

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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TOBACCO-BOX.

No. 842,064.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MARCUS B. BEHRMAN, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, have
5 invented an Improved Tobacco-Box, of which the following is a specification.

My invention is a pocket-box adapted to contain a tobacco plug and provided with a cutting attachment for severing from the
10 plug portions or sections of a size adapted for chewing.

The forms of box and cutting attachment embodying my invention are constructed as hereinafter described and shown in the accompanying drawings, in which—
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Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of my invention. Fig. 2 is a longitudinal section of the same. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal section of the upper portion of the box, illustrating the operation of the cutting attachment. Fig. 4 is a cross-section on the line 4
20 4 of Fig. 2.

The box A is constructed of sheet metal in oblong, rectangular, and flat form. It is divided lengthwise by a central transverse partition B, the upper half *b* of which is not soldered or otherwise attached to the opposite side walls of the box, but left free, so that being made of spring material such free portion may serve as a spring for holding the lid or cover C closed or open, as required. Such partition B divides the box into two equal longitudinal compartments *x y*. (See Fig. 2.) When a plug of a dimension slightly less than that of the box is purchased, it is divided longitudinally into two equal portions and one of such portions is inserted in the compartment or pocket *x*, to be preserved therein until required for use, while
35 the other portion is placed in compartment *y* for immediate use. The cover C of compartment *x* is hinged at *c* and provided with shoulders similar to those usually formed upon the shank of a knife-blade, so that the
45 cover C will be held, or practically locked, in the closed or open position by the pressure of the spring *b*. The two positions of the cover C are shown in Fig. 2.

The cutting attachment is applied to the
50 compartment *y* and comprises a cutter proper, D, and an arm D', to whose upper end is attached the lower end of the same, being pivoted to the box proper at *d* and also extended and curved outward, as shown at

*d*², whereby a lever-arm is formed for use in opening the cutter, as will be presently explained. The blade or cutter D passes through a slot in the side of the compartment *y* and a knob *d'* is applied for the purpose of receiving the pressure of the thumb
60 or finger in the act of cutting off a portion of a plug.

In Fig. 1 the cutting attachment is shown in its normal position or closed, the blade or cutter D in such case practically closing the top of the compartment *y*, and thus protecting the plug within. The full lines, Fig. 2, show the same position of the cutting attachment; but the dotted lines indicate the position when the attachment is placed in position to begin cutting off a chewing-piece from the plug. Such operation is better illustrated in Fig. 3, where the blade D is shown severing a chewing-piece from the body of a plug, the latter being indicated by dotted lines.
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It is obvious that the size of the portion cut off may be varied at will and that this is determined by the extent to which the plug is allowed to project from the mouth of the compartment *y*. It is further apparent that the curvature of the blade or cutter D corresponds to the radii of the circle described from the pivot *d* of the arm D'. The short lever-arm D², having the knob-like end, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2, may be dispensed with, and the cutting attachment may be opened by applying outward pressure to the knob or thumb-piece *d'*; but it is conveniently used for retracting or throwing outward the arm D and the attached cutter, as indicated in Fig. 2, which operation is effected by pressing upon the knob at D² and forcing it into a slot which is formed in the adjacent portion of the box.
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For use in ejecting or forcing out the plug from the compartment *y* a pusher E is provided, (see Figs. 2 and 4,) the same having a lug *e*, that projects through a longitudinal slot *a*, formed in the side of the box. The operation is obvious.
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By the construction and arrangement of parts above described I produce an improved tobacco-box which is simply, cheaply, and durably constructed and adapted to be carried in the pocket to contain and protect a tobacco plug and having an attachment which may be quickly and easily operated to sever a portion of a size suitable for chewing.
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The trouble and inconvenience attending the use of a pocket-knife for cutting the plug are thus avoided.

What I claim is—

5 1. The combination, with a tobacco-box proper, of a cutting attachment comprising a blade adapted to sever a projecting portion of a plug, an arm D' to whose upper end the said blade is attached, the arm being pivoted
10 to the box and having a lever member D² curved outwardly from the pivot of the lever, so that it may be pressed inward for moving the other portion of the arm outward and thus withdrawing the blade from the box, as
15 shown and described.

2. An improved tobacco-box comprising the box proper having a central partition dividing it into two compartments, the outer portion of such partition being left free and
20 constructed of spring material, and a cover for one of the compartments which is pivoted

adjacent to the free end of the partition and adapted to be held closed or open thereby, and a blade adapted to traverse the adjoining compartment substantially as described. 25

3. The improved tobacco-box comprising a box proper having a central partition which divides it into two compartments, one for temporary storage of a plug and the other for containing a plug for immediate use, a pivoted lid or cover for the storage-compartment, the free spring end of the partition abutting the pivot end of said lid, and a cutting attachment including a blade adapted to traverse the mouth of the adjacent compartment 35 whose inner side is formed by said partition, substantially as described.

MARCUS B. BEHRMAN.

Witnesses:

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