

(No Model.)

W. DE HAVEN.
TOBACCO CASE.

No. 503,717.

Patented Aug. 22, 1893.

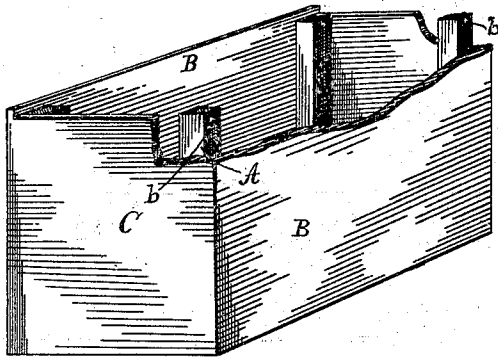


Fig. 1.

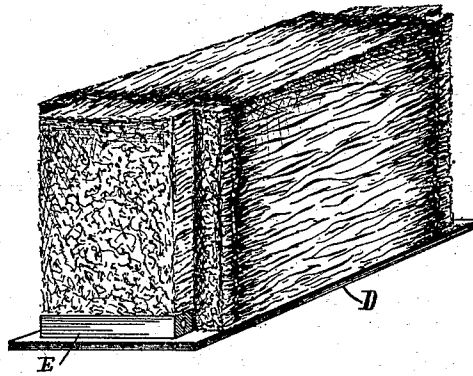


Fig. 2.

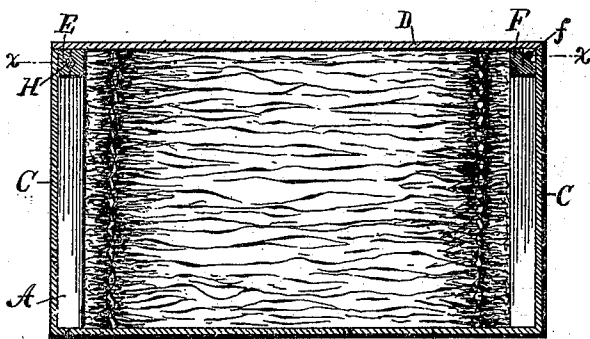


Fig. 3.

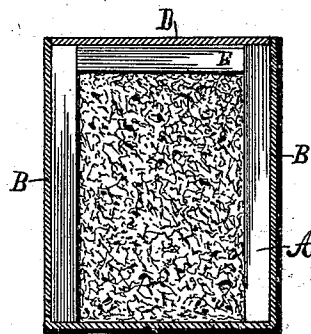


Fig. 4.

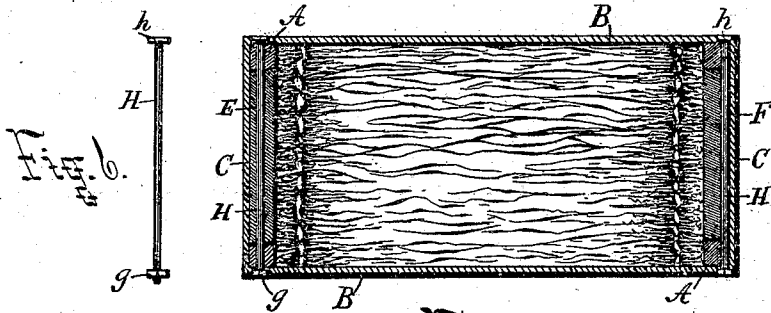


Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOBACCO-CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 503,717, dated August 22, 1893.

Application filed December 27, 1892. Serial No. 456,299. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM DE HAVEN, a citizen of the United States, residing in Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain Improvements in Tobacco-Cases, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to Improvements in that class of cases in which leaf tobacco is first packed by the buyer after being purchased from the grower, and in which it is inspected and then sold to the manufacturer. After the tobacco is packed in the case it is examined and sampled by inspectors, who separate the mass at different places about the sides thereof for that purpose. The cases in common use are made with posts—one at each corner—to which the bottom, sides, and top are nailed. When the tobacco is to be inspected the sides or parts of the sides, and the top of the case are pried off, so that the inspector may have access to the contents, and after the inspection is finished those parts are again nailed on. The tobacco is inspected in the case not only once, but, in many instances, a number of times, for although a customer sees the inspector's samples he, nevertheless, frequently wants to examine the contents of the case to ascertain how it has cured since the samples were taken out and what the condition of the tobacco is at the time he is bargaining for it, so that a case is often opened a number of times for different customers. This prying off of the sides and top of the box is not only laborious, vexatious and troublesome but it splinters and breaks the parts of the cases, so as to frequently injure them to such an extent that they can no longer be put together and the tobacco has to be repacked. In addition to this it is difficult to get at the tobacco so as to examine the interior of the mass satisfactorily.

The object of my invention is to produce a tobacco case cheap and simple in construction; one so made that it will allow the whole mass of its contents to be exposed to view without forcibly detaching any of the parts from the case, and into which the tobacco can again be easily secured; and one from which a portion of the contents can be removed without disturbing the mass in such a man-

ner as to prevent the case from being readily closed again.

I accomplish my object by the construction illustrated in the accompanying drawings, 55 which form a part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective top view of a tobacco-case embodying my improvements, the lid being removed and portions of the body 60 cut away. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the inner face of the lid showing the contents of the case piled thereon as left by the removal of the body of the case. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal vertical central section of the case with 65 the lid in place, and Fig. 4 a similar transverse section. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section on the broken line $x-x$, Fig. 3. Fig. 6 is a view of the fastening bolt or rod, shown detached from the case, and Fig. 7 an end view 70 of a modified form of rib.

Similar letters indicate like parts throughout the several views.

The tobacco-case comprises a box-body having interior corner-posts A, button A', sides B, ends C, and lid or cover D. With the exceptions hereinafter noted these parts are constructed and put together in the usual manner.

The lid of my case is set down between the sides B, so that its top surface is flush with 80 the upper edges of said sides, the ends C and corner posts A being reduced in height for that purpose. The ends of the lid cover the upper edges of the ends C and have their own edges flush with the outer faces of said ends 85 C. Near the ends and on the inner face of lid D there are secured ribs E and F, so located and of such length that when the lid is secured on the box they rest between and extend from one to the other of the posts of each 90 end pair. These ribs brace the upper ends of the posts and serve as the medium through which the lid is secured on the box. The ribs can be made differently, the construction shown in Fig. 2 and on the left in Fig. 3 being preferred. This rib E, is made of two 95 pieces secured to the lid with their adjacent faces resting against each other, and in these adjacent faces there are formed longitudinal semicircular grooves that coincide with each 100 other and form a bore, as shown. The ends of the bore register with perforations, b,

through the posts and sides of the box, forming an opening from side to side of the case through the parts mentioned. Through this opening there extends a screw bolt or rod H, the head, *h*, of which is counter sunk in one side of the box. When screwed up the nut *g*, on the threaded end of the bolt, is also countersunk in the side of the box, said bolt being of such length that the screw-end does not project beyond the face of that side. On the right of Figs. 3 and 5 is shown a rib, *F*, having the upper edge *f* beveled to form a shoulder for the engagement of the screw-bolt, while in Fig. 7 there is shown a rib formed of a single piece having a bore, *r*, through the center.

My construction makes a particularly strong and durable tobacco-case. Sinking the lid between the sides and securing it to the posts prevents those sides from being loosened on the posts by the strain thereon as the case is walked about on its edges. The ribs stay the upper ends of the posts, and the screw-rods bind the parts firmly together. Countersinking the heads and nuts of said rods prevents the cases from breaking and splintering the sides of those with which they are piled in the ware-house and avoids the obstruction they would offer to sliding the case about on the sides on which they rest.

When the tobacco is to be inspected the case is turned upside down, the lid resting on the floor, the nuts are detached and the screw-rods withdrawn, and then the box is raised up bodily, leaving the tobacco resting on the lid and exposed on all sides. After inspection the box is put down over the tobacco and the lid secured in place. In replacing the lid after removing a portion of the contents of the box the ribs push away any loose obstructing scraps of tobacco, and when the bores thereof register with the perforations

in the side of the box they afford a free and unobstructed channel for the passage of the screw-rods.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The combination, with a box-body having corner-posts, of a lid, ribs on the lid extending between the contiguous faces of opposite posts, and fastening-rods passing through openings in the ribs and openings through the posts and the sides of said box-body, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

2. The combination, with a box-body having corner posts, said corner posts and the ends of the box-body being of less height than the sides thereof, of a lid set down between the sides of the box-body and resting on the ends of the same with its upper surface flush with the edges of said sides, ribs on the lid extending between contiguous faces of opposite posts, and fastening-rods passing through openings in the ribs and openings through the posts and sides of said box-body, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

3. The combination, with a box-body having inside corner-posts, of a lid set down between and having its upper surface flush with the edges of the sides of the box-body, ribs on the lid extending between contiguous faces of opposite posts, and fastening rods passing through openings in the ribs and openings through the posts and the sides of said box-body, the heads of said rods and the nuts thereon being countersunk in the sides of the box, substantially as and for the purpose specified.

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Witnesses:

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