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C. E. GREEN & J. R. RICHEY.

KRAUT PRESS.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 3, 1905.

FIG. 1.

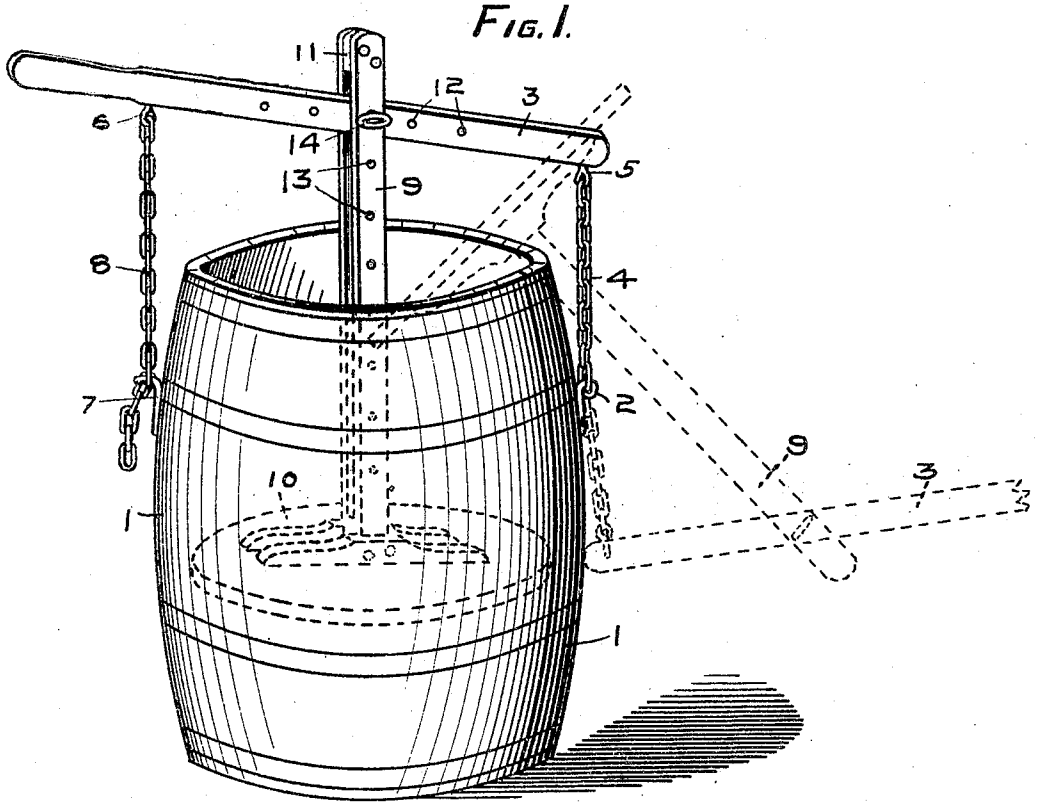
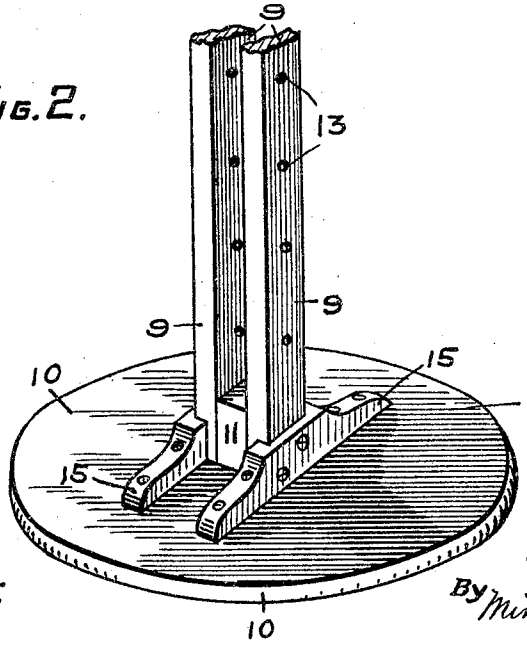


FIG. 2.



WITNESSES;

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KRAUT-PRESS.

No. 798,133. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 29, 1905.

Application filed June 3, 1905. Serial No. 263,615.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, CHARLES E. GREEN, residing at Anderson, in the county of Madison, and JOHN R. RICHEY, residing at Indianapolis, in the county of Marion, State of Indiana, citizens of the United States, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Kraut-Presses, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to improvements in means for holding kraut in a submerged condition under the brine in which it should be kept in order to keep it from spoiling by the access of air thereto.

The common practice heretofore has been to place a board upon the kraut and a weight, such as a large stone, upon the board; but this has not been satisfactory where the frequent access to the kraut is required on account of the inconvenience in lifting the weight out of the receptacle containing the kraut, but more particularly because of the liability of some portions of the kraut to be left exposed to the air out of the brine, due to an imperfect placing of the board and weight or to accidental displacement. This accidental displacement is liable to occur as a result of the unevenness of the body of kraut remaining in the receptacle after a portion has been removed.

The object of our invention is to provide an inexpensive device that can be used as a means for leveling up the kraut mass and that can then be used to press the kraut below the surface of the brine with any desired or required pressure obtained by means of a lever and to retain that pressure by locking the lever in a given position.

The object also is to provide a device that is readily removable for access to the kraut and to provide a device in which those portions which are wet with brine will be placed when removed for access to the kraut in position to drain into the receptacle.

We accomplish the objects of the invention by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a barrel having our invention applied thereto and shown in position for pressing in full lines and having those parts that are removed for access to the contents of the barrel shown in dotted lines in their removed positions, and Fig. 2 is a detail in perspective of that portion of the plunger and head which goes inside of the receptacle.

Like characters of reference indicate like parts in the two views.

1 represents a receptacle in which the kraut will be placed. It is here shown as a barrel, which will be most generally used; but the invention is applicable to any kind of a receptacle.

2 is a hook, or preferably an eye, here shown as formed out of a metal bar having one end bent to form a closed eye and having its other end secured to the barrel.

3 is a lever having an eyebolt 5 secured at its end, and 4 is a chain which connects the eyebolt 5 with the eye 2 on the barrel.

9 is a standard or plunger-bar which has a circular head 10 secured at its lower end.

The plunger-bar 2 is preferably comprised of two parallel wooden pieces held by end blocks 11 a distance apart equal to the thickness of the lever 3, and the lever 3 will be inserted through the space between the two parallel pieces in the manner as shown in Fig. 1. Perforations 12 will be formed through the lever 3, and perforations 13 will be formed through the plunger-bar 9, whereby by means of a pin 14 the lever 3 will be pivotally secured to the plunger-bar. A number of perforations 13 will be provided in the plunger-bar to enable the lever 3 to be placed at different heights of the plunger-bar to suit the requirements of the varying quantity of kraut contained in the barrel. When the barrel is nearly full of kraut, the lever 3 will be nearest the circular head 10, requiring the use of the lower holes, and as the kraut is used out of the barrel a longer plunger-bar will be required and the upper holes of the plunger-bar will be successively used. A series of holes 12 will be provided in the lever 3 to enable the lengths of the lever-arms to be varied for the purpose of changing the levers. Near the handle end of the lever 3 is the eyebolt 6, and secured to the barrel is the hook 7. A chain 8 is attached to the eyebolt 6 and one of the links of the chain will be caught in the hook 7 to hold any given adjustment of the lever 3.

As the kraut in the barrel is apt to be unevenly distributed the strain on the circular head 10 will not be uniform for all of its parts, but will be greatest on that side of it which comes in contact with the solidest mass of the kraut. It is therefore necessary to se-

cure the plunger-bar 9 to the head 10 in a very substantial manner. With this end in view we provide the feet 15, formed of two wooden pieces, which extend a suitable distance on each side of the plunger-bar 11 and are mortised on their inner sides to receive the lower end of the plunger-bar in the manner as shown in Fig. 2. These feet 15 give a more extended support to the circular head 10, and their mortised construction for attachment to the plunger-bar 9 adds to the strength and rigidity of the connection between the plunger-bar and head.

The operation of our device is as follows: With the bar 3, attached to the barrel by means of the chain 4, and the plunger 9, attached to the lever 3 in the manner shown, the circular head is introduced into the barrel and lowered into contact with the kraut by the proper movement of the lever 3. The flexible connection afforded by the chain 4 permits of a universal swinging adjustment of the plunger-bar, so that by a proper movement of the lever 3 the circular head 10 can be manipulated to distribute and press down evenly the quantity of kraut contained in the barrel. This will be first done. Then after the mass of kraut has been evened up in this manner it will be completely submerged under the brine by a downward movement of the handle end of the lever 3, which lowers the circular head 10 and presses the kraut down. Any desired and given pressure will be retained by locking the lever 3 in any given position by catching a corresponding link of the chain 8 under the hook 7. When it is desired to gain access to the kraut for the purpose of the removal of a desired quantity of the latter, the chain 8 is unhooked and the lever 3 is drawn back into the position shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1, which places the plunger and circular head in the position shown by dotted lines in said figure, which shows the circular head hanging over the top of the barrel, so as to drain into the barrel, and free access to the contents of the barrel is afforded.

Having thus fully described our said invention, what we claim as new, and wish to secure by Letters Patent of the United States, is—

In a kraut-press, a receptacle having an eyelet on one side and a hook on the opposite side for securing chains thereto, a plunger-bar in two separated parallel parts, a circular head, feet comprising two wooden pieces extending laterally on both sides of the plunger-bar, said feet being mortised on their inner sides to receive the lower end of the plunger-bar, and being attached to the circular head and to the plunger-bar, a lever inserted between the two parts of the plunger-bar, said lever having a series of perforations, and said plunger-bar having a series of perforations, a pin passing through registering perforations of the plunger-bar and lever, a chain connecting one end of the lever with the eyelet on the outside of the receptacle, and a second chain secured to the lever on the opposite side thereof from the pin connecting the lever and plunger-bar, said second chain adapted to be secured to the hook on the other side of the receptacle from the eyelet.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals, at Anderson, Indiana, and Indianapolis, Indiana, this 30th day of May, A. D. 1905.

CHARLES E. GREEN. [L. S.]
JOHN R. RICHEY. [L. S.]

Witnesses to signature of Charles E. Green:
CLYDE SIPE,
ANNIE M. BRASKET.

Witnesses to signature of John R. Richey:
JOSEPH A. MINTURN,
F. W. WOERNER.