

J. S. BEACH.
TOBACCO CUTTER.

Patented Feb. 6, 1883.

A diagram of a door handle assembly. A horizontal handle is mounted on a door. The handle has a circular knob on the left and a rectangular grip on the right. The label 'D' is positioned above the knob. The label 'Z' is on the right side of the handle. The label 'G' is below the handle, pointing to the mounting plate. The door is shown with vertical lines on the right side.

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TOBACCO-CUTTER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 271,768, dated February 6, 1883.

Application filed October 18, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN S. BEACH, a citizen of the United States, residing at Zanesville, in the county of Muskingum and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Tobacco-Cutters; and I do 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, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

My invention relates to improvements in machines for cutting plug-tobacco into suitable or desirable lengths; and it consists in certain details of construction hereinafter more fully set forth, and pointed out in the claims.

Figure 1 is a vertical longitudinal section on the line *xx* of Fig. 2. Fig. 2 is a top or plan view. Fig. 3 is a plan view of the under side of the knife detached from the machine.

Similar letters of reference indicate like parts in all the figures of the drawings.

A is the main casting or frame of the machine, and is mounted on a suitable base, B, of wood or metal, or may be screwed or otherwise attached to the counter or other convenient place. The main casting or frame A is by preference made in one piece, of the form shown, and is composed of two sides, *a a'*, connected at the bottom by a base-plate, *b*, at the top by the cross-piece *b'*, and at the front by the cross-piece C. Two inwardly-projecting flanges, *c c c*, on each side of the main casting or frame, form the cavity or guide H for the reception of the plug of tobacco to be cut. Instead of the flanges *c c*, partition-strips extending entirely across the frame may be used to form the holder or guide for the material to be operated upon; but ordinarily the flanges will answer every purpose and tend to lighten the frame and reduce the cost of manufacturing the machines. The frame A is also provided with grooves *d*—one on each side of the frame—for the reception of the knife or cutter D, and in which the knife is free to move back and forth. The frame A is further provided with lugs or guides *d'*—one on each side—for holding or guiding the gage-plate E, which

regulates or determines the length of the piece to be cut from the plug.

F is the handle by which the knife is operated, and is pivoted at *e e'* in the sides of the frame A. The lower end of the handle is provided with a segmental pinion, *f*, which engages with teeth *g*, secured to the upper side of the knife-blade, and by which the knife is moved back and forth in the ways *d*, as may be desired, to operate on the plug to be severed or cut into suitable or desirable lengths.

The knife D, together with the teeth or cogs *g*, is by preference cast in one piece of steel, but may be made in separate pieces and secured together in any desirable manner.

G is an adjustable ejector or push-plate, secured to the under side of the knife by means of a set-screw, *h*, working in the slot *i*. The office of said ejector or push-plate is to push or eject the portion of tobacco cut from the plug out of the machine, or to push it over so that it will fall out at the front of the machine.

E is the gage-plate, which in this instance is "struck up" out of sheet metal, but may be made of wood or other suitable material. The front portion of the gage-plate E is provided with steps or offsets *k k*, which, when brought directly under the compartment H, which holds the plug, determines the length of the piece to be severed. The gage-plate E is provided at its rear end with a strap-spring or spring-handle, I, by which the plate is moved back and forth on the base-plate *b* and under the lugs or cross-plate *d'*. The spring-handle I is provided with a downwardly-projecting stud or pin, *m*, which enters or engages with notches or depressions *n* in the base-plate *b*, and serves to hold the gage-plate in the required position. Other equivalent means may be substituted for the devices just described for holding the gage-plate in the required position—as, for example, a set-screw passing through the sides of the frame and adapted to impinge on the side of the gage-plate.

Instead of having the gage-plate adjustable, I may have it cast with the frame A, or otherwise rigidly secured to the base. When such construction is preferred I make several pockets or cavities, H, in the frame for holding the tobacco, so that by placing the plug in

any one of the cavities a piece of tobacco corresponding with the depth of the gage-plate will be severed from the plug.

5 The operation of my machine will be obvious to any one skilled in the art to which it appertains. The plug of tobacco to be cut is placed in the cavity H, with its lower end resting on the gage-plate E. The handle F is now depressed or brought from a vertical to a horizontal position, and the knife is pushed forward in the ways *d* until the plug is severed and the push-bar or ejector has pushed the severed portion out of the machine. When the handle F is again raised to a vertical position the knife is drawn back, which allows the plug of tobacco to drop by its own weight down onto the gage-plate and in position to be again acted upon by the knife.

15 I am aware that vegetable-cutters have been constructed with a hopper for holding the material to be cut and a knife adapted to reciprocate beneath the hopper to cut the material into thin strips, with adjusting devices for regulating the thickness of the particles cut off.

I am also aware that knives have been operated by pinion-gearing, and such I do not claim. 25

Having thus described my invention, what I claim, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is— 30

1. The combination, with a vertical hopper or plug-holder, of the horizontally-reciprocating knife, carrying on its under surface the adjustable pusher and means for adjusting said pusher, as set forth. 35

2. The combination of the vertical hopper H with the horizontal reciprocating knife D, carrying directly on its under surface the pusher G, as set forth.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses. 40

JOHN S. BEACH.

Witnesses:

ROBERT H. MCFARLAND,
THOS. BROWN.