

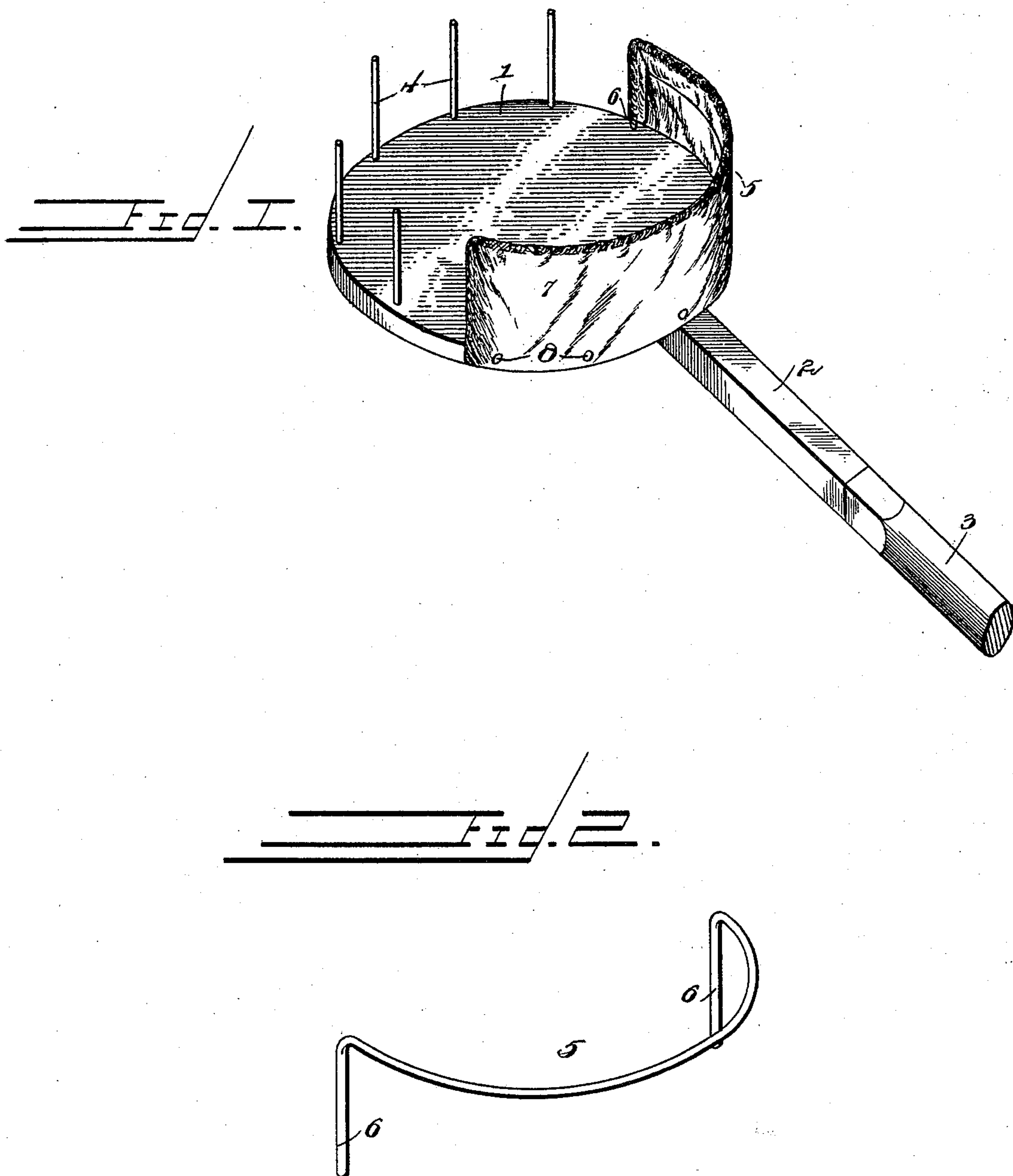
No. 617,346.

Patented Jan. 10, 1899.

W. MUSSMAN.  
FRUIT PICKER.

(Application filed June 8, 1898.)

(No Model.)



Witnesses

*R. Shepard*  
*R. Shepard*

By his Attorneys,

*William Mussman, Inventor*

*C. Snow & Co.*



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM MUSSMAN, OF SPRAGUEVILLE, IOWA.

## FRUIT-PICKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 617,346, dated January 10, 1899.

Application filed June 8, 1898. Serial No. 682,905. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, WILLIAM MUSSMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Spragueville, in the county of Jackson and State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Fruit-Picker, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to fruit pickers or gatherers and is designed to improve the construction of such devices and provide an exceedingly simple and durable picker.

To this end the present invention consists in a head having a series of prongs or fingers disposed in an arc of a circle, a flange or shoulder arranged opposite the series of prongs, forming a pocket to hold the fruit, and a socket provided upon the under side of the head and arranged to project at the same side as the pocket, said socket to receive handles of different lengths.

Further objects and advantages of the improvements will be hereinafter more fully described, shown in the accompanying drawings, and particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the invention. Fig. 2 is a detail perspective view of the frame for the pocket.

Corresponding parts in both figures are denoted by like characters of reference.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a flat head of circular or disk-like form and constructed of wood, having a suitable socket 2 secured to the under side of the head and disposed at an angle thereto, preferably of forty-five degrees. This socket is adapted to receive a stick or handle 3, which may be varied in length to suit the requirements of the case.

Arranged upon the upper face of the head 1 and opposite the socket 2 is a series of prongs or fingers 4, arranged near the edge of the head and disposed upon an arc of a circle equally upon each side of the longitudinal axis of the device.

To provide a pocket to hold the fruit after it has been picked from the branch, a frame 5 is mounted upon the head opposite the series of prongs. This frame is preferably constructed of stout wire, having its extremities bent into arms 6, which are suitably secured to the upper face of the head near its edge,

having the intermediate portion thereof bent into a segmental form, which is arranged horizontally above the head and supported thereon by the arms 6. To complete the pocket, some stout material 7, of canvas, wire screen, or the like, is fastened around the periphery of the head inclosed by the above-mentioned frame by nails or other suitable means 8 and is stretched upon the frame and secured thereto by sewing or in any preferred manner.

In operating the device the handle is manipulated to seat the fruit upon the head and within the series of prongs, when the device is drawn downward, the prongs pulling against the fruit until it is separated from the branch and is deposited into the pocket formed by the canvas stretched upon the frame 5. Each device is constructed sufficiently large to hold a number of apples or the like, and when the pocket is full the picker is lowered to the ground and the fruit removed, thus avoiding the bruising and consequent damage caused by those pickers employing a bag or chute to convey the fruit to the operator.

The wall of the pocket formed by the material 7 constitutes a cushioned pocket to receive and retain the fruit upon the head and prevent bruising thereof.

This invention presents an exceedingly efficient and durable fruit-gatherer, which is capable of changes in its form, proportion, and minor details without departing from the spirit and scope or sacrificing any of the advantages thereof, and I therefore do not wish to be understood as limiting myself to the precise construction and arrangement as herein shown and described.

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

1. In a fruit-picker, the combination of a flat disk-like or circular head having a series of individual fingers or prongs extending from the head in an arc of a circle, a pocket arranged opposite the series of fingers and forming a continuation of the same, and comprising a frame formed of wire bent into segmental form, the ends of the wire forming attaching-arms, suitable material stretched over said frame to form a cushioned pocket,

and a handle fitted to the head, substantially as shown and described.

2. In a fruit-picker, the combination of a flat circular or disk-like head having a series  
5 of fingers or prongs extending from the head in an arc of a circle, a pocket arranged opposite the series of fingers and forming a continuation of the latter, and comprising a frame formed from a single length of wire  
10 bent intermediate its ends into segmental form, the segmental portion being arranged in a horizontal plane, and the ends of the wire being bent at approximately right angles to the plane of the segmental portion to

form attaching-arms, and suitable material 15 stretched over the frame and connected thereto and to the portion of the periphery of the head inclosed by the frame, and a handle fitted to the head, substantially as shown and described. 20

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM MUSSMAN.

Witnesses:

W. C. F. BLOSSFELD,  
E. C. PANKOW.