

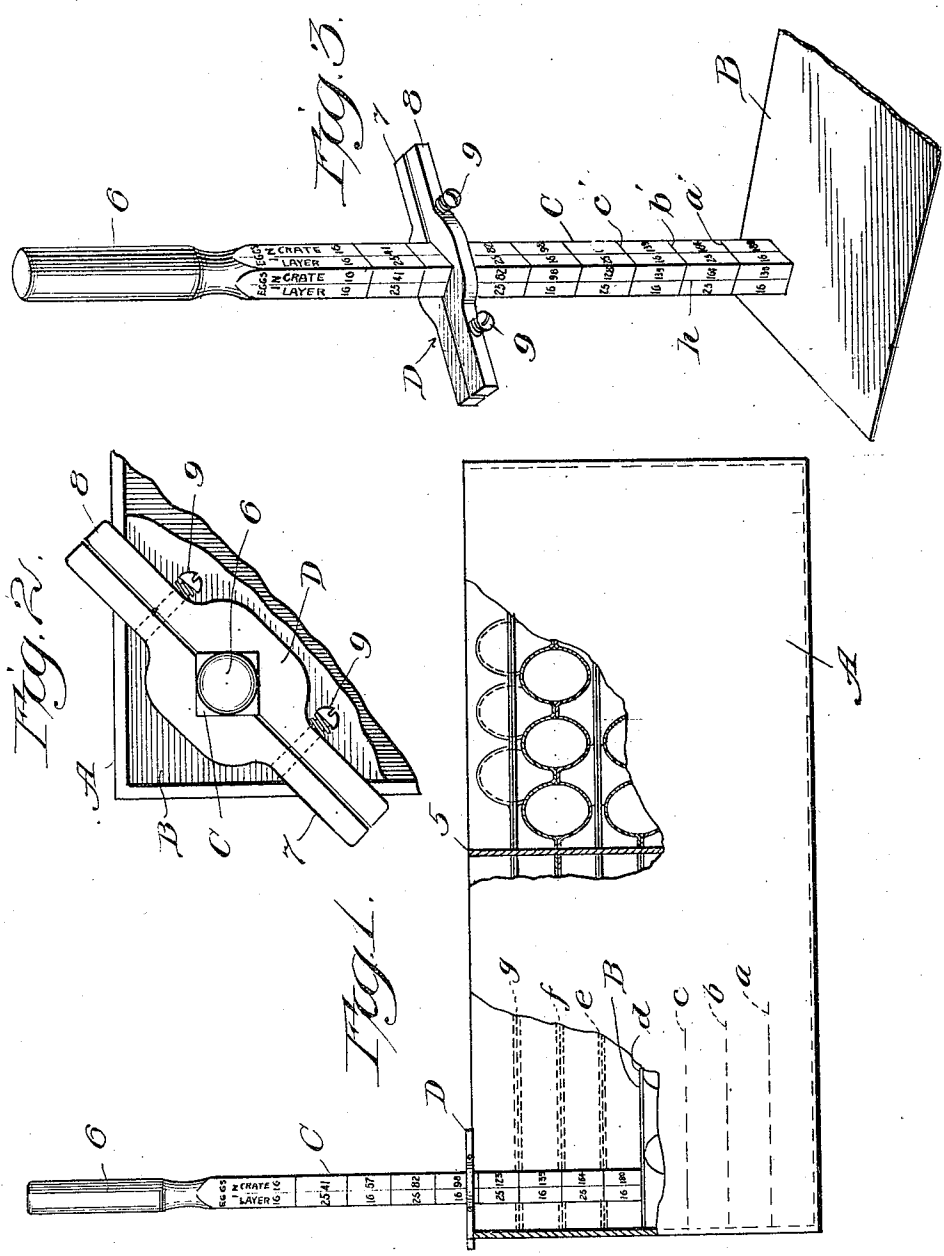
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EGG GAUGE

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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EGG GAUGE.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, OLIVER D. COLLIS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Clinton, in the county of Clinton and State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Egg Gauges, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a gauge by which to determine the number of eggs contained within a case of standard dimensions at any stage during the packing operation.

In the handling of eggs on a commercial basis it is customary to use shipping cases of certain standard dimensions having a capacity of, say, thirty dozen. To prevent breakage the eggs are commonly placed in fillers which are arranged in layered formation usually sixteen in the bottom layer, twenty-five in the next, and so on alternately to the top. During the operation of packing it is difficult to ascertain the number of egg layers that have been placed in the container, and also the total number of eggs that are packed therein. It is accordingly with the purpose in view of providing a gauge which may be employed in connection with standard egg cases and fillers therefor that the present invention has been devised.

In the accompanying drawing is represented an embodiment of my invention in the manner following:

Figure 1 is a side elevation through an egg case of standard construction, portions of the proximate wall being broken away to exhibit the contents thereof, and also the egg gauge in operative relation therewith;

Fig. 2 is an enlarged fragmentary view in plan showing the gauge in operative position; and

Fig. 3 is a perspective view thereof.

The case A is shown to be divided by a central partition 5 into two compartments each adapted for receiving egg fillers arranged layer on layer. For purposes of convenience, it will be assumed that the capacity of the lowermost filler is 16, the one above 25, and so on, in alternation, nine layers having a total capacity of 180 eggs being the usual arrangement in each compartment. The approximate levels of the several egg layers when arranged in this manner are indicated by the letters *a*, *b*, *c*, etc.

With a case wherein eggs are packed in this manner, the present gauge is adapted for use. As shown, this comprises a rectangular base plate B near one corner of which is an upstanding post C whose upper end is preferably formed to provide a handle 6. In cross section the post may be square, and slidably arranged thereon is a cross head D consisting of a pair of horizontal arms 7 and 8 having complementary notches in their intermediate portions to snugly embrace the post. As by means of screws 9 extending from the one arm to the other, both are held together as a unit in clamping relation to the post. The cross head extends laterally from the post in a direction which aligns with the vertical plane extending through two of its opposite edges.

Upon the gauge post are a series of graduations which may be duplicated or varied, if desired, on each side thereof. These graduations include horizontal lines *a'*, *b'*, *c'*, etc., corresponding to the levels of the respective egg layers *a*, *b*, *c*, etc., also a vertical line *h* which extends for substantially the length of the post. By some such markings as these I define a series of spaces in two columns in one of which is recorded the number of eggs in a given layer and in the other the total number of eggs in the crate up to a given level. In the layer column, commencing with the top space, appear the numerals 16 and 25 in alternation, whereas in the crate column, commencing with the top, appears first the numeral 16; in the next space the numeral 41 which represents an addition of 25; in the next space therebelow the numeral 57 which represents a further addition of 16; and in the next succeeding space the numeral 82 which represents the preceding total with 25 added thereto; and so on to the bottom space in the column where a grand total of 180 is recorded. It will thus be observed that in the layer column appear the numerals 16 and 25 in alternation, whereas in the crate column appears first the numeral 16 and thereafter other figures which represent the sum total of those expressed in the adjacent space in the layer column.

In the packing of eggs with standard fillers, it is customary to start with a bottom layer of 16. At any point thereabove if it be desired to take a count the gauge

base is then rested upon the topmost eggs, as at the level *d* (see Fig. 1). This base plate is fitted into the corner of the case, the gauge post also lying in proximity thereto so that the transverse arms will point obliquely and rest upon the upper edges of the case when moved to a lowered position. As shown in Fig. 1, the arms will lie within a pair of the spaces which are marked off on the post, and the figures in these spaces will afford the desired reading both as to the number of eggs in the filler last packed and as to the total number of eggs in all the fillers thus far packed. It will thus be apparent that the gauge may be readily adapted for the taking of a count at any stage during the packing operation.

I claim:

1. A gauge for determining the number of eggs contained in a case, said eggs being arranged in layers, alternate ones of which have each the same number of eggs therein, which number differs from the number in the intermediate layers, said gauge comprising a post having means at its lower end adapted to rest upon the topmost layer of eggs contained within the case, and a cross head extending laterally from the post and adjustable thereupon for resting upon the upper edge of the case, there being spaced graduations on the post adjacent one of which the cross head will lie when rested upon the case edge, the spacing and marking of the graduations being such as to indicate both the number of eggs contained in the topmost layer during any stage of the packing operation, and also the total number of eggs contained in all of the layers below the gauge, substantially as described.

2. An egg gauge comprising a rectangular base plate, a post upstanding therefrom from a point close to one corner thereof, a

cross head adjustably mounted on the post and extending laterally therefrom in a direction which is oblique to the base plate edges, the base plate being adapted to fit into a corner of an egg case and to rest upon the topmost layer of eggs contained therewithin and the cross head to rest upon two adjacent top edges of the case, there being spaced graduations on the post adjacent one of which the cross head is disposed when resting upon the case edges, the spacing and marking of the graduations being such as to indicate both the number of eggs contained in the topmost layer during any stage of the packing operation, and also the total number of eggs contained in that layer and the ones below it, substantially as described.

3. An egg gauge comprising a post having means at its lower end adapted to rest upon the topmost layer of eggs contained within a case, a cross head extending laterally from the post and adjustable thereupon for resting upon the upper edge of the egg case, there being double columns of numerals on the post arranged in pairs and spaced vertically a distance equal to the height of one egg layer, the numerals in one column indicating the number of eggs contained in each layer and the numerals in the other column indicating the total number of eggs contained in the layers beneath the gauge, the cross head when resting upon the case edge being disposed adjacent a pair of numerals which afford an indication of the number of eggs contained in the topmost layer and the total number in that layer and in the several layers therebelow, substantially as described.

OLIVER D. COLLIS.

Witness:

M. C. STEPHENS.