

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

EDOUARD CHIRAC, OF MARSEILLES, FRANCE, ASSIGNOR TO CESAR CONZA, OF MARSEILLES, FRANCE.

MACHINE FOR PRINTING ON EGGS.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 785,198, dated March 21, 1905.

Application filed February 24, 1904. Serial No. 195,104.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, EDOUARD CHIRAC, merchant, a citizen of the Republic of France, residing at Marseilles, in the Republic of France, (whose post-office address is 3 Rue Abbé-de-l'Epée, Marseilles, aforesaid,) have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Machines for Printing on Eggs, (for which application has been made in France, No. 331,646, dated May 5, 1903,) of which the following is a specification.

This invention has for its object a machine for printing or stamping advertisements or notices on eggs.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is an elevation of the machine; Fig. 2, a plan view; Fig. 3, an end view.

The machine is composed of a bed A, on which four small supports B are mounted, which carry two guides or slide-pieces C, between which a slide plate or bar D, which carries a spring-grip E, travels. The slide plate or bar D pivots on two small internal trunnions F, which allow it to tilt at will the gripping device E, which it carries.

Two pivots G, provided with india-rubber-coated concave disks H, intended for receiving the two ends of the egg I to be stamped, are mounted toward one of the ends of the grip between its two arms. A handle M, attached to the slide plate or bar, serves for operating the grip E. An inking-roller J, taking up ink from a table K, is mounted between two small arms on the slide plate or bar D, carrying the grip. The two other arms of said grip are interconnected by a spring L, which holds them constantly apart and gives the necessary pressure for maintaining the egg between the pivots G.

India-rubber characters forming the matter which is to be printed or stamped on the eggs are glued or cemented to a double band N, of india-rubber, stretched longitudinally over two rollers O, carried by the table K and cross-piece P. This cross-piece or support P is provided with a small toothed wheel Q, fitted with a pawl, allowing any desired tension to be given to the india-rubber, while

preserving for it the necessary flexibility to allow it to accommodate itself to the form of the egg.

In order to print or stamp eggs by means of this machine, the handle M is gripped with one hand and the slide plate or bar D is brought toward the rear of the machine by slightly tilting it. In this movement the inking-roller inks the india-rubber characters or type, but does not touch the blanks existing in the matter, as if these blanks were inked the egg would be smudged. This result is obtained by means of a roller R, which is mounted on a projection from the axis of the inking-roller J and which by encountering small guide-pieces S, which may be regulated at will, raises or lowers the inking-roller at the desired moment. In order to allow the roller to deposit ink evenly on the characters, pressure is applied during the inking to a lever T, which causes a metallic plate U to rise beneath the band of india-rubber in order to render the surface of this latter perfectly flat and rigid. The slide plate or bar D having reached the rear of the machine, the roller travels over the table K and is inked for a fresh operation. By exerting, still by the same hand, a pressure on the two arms of the grip the pivots G, provided with the rubber-coated disks H, separate, and the egg, which is held in the other hand, is then placed between these disks. The pressure of the spring L forces the two disks toward one another and holds the egg by its two ends, while allowing it to turn freely. The grip is then raised until the egg touches the india-rubber band and the grip is pushed forward. The egg is perfectly stamped or printed on by being run over the india-rubber characters and against the india-rubber surface, which closely follows all its curves. Having made a complete revolution, the printed egg drops into a padded basket or onto an endless band placed at the front of the machine. The same operation is repeated for printing other eggs and only requires a few seconds, and each time a fresh egg is stamped or printed. In this manner all kinds of advertisements or

notices, whether illustrated or otherwise and in any colors, may be impressed or printed on the egg.

I declare that what I claim is—

5 A machine for printing on eggs and similarly-shaped articles comprising a spring-grip, a slide plate or bar, two slide-pieces or guides, an inking-roller, an inking-table, and
10 a stretched india-rubber band bearing india-rubber characters composing the matter

which is to be stamped or printed, substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, this 20th day of January, 1904, in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

EDOUARD CHIRAC.

Witnesses:

EUGENE DUEASSOU,
ALLAN MACFARLANE.