetrating device and upsetting said labels while the penetrating device is embedded in meat.

2. In a meat labeling machine, the combination of spaced pointed meat penetrating
 130

members constituting anvils, of labeling mechanism including means for forcing metal labels against the penetrating members whereby to upset said labels while the penetrating members are embedded in meat.

5 3. In a meat labeling machine, the combination of a handle provided at an end thereof with pointed meat penetrating members formed with deflecting surfaces, label feeding mechanism mounted on said handle, and means arranged at an angle to the meat penetrating members for forcing metal labels thereagainst to secure said labels to the meat while the penetrating members are em-
15 bedded therein.

4. In a meat labeling machine, the combination of spaced meat penetrating members formed with deflecting surfaces and constituting anvils, a handle attached to said members for operation thereof, a base plate
20 spaced from and arranged above the penetrating members aforesaid, a guide carried by said base plate, a plunger mounted in said guide for forcing a label against the anvil
25 penetrating members to secure the label to

the meat while they are embedded therein, and label feeding mechanism for the plunger.

5. A meat labeling machine comprising a base plate, a supporting plate arranged beneath the same and attached thereto, a
30 handle connected with the supporting plate, said supporting plate being provided at its outer end with spaced penetrating members curved transversely to form deflecting surfaces and constituting anvils, a guide for
35 labels carried by the base plate and having at its lower end an opening above the penetrating members, said penetrating members being spaced from the base plate and adapted to be forced into the meat, label feeding
40 means for supplying labels to the label guide, and a plunger operating in the label guide for forcing labels against the anvil penetrating members to secure said labels to meat.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature
45 in presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT A. PEARSON.

Witnesses:

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EDWIN O. HILDEBRAND.