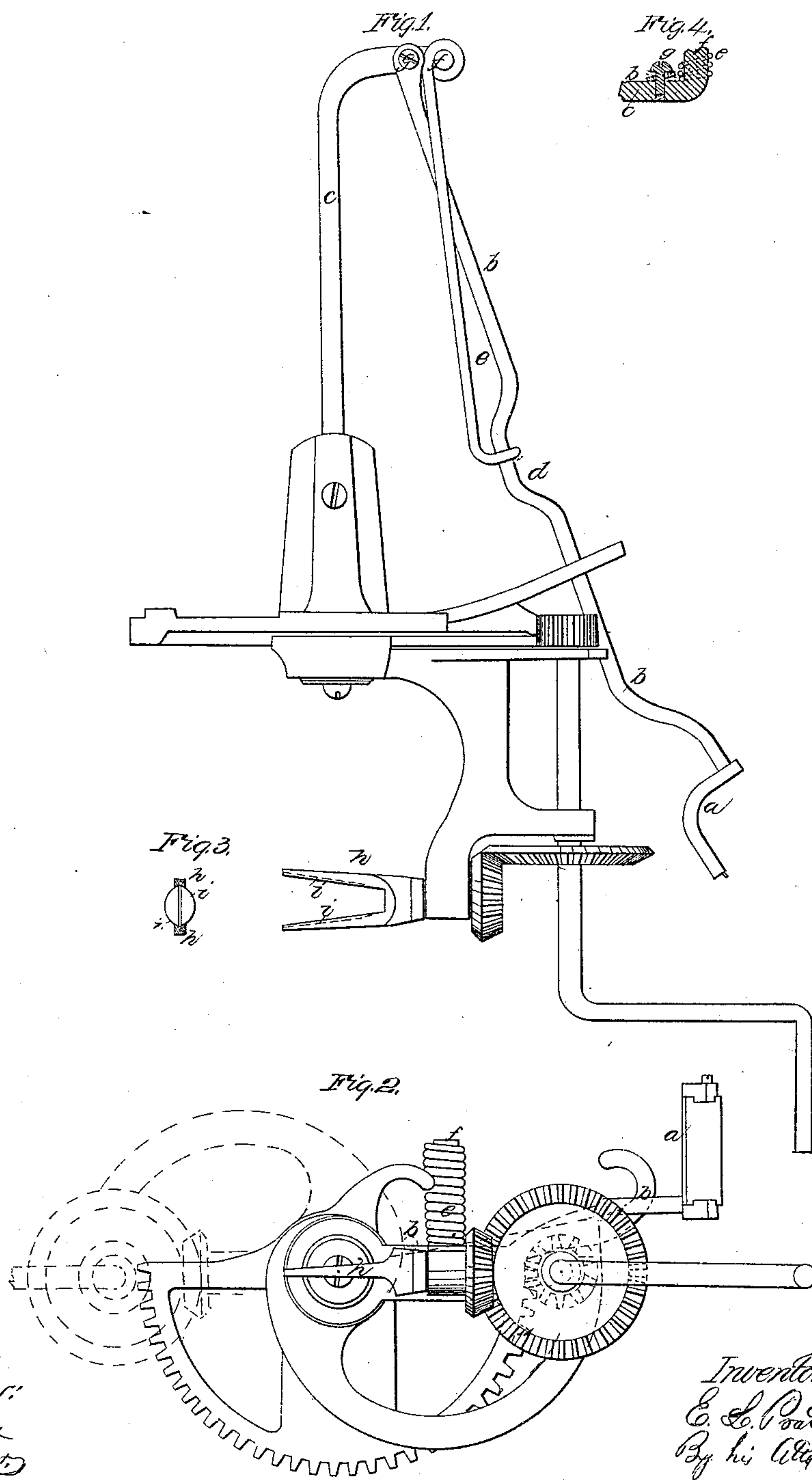


E. L. Pratt,

Fruit Parer,

N^o 13,956.

Patented Aug. 23, 1864.



Witness:
W. F. Fowler
J. B. Kiddle,

Inventor:
E. L. Pratt
By his atty
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

E. L. PRATT, OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, ASSIGNOR TO GEORGE R. CARTER, OF SAME PLACE, AND D. H. GODDELL, OF ANTRIM, N. H.

IMPROVED PEACH-PARER.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 43,956, dated August 23, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known, that I, E. L. PRATT, of Boston, county of Suffolk, and State of Massachusetts, have invented a Fruit-Parer; and I do hereby declare that the following, taken in connection with the drawings which accompany and form part of this specification, is a description of my invention sufficient to enable those skilled in the art to practice it.

This invention relates to a peculiar construction of the fork for paring peaches, and to the construction and mode of applying the cutter-rod.

Figure 1 shows a plan, and Fig. 2 a front end-view of a fruit-paring machine embodying my invention. Fig. 3 is a cross-section of the prongs of the fork.

The machine illustrated is similar in general construction to another machine invented by me, for which I have also made application for Letters Patent, in that there is employed a segmental rack, with a pinion operated thereby, which pinion through other gearing actuates the rotating fork, the fork and gearing making an entire revolution in and beyond the segmental rack. The improvements, however, which are herein embraced are applicable to other machines as well as to those of the general construction shown in these applications.

In the ordinary construction of apple-parers there is sometimes used a loosely-swinging cutter head, hung at its center on the knife-rod, and sometimes a tightly-fitted head which has a movement or pressure toward the apple or upon the surface of the apple imparted by one spring, while another spring tends to give the knife a rotary movement, so as to bring the entire length of its cutting-edge into contact with the surface of the fruit. To cheapen and simplify this construction, I dispense with one of such springs, and by the disposition and formation of the knife-rod I use a stationary or fixed cutter-head, (relatively to its rod,) keeping the knife up to the surface of the fruit and carrying its entire length over the surface thereof.

a denotes the cutter-head, fixed immovably upon and with respect to its rod *b*. At its rear end this rod is pivoted to the arm *c*, extending from the bed-plate of the machine, as seen in Fig. 1. The rod *b* has a crank, *d*,

formed in it, as seen in said Fig. 1, and upon this crank hooks one end of a long spring, *e*, whose other end is coiled around an arm, *f*, projecting upward from the end of the arm *c*. The rear end of the knife-rod *b* is made thin and flat, and is jointed or pinned loosely upon the arm *c* by a screw or pin, *g*, or so as to permit axial movement of the knife-rod. The crank *d* is inclined upward from a horizontal plane, and the spring *e* has not only an inward but a downward pressure, so that when the knife is in contact with the surface of the fruit it is held thereto by the spring *e*, while the action of the spring upon the crank turns the whole length of the knife over the surface of the fruit, as the fork rotates, causing the knife to cut from end to end by the loose pivoting of the rod at *g*, and the action of the crank and spring. It is sometimes desirable to change the amount of turn movement of the knife with respect to the rod *b*, which is accomplished by making the rod adjustable by the screw *g*, as will be readily understood from Fig. 4, which shows a section of the screw-pin with the rod *b* and arm *c*. The crank and spring keep the arm normally in the position shown, from which it can turn, as represented by dotted lines; but by screwing the pin more or less into the arm, it will be evident that the amount of this movement can be regulated as may be desirable.

In apple-machines it is not practicable to pare peaches, because the ordinary form of fork, with its straight or nearly straight prongs, will not inclose the stone.

To pare peaches the forks of paring-machines have sometimes been made with inclined prongs, to hold the peach-stone, and with double or independent forks to clasp the stone between them. The forks have also been made with spring tines or prongs to hold the stone. Instead of such methods of construction, I provide the inner surface or side of each inclined prong or tine of the fork, *h* with a groove or depression, *i*, running from the outer end of the fork, as seen in Fig. 3, and by the dotted lines. Now, when the peach is pushed onto the prongs, the sharp edges or corners of the stone enter the grooves *i*, which keep the stone from slipping, as it is wedged between and by the inclinations of the prongs. If these surfaces were flat or plane, the stone

would not bind, but would slip aside; but the grooved prongs hold the peach firmly in position when placed upon them, and during the paring operation. The other parts of the mechanism of this parer being readily understood from the drawings, it will not be necessary to describe them.

The fork may be applied to its shaft by a screw, so as to be replaceable by an apple or other fork at pleasure.

I claim—

1. The combination of the spring and crank, rod, operating in the manner and for the purpose substantially as set forth.

2. The means of regulating the extent of

movement of the knife by the action of the screw *g* upon the end of the knife-rod, which is inclined and made movable with respect to the surface of the arm *c* to which it is jointed, the screw, arm, and knife-rod being constructed and operating with respect to each other substantially as specified.

3. Constructing the inclined prongs with grooves or depressions to hold the peach-stone, substantially as above set forth.

E. L. PRATT.

Witnesses:

F. GOULD,

S. M. MCINTIRE.