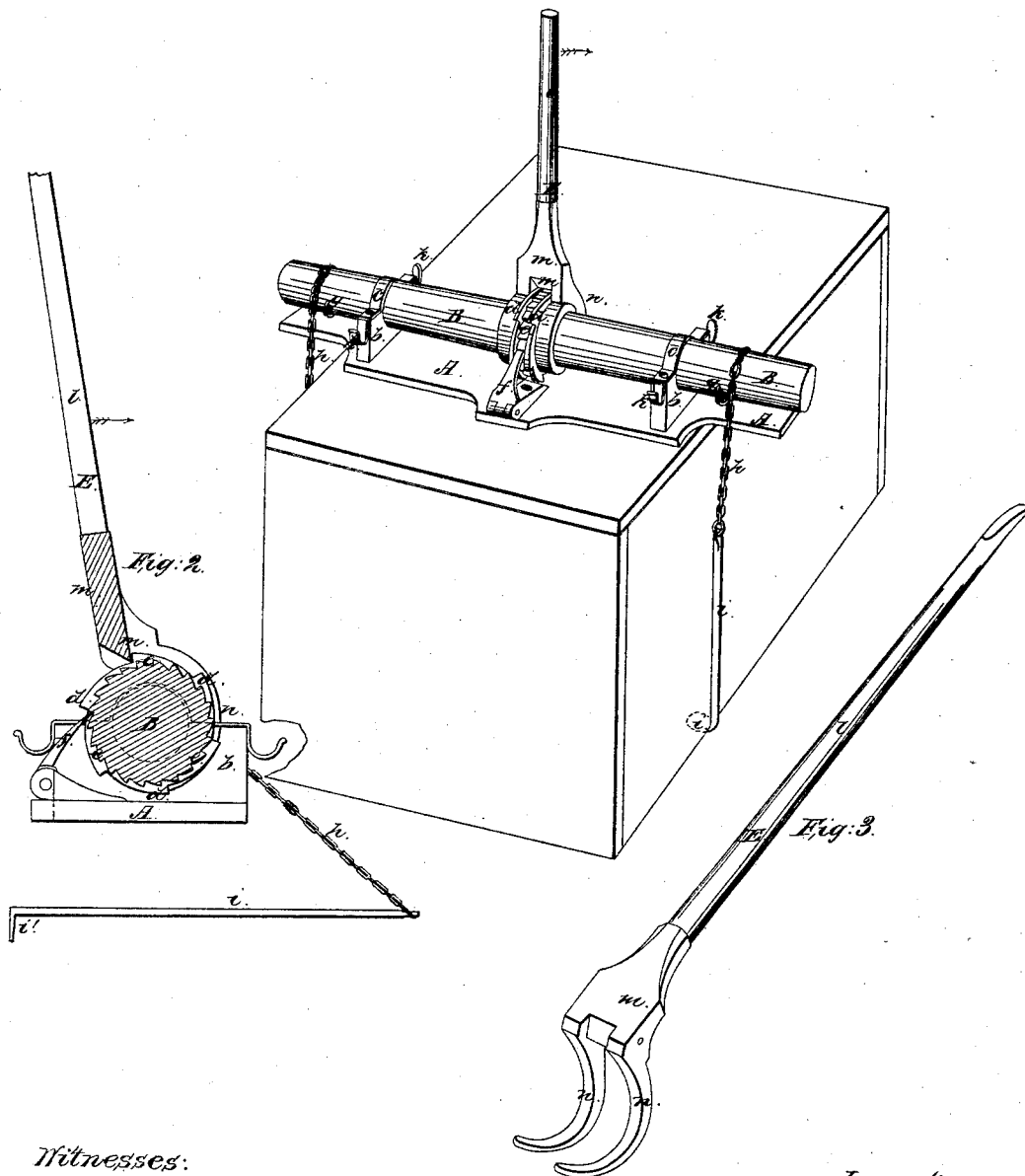


T. Webber,

Fruit Packer.

N^o 45,304.

Patented Nov. 29, 1864.
Fig. 1.



Witnesses:

R. T. Campbell
O. Schopf

Inventor:

Thomas Webber
by his atty
Mason, Amick & Hawman

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS WEBBER, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO HIMSELF AND
VOLNEY E. RUSCO, OF SAME PLACE.

IMPROVEMENT IN DEVICES FOR PACKING DRY-GOODS BOXES.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **45,301**, dated November 29, 1864; antedated
November 25, 1864.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS WEBBER, of the city of Chicago, Cook county, and State of Illinois, have invented a new and useful Machine to Assist in the Packing of Dry-Goods Boxes and other Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawings and letters of reference marked thereon, forming a part of this my specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of my invention applied to a dry-goods box in the manner it is intended to be used, for the purpose of forcing down the cover of the box, in order to facilitate the nailing of the same. Fig. 2 is a cross section of my box-packer, and Fig. 3 a view of the lever employed in operating said packer.

The object of my invention is to provide the means whereby a dry-goods box or other box may readily have its cover nailed thereon, notwithstanding the box may be packed so full as to have its contents, as is often the case, project somewhat above the top of the box before the cover is applied, thereby offering a resistance to the proper nailing of the cover.

In Fig. 1 my packer is shown applied across the top of a box the cover of which is about to be nailed, and consists of a proper foundation A, in the form shown, which may be of wood or any other suitable material, having supports *b b* permanently applied thereto, as indicated, which serve as bearings for a windlass, B, secured therein by metal collars *c c*. Central of the length of the windlass, lever-ratchets *d d* are made around the windlass, as shown, in order to engage with the lever E when applied thereto as represented, for the purpose of turning the windlass.

Between the lever-ratchets *d d* a series of smaller ratchets, *e*, are made around the windlass, into which a pawl, *f*, engages as the windlass is revolved by the lever E, thus retaining the former in proper position in the act of rotation as well as when the power applied to the lever is remitted.

The pawl *f*, as represented, is permanently attached to the foundation A.

Near the ends of the windlass, as at *g g*, chains *h h* are secured, upon the ends of which are claw rods *i i*, having claws *i' i'* at one end, as represented, and which may be placed directly beneath the box, in the act of use, or be driven into the sides of box, as the circumstances may require.

As shown in Fig. 1, hooks, as at *k*, are provided as a convenient support for the lever E when not in use, the lever being made in form as represented in Fig. 3, with a handle, *l*, terminating in a heavy shoulder, as at *m*, from which curved arms *n n* project, and which are fitted so as to clasp the windlass B on both sides of the ratchets *d d*, while that part of the shoulder *m* which is situated between the arms *n* engages with ratchets *d d* when the lever is in the act of use.

In operation, my packer is placed upon the cover of the box, as shown in Fig. 1, the claw-rods *i i* extending down upon either side of the box, with the claws *i'* beneath the bottom of the box, as represented, or driven into its sides. The lever E is then applied to the windlass, as represented, and power applied to the lever to turn the windlass in the direction of the arrow. As the windlass turns, the chains are wound around it, as represented, thus transferring the leverage-power of the windlass directly upon the cover of the box, thereby pressing it down to its proper position for being nailed, and in which position it is held by the pawl *f* during the act of nailing. By this means the pressure upon the box-cover is equally distributed throughout its extent, and it can with the greatest facility be nailed, notwithstanding the box may have previously been packed so full as to greatly resist the application of the cover.

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

In combination with the foundation A and windlass B, the chains *h h* and claw-rods *i i*, or their equivalents, arranged and operating substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

THOMAS WEBBER.

Witnesses:

JOHN C. REIS,
V. E. RUSCO.