GEORGE HOLTZMANN.

Improvement in Oyster Shuckers.

No. 115,474. Patented May 30, 1871.

Fig. 1.

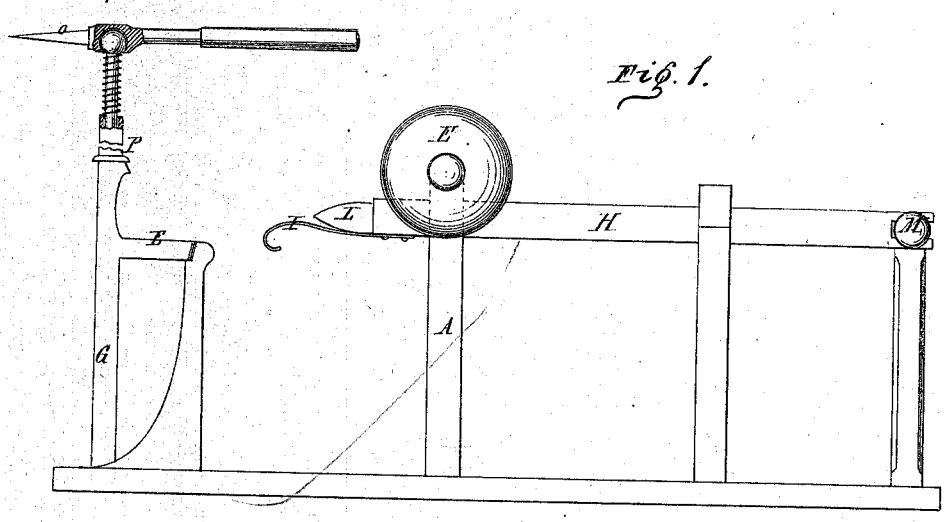

Fig. 2.

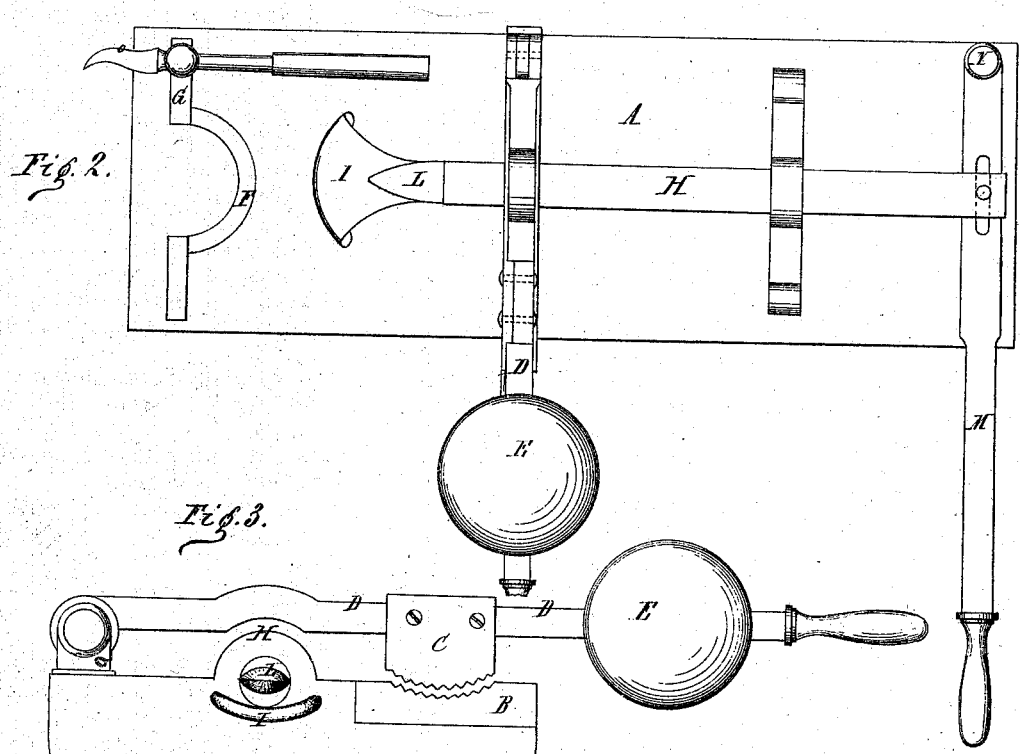

Fig. 3.

Witnesses:

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AM. PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHIC CO. N.Y. (OSBORNE'S PROCESS.)

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

GEORGE HOLTZMANN, OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

IMPROVEMENT IN OYSTER-SHUCKERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. 115,474, dated May 30, 1871.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, GEORGE HOLTZMANN, of Baltimore, in the county of Baltimore and State of Maryland, have invented a new and Improved Machine Oyster-Shucker; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is top view; Fig. 2, a side elevation; and Fig. 3, an end elevation.

This invention relates to a machine that is provided with a socket and jaw for crushing the points or edges of oyster-shells while still closed, and with a rest and spring-holder to support the oyster after the point of the shell has been thus crushed, and a sliding knife for opening the shell while thus supported, and with a blade connected with a standard by a universal joint for cutting the oyster out of the shell after it has been thus opened.

Referring to the drawing, A is a cast-iron frame; B, a concave socket with a ribbed or corrugated surface for receiving the point of the closed shell; C, a jaw with a convex corrugated or ribbed lower side that fits the socket B, said jaw being attached directly above the socket to a lever, D, whose end is jointed to lugs *a* that spring from the frame A at the opposite side thereof from the socket B. If the point of the closed shell be placed in the socket, and the jaw C be forced down upon it by means of the lever D, the point will be readily and completely crushed. A weight, E, may be attached to the lever to assist in the crushing operation. After thus crushing the point the next thing is to open the shell. This is done by placing the shell upon a curved rest, F, that juts horizontally from two standards, G G, that spring from the base A, near one end of the same, said standards being far enough apart to permit of the introduction between them of the thumb and two or three or more of the fingers of the operator's left hand in holding the oyster. The back of the oyster rest against the standards G. H is an oblong case, supported horizontally above the base A in standards that spring therefrom. I is a spring-fan-shaped plate, the narrow end of which is fastened to the under side of the case H at the extremity thereof, next to the rest F, and at the same height as the top of the latter. This spring-plate supports the crushed point of the oyster. Within the case H is a sliding knife, L, the rear projecting end of which is jointed to a lever, M, which is pivoted to a standard, N, that springs from one corner of the base A. The right hand of the operator grasps the handle of the lever N, and therewith forces the knife L between the shells of the oyster, thereby opening the same. A detachable blade, O, connected by a universal joint with a standard, P, that springs from the top of one of the standards G, enables the operator to cut the oyster out of the shells thus opened.

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

1. The combination of the frame A, socket B, jaw C, and lever D, as specified.

2. The combination of the standards G, rest F, case H, blade L, spring-plate I, and lever M, as described.

3. The combination of the standard P and universally-jointed blade O, as and for the purpose specified.

To the above specification of my invention I have signed my hand this 11th day of March, A. D. 1871.

GEO. HOLTZMANN.

Witnesses:

SOLON C. KEMON,

THOS. D. D. OURAND.