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C. BIRDSEYE

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CONSUMER PACKAGE

Filed Jan. 7, 1930

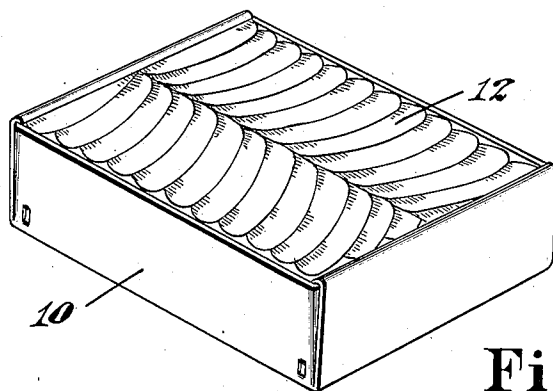


Fig. 1.

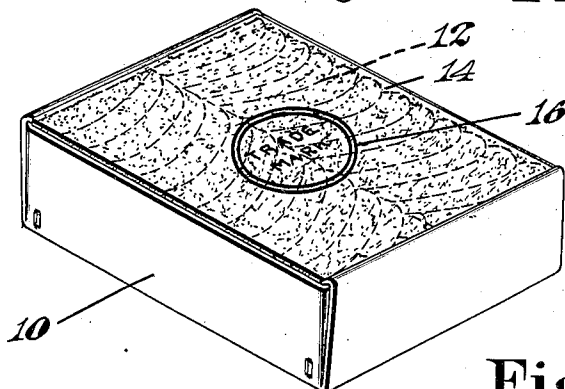


Fig. 2.

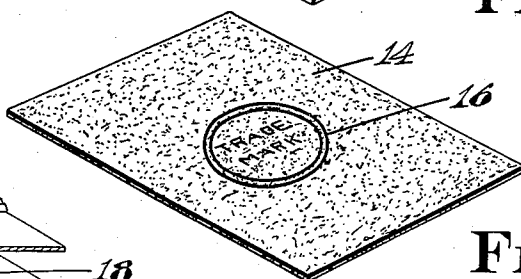


Fig. 3.

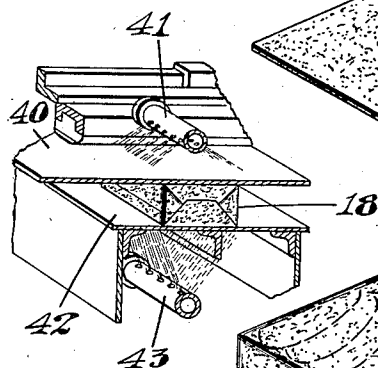


Fig. 5.

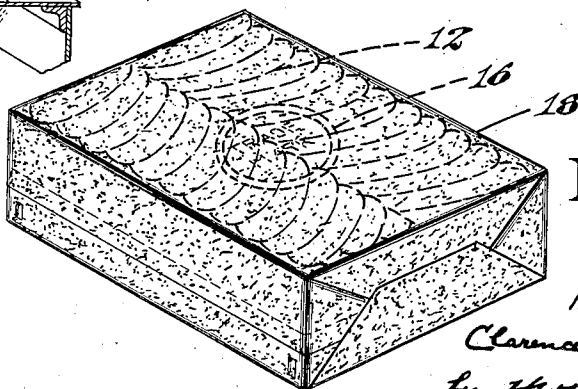


Fig. 4.

INVENTOR.

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## UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

CLARENCE BIRDSEYE, OF GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO FROSTED FOODS COMPANY, INC., OF DOVER, DELAWARE, A CORPORATION OF DELAWARE

## CONSUMER PACKAGE

Application filed January 7, 1930. Serial No. 419,180.

This invention consists in a novel consumer package of perishable food products which is adapted to be prepared by methods in which a freezing step is included.

5 My invention is concerned with the difficult problems of packaging in unit quantities fresh perishable food products, such for example as fish, meat, fruit or vegetables, and in accomplishing this without the loss of the  
10 essential characteristics of the fresh foodstuff, protecting it against desiccation and deterioration from internal or external sources and adapting it is to be transported, stored and distributed to the consumer without impairment in any of these particulars. My invention may be applied with advantage in  
15 packing a quick frozen product and in one aspect it consists in a package which is effective to protect the product and at the same  
20 time facilitate the quick freezing step. From another standpoint my invention contemplates a sealed and frozen package of such a character as to permit the purchaser or consumer to inspect its contents without destroying the integrity of its wrapping. This  
25 would not only render the product liable to contamination from external sources but would subject it to a loss of moisture seriously affecting its quality and flavor.  
30 In producing the package of my invention I first pack the fresh product, which is usually in a moist pliable condition, within an open top carton so that the latter is filled substantially flush with the top of its walls. I  
35 then place upon the surface of the packed product a sheet of transparent, moisture-proof material. The carton and its contents are then wrapped in a covering of transparent, moisture-proof material similar to that  
40 already used, and finally the packed and sealed package is frozen, preferably quick frozen, into a solid block. It will be seen that in the procedure above outlined the exposed surface of the product is covered by a double  
45 thickness of transparent material so that while it is visible and may be readily inspected by the purchaser, it is doubly protected against being punctured or broken and against loss of moisture by drying. The  
50 package, moreover, may be quick frozen to

good advantage by being engaged between parallel heat-conductive members which engage the opposite faces of the packed carton over their entire area with the interposition of a minimum amount of heat insulating material between them. 55

The package of my invention presents an additional advantage in that, if desired, a trade-mark or other identifying insignia may be printed upon the inner transparent sheet which is first placed upon the surface of the product. Opportunity is thus afforded for  
60 accurately locating the mark in the desired position and in the complete package the mark is protected against disfigurement by transparent wrapping in which the package  
65 is sealed.

These and other features of the invention will be best understood and appreciated from the following description of a preferred embodiment thereof, selected for purposes of illustration and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which 70

Fig. 1 is a view in perspective of the packed carton; 75

Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the loose transparent sheet in position upon the product;

Fig. 3 is a view in perspective of the loose sheet; 80

Fig. 4 is a view in perspective of the complete sealed package; and

Fig. 5 is a view in perspective, on a reduced scale, suggestive of the quick freezing step. 85

In preparing the package of my invention, I employ an open top carton of any convenient commercial type. A carton 10 of this general character is shown in Fig. 1 and is represented as being packed with fillets of  
90 fresh fish. The carton is filled with this product substantially flush with the top of its walls and as it is in a soft moist condition the carton is practically completely filled without appreciable air spaces. 95

Having packed the carton, a transparent piece 14 of thin sheet material, such as waterproof cellophane, is placed upon the surface of the product 12. The sheet 14 is cut accurately to register with the inside dimensions 100

of the carton and preferably, and as herein shown, has printed thereon a trade-mark 16. The piece of sheet material 14, being previously cut to size, may be quickly and accurately located in position in the carton and the trade-mark which it bears is located with corresponding accuracy in the most desirable position.

The packed carton with the sheet 14 in place is next wrapped in a sheet of transparent material, which may be sealed to provide a covering 18. The material of the covering may be similar to that of the loose sheet 14, although in packaging some products it is not necessary to employ a moisture-proof material for the covering. It will be observed that while the covering 18 completely seals the entire package, it forms with the sheet 14 a transparent covering of two plies or of double thickness over the surface of the product 12 which is otherwise exposed. The product 12 may thus be readily inspected by the consumer. The trade-mark 16 upon the loose sheet 14 is protected and held in place by the covering 18 and the package in this condition may be handled and transported without danger of being disorganized.

The package thus prepared is well adapted to be quick frozen with its contents in any commercial form of refrigerating apparatus. In Fig. 5 is shown a pair of heat-conductive plates or bands 40 and 42 adapted to engage the package over the entire area of its upper and lower faces and to hold the same firmly while heat is extracted therefrom. This is effected by liquid refrigerating medium directed against the plates 40 and 42 by supply pipes 41 and 43. After being maintained for a sufficient length of time between the heat-conductive plates, the package is transformed into a solid frozen block, ready for distribution or storage, durably protected against damage and desiccation, and presenting an attractive appearance for the trade.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. A consumer package of a perishable food product, comprising an open-top carton packed full of a fresh food product, a loose transparent sheet bearing an identifying mark laid upon the product, and a sealed transparent wrapper enclosing the entire package and forming with the loose sheet a double cover through which the product is visible, the packed carton and its contents being frozen into a solid block.

2. A frozen consumer package of a perishable food product, comprising an open-top carton packed substantially full of a food product, a leaf of water-proof transparent sheet material laid in direct contact with the surface of the product, and a wrapper of similar material enclosing the carton and doubling the cover over the product to protect the same while permitting inspection thereof, the packed carton being frozen with its contents into a solid block.

3. A consumer package of a perishable food product, comprising an open-top carton containing a food product which has been frozen therein, a loose leaf of transparent sheet material having substantially the same length and breadth as the carton, located upon the product and having an identifying mark printed upon its surface, and a transparent wrapper enclosing the carton and product, holding said loose leaf in place with said identifying mark substantially in contact with the inner face of the wrapper, protecting the mark thereon and forming with said loose sheet a transparent, puncture-resistant, two-ply covering for the product.

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