C. J. OTTUM.

OYSTER OPENER.

APPLICATION FILED JULY 28, 1915.

1,159,262. Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

Fig. 1.

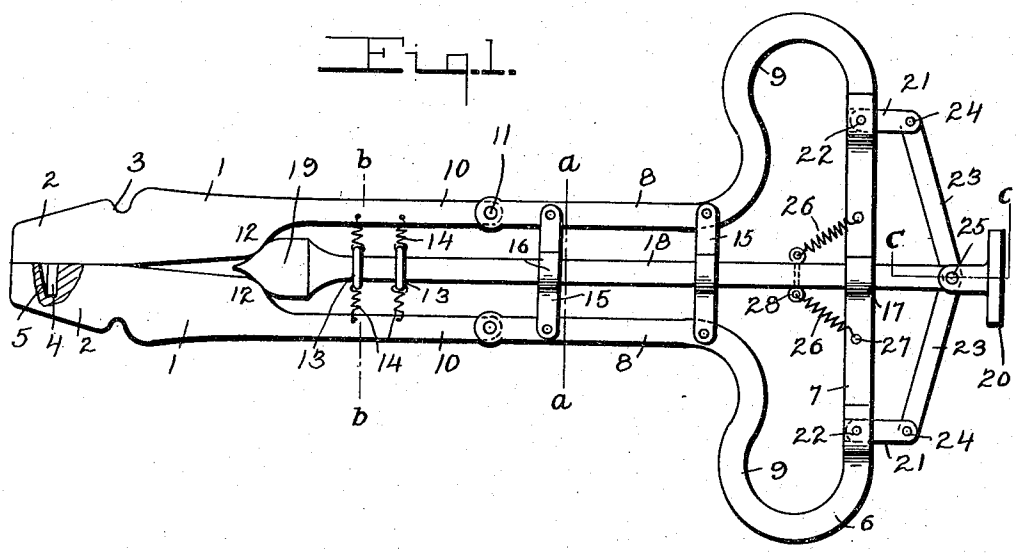


Fig. 2.

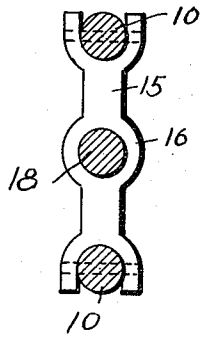


Fig. 3.

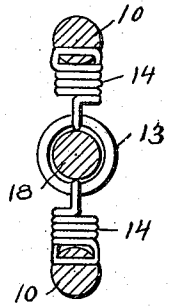
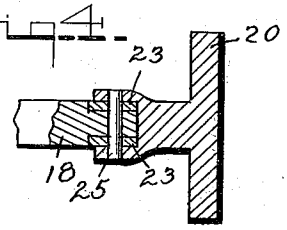


Fig. 4.



Witnesses

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OYSTER-OPENER.

1,159,262. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 2, 1915.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CLARENCE J. OTTUM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Pierpont, in the county of Day and State of South Dakota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Oyster-Openers; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

This invention is an improved oyster opener, the object of the invention being to provide an improved implement of this kind which is cheap and simple in construction, is strong and durable, and by means of which oysters, clams and the like may be readily and very expeditiously opened.

The invention consists in the construction, combination and arrangement of devices hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings:—Figure 1 is an elevation of an oyster opener, constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a detail transverse sectional view of the same on the plane indicated by the line *a*—*a* of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is a similar view on the plane indicated by the line *b*—*b* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a detail elevation partly in section, on the line *c*—*c* of Fig. 1.

In the embodiment of my invention I provide a pair of opening jaws 1 which are substantially wedge shaped and provided with points 2 at their outer ends which are adapted to be initially inserted between the members of the shell. At a suitable distance from the points, the jaws are provided on their outer sides with notches 3 and one jaw has a stud 4 adapted to enter a bore 5 in the opposite jaw.

The handle 6 is substantially T-shaped and is here shown as made of a single piece of bent rod of suitable gage and as provided with a cross portion 7 and a pair of parallel arms 8 which are connected to the ends of the cross portion by S-shaped bends 9. The jaws 1 are provided with inwardly extending arms 10 which are pivotally connected to the arms 8 as at 11 so that said jaws are arranged to move toward and from each other. At a suitable distance from their points their jaws are provided on their inner sides with cam shoulders 12.

Guide elements 13 which are here shown as rings, are arranged between the arms 10 of the jaws and connected thereto by springs 14 which hold the guide rings midway between the arms of the jaws and also serve to draw the jaws together and normally hold them in closed relation as shown in Fig. 1. Cross braces 15 connect the arms 8 and are provided with centrally arranged guide openings 16. The cross head or portion 7 of the handle is also provided with a centrally arranged guide opening 17. An operating rod 18 is arranged for longitudinal movement and passes through the said guide and is provided at its inner end with a cam head 19 which is adapted to be inserted between the cam shoulders 12 of the jaws. At the outer end of the operating rod is a push button or knob 20. A pair of links 21 extend rearwardly from the cross bar 7 of the handle and are pivotally connected thereto at their front ends as at 22. Links 23 are pivotally connected to the links 21 as at 24 and are pivotally connected to the operating rod at a point near the knob or button 20, as at 25. Coiled springs 26 have their rear ends attached to the bar 7 as at 27 and their front ends connected to the operating rod as at 28, said coiled springs serving to normally draw the rod 18 rearwardly so as to cause the cam head 19 to clear the cam shoulders 12 and hence enable the jaws to be normally held in closed relation, as shown in Fig. 1, by the springs 14.

In using the device to open an oyster or clam the points 2 are first inserted between the shells and pushed in until the notches 3 are at the outer edges of the shell. The opener is then turned by means of the handle 6 thus partly opening the shells and causing them to grip in the notches 3, and thus prevent the shells from slipping. The rod 18 is then pushed forwardly by pressure on the knob or button 20 thus causing the cam head 19 to pass forwardly between the cam shoulders 12 and coact with said cam shoulders to move the jaws apart, thus completing the opening of the oyster or clam as will be understood.

While I have herein shown and described a preferred form of my invention I would have it understood that changes may be made in the form, proportion and construction of the several parts without departing from the spirit of the invention, and within the scope of the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, I claim:—

1. An oyster opener comprising a handle,

a pair of jaws having opening points and pivotally connected to the handle for movement toward and from each other, springs to normally close the jaws and an operating rod slidably mounted in the handle and having a cam head to move between the jaws and force them apart.

2. An oyster opener comprising a handle, a pair of jaws having opening points and pivotally connected to the handle for movement toward and from each other, springs to normally close the jaws and an operating rod slidably mounted in the handle and having a cam head to move between the jaws and force them apart, the said jaws having shell engaging notches in their outer sides spaced from their points.

3. An oyster opener comprising a handle, a pair of jaws having opening points and pivotally connected to the handle for movement toward and from each other, springs to normally close the jaws and an operating rod slidably mounted in the handle and having a cam head to move between the jaws and force them apart, and a spring to normally move the rod rearwardly and disengage the cam head from the jaws.

4. An oyster opener comprising a handle, a pair of jaws having opening points and pivotally connected to the handle for movement toward and from the other, springs to normally close the jaws and an operating rod slidably mounted in the handle and having a cam head to move between the jaws and force them apart, links pivotally connected to the handle at points placed from opposite sides of the operating rods and links pivotally connected to the operating rod and also pivotally connected to the first named link.

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

CLARENCE J. OTTUM.

Witnesses:
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Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents Washington, D. C."