(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

D. O. MARSHALL & C. F. YORK.

APPARATUS FOR PACKING FISH.

No. 325,102. Patented Aug. 25, 1885.

Fig. 1.

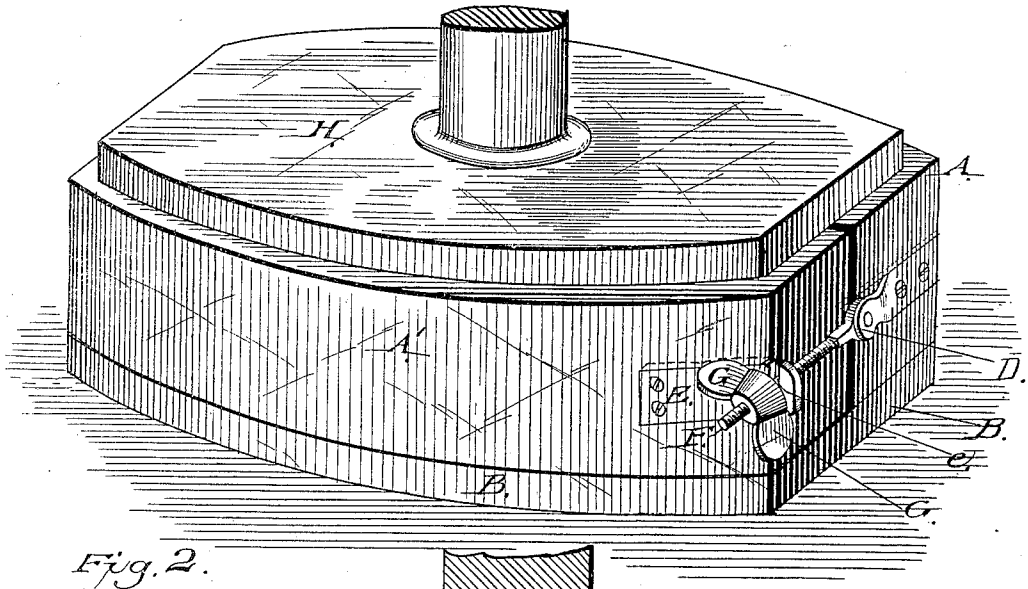
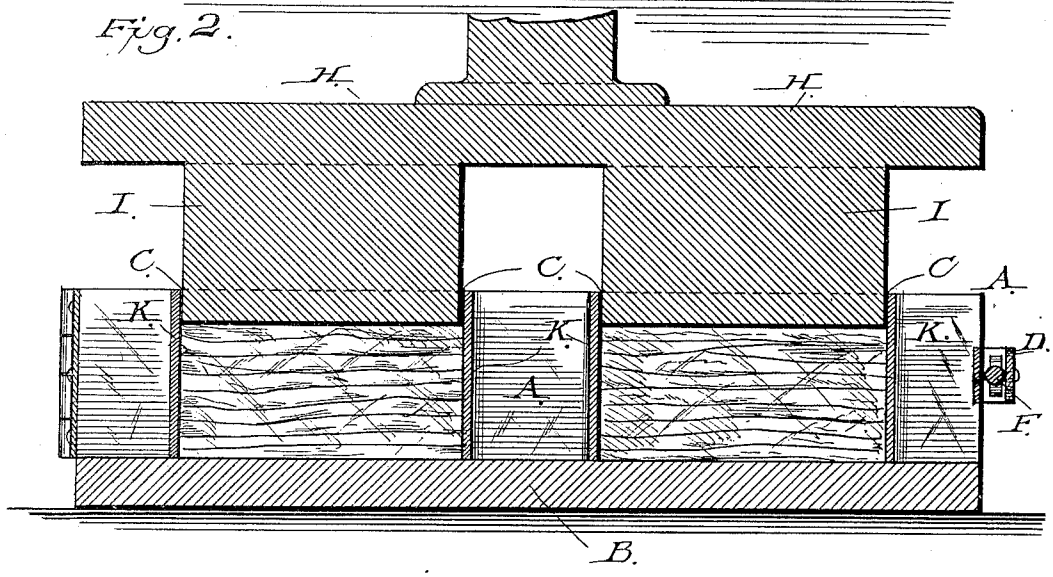


Fig. 2.



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(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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Fig. 3.

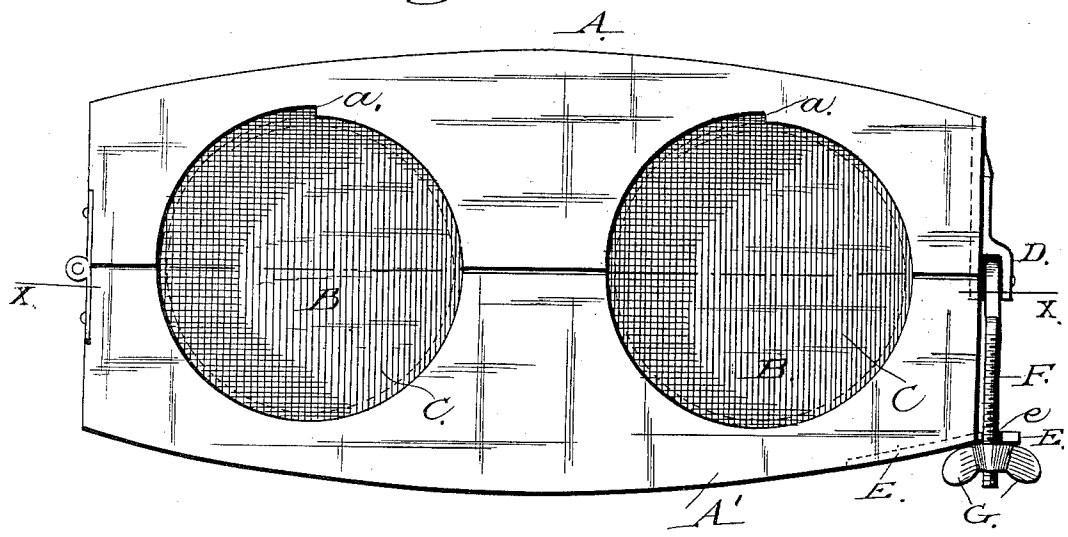
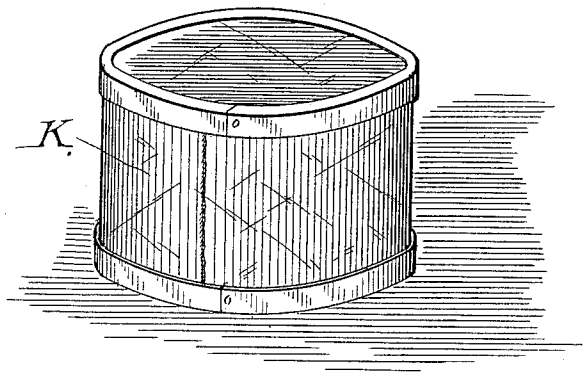


Fig. 4.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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APPARATUS FOR PACKING FISH.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 325,102, dated August 25, 1885.

Application filed June 30, 1885. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, DANIEL O. MARSHALL and CHARLES F. YORK, citizens of the United States, residing at Gloucester, in the county of Essex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Apparatus for Packing Fish, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, forming part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 represents a perspective view of an apparatus embodying our invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view of the same on the line *x x* of Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is a plan view of our improved sectional block for holding the boxes while being packed. Fig. 4 is a perspective of one of our boxes packed and having the top and bottom covers in place.

Our invention relates to an apparatus for packing fish, preferably codfish; and the same consists, essentially, in a sectional block having two or more openings for the boxes, in means whereby the boxes, after being packed, may be removed without displacing the fish, and in a follower adapted to enter the boxes in the sectional block and securely compress the different pieces or layers of fish, all of which we will hereinafter fully describe and claim.

To enable others skilled in the art to make and use our invention, we will now proceed to describe the construction of our apparatus and the manner in which it is used.

In the said drawings, A A′ represent the mold or sectional block, the sections of which are hinged together at one end, and provided at the opposite ends with means whereby the sections are securely locked, as shown in Fig. 1. The stationary section A has a bottom piece, B, which extends under the whole block when the same is being packed, and upon this bottom the boxes rest during the compression of the fish. The section A′ is the movable section, and swings outward to release the boxes and permit of their being readily removed from the block and receive their top and bottom covers. Each of the sections has semicircular or other desired form of openings C, and each opening of the series is provided with shoulders at *a*, against which the edge of the box K is placed and made to bear. The stationary section A has secured thereto a casting, D, with a bifurcated end, in which is journaled a swinging bolt, F, and the movable section A′ has also a plate or casting, E, provided with a notch, *e*, in which lies the bolt F, while a thumb-nut, G, engages the threaded portion of the bolt, and, bearing against the plate E, holds the sections A A′ tightly together during the packing process, and allows the bolt to be disengaged and swung out of the way of the movable section when it is desired to remove the packed boxes. The follower H is located immediately over the sectional block, and is provided with blocks or plungers I, corresponding in size and number to the openings in said sectional block. This follower may be operated by screw, hydraulic, or other power to tightly compress the layers of fish within the boxes.

In the drawings we have illustrated the block as having two circular openings for cylindrical-shaped boxes; but we do not wish to confine ourselves to this construction, as boxes of different shapes may be used, and the sectional mold or block may be made to receive any desired number of boxes, the plungers on the follower always corresponding to the shape of the box in which the fish is pressed.

In the practical operation of our apparatus the fish are first skinned and then cut with a die into circular, square, or other shaped pieces. The empty boxes K are placed in the mold or block A A′ without a top cover, and with or without a bottom cover, the seam or edge of the body of the box bearing against the shoulders *a*. When this is done, the sections of the block are closed by the bolt F and thumb-nut G, and the layers of fish may then be inserted and compressed by the follower. By this means we are enabled to pack and press the fish in the original package, and without the necessity of having the same pressed in a separate mold and then packed in boxes, and by having the edges of the boxes bearing against the shoulders before described all danger of the boxes bursting is obviated, as the pressure is evenly distributed around its entire surface.

Having thus fully described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In an apparatus for packing fish, the

combination of a sectional block having a movable section with open bottom, and a stationary section having a bottom piece which extends under both sections when closed, and upon which the boxes rest, a follower having plungers corresponding nearly in size to the diameter of the boxes, and a locking-bolt for securing the sections of the block together, substantially as herein described.

2. An apparatus for compressing fish, comprising a sectional block provided with a movable and a stationary section, the latter having a bottom piece, B, extending under both sections when closed, openings formed in the sections, and shoulders formed in the openings, against which the seams of the boxes bear, a follower having plungers adapted to enter the boxes and compress the fish, and a threaded bolt and thumb nut, whereby the sections may be locked or unlocked, substantially as and for the purpose herein described.

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