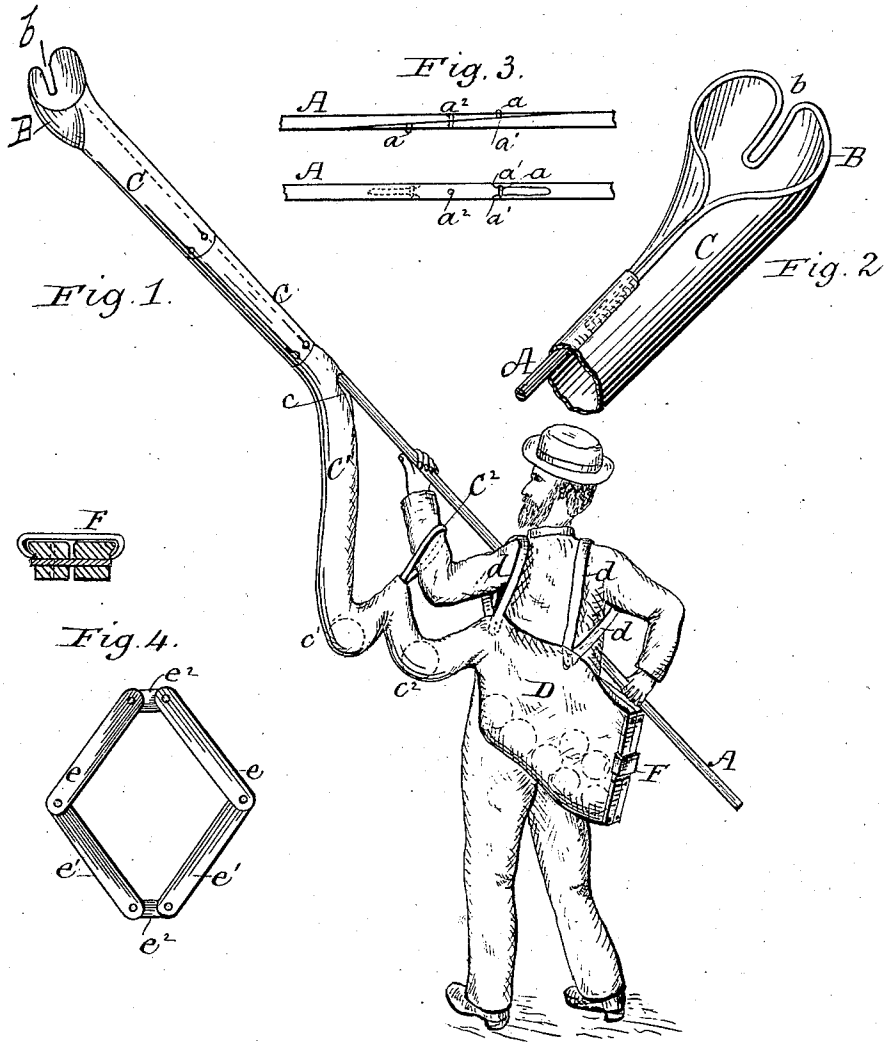


(No Model.)

W. S. CASTOR.
FRUIT PICKER.

No. 282,051.

Patented July 31, 1883.



Witnesses:
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM S. CASTOR, OF MARSTON, ILLINOIS.

FRUIT-PICKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 282,051, dated July 31, 1883.

Application filed March 30, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM S. CASTOR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Marston, in the county of Mercer and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Pickers, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective of a fruit-picker constructed in accordance with my invention; Fig. 2, an enlarged perspective of a portion of the same; Fig. 3, a plan and side elevation of a joint in the pole of the picker, and Fig. 4 a front view (open) and a sectional view (closed) of the sack-mouth.

Like letters indicate like parts in all the figures.

A represents the pole, which may be formed in one or more sections. When of more than one section, each is adapted to be temporarily connected or joined to the other by being chamfered, as shown in Fig. 3, and also provided with a staple, *a*, into which the point of the other is introduced to such distance as is permitted by the shoulders *a'*, formed on each of said points, when a bolt or pin, *a²*, is inserted through one section and into the other, whereby they are firmly held against longitudinal or lateral movement one upon the other, and this without projections from either.

B represents the mouth or instrumentality for picking the fruit; and it consists in a wire hoop, bent at a portion to form a slot, *b*, and, when attached or connected to the tube or throat C, forms a cup-shaped receptacle having an opening in its wall, so that when the fruit is within the receptacle its stem passes through the slot *b*, and by a slight effort the stem is broken, and the fruit rolls down the throat until it is caught in the slack section C'. At the upper end of said slack section, as at *c*, the pole A emerges from the throat, and a loop, C², is secured to the section at such a distance from the receiving-sack D that when said loop is about the arm of the operator the section from said loop to the sack is straightened by extending the arm, while when the arm is not extended there are formed in said section two depressions or pockets, *c' c²*.

The sack D is, by means of suitable straps,

as *d*, adapted to be supported on the back of the operator. The mouth of the sack is secured to a series of bars, two of which, *ee*, are at one end pivotally joined to two others, *e' e'*, and at the other end each is pivotally connected to a link, *e²*, so that when disposed side by side the mouth of the sack is closed, and when distended laterally, as shown in Fig. 4, in front elevation, the sack is open. Two of the bars, as *ee*, are beveled at their outer edges, to adapt them to retain the clamp F, which serves to secure them and the bars *e' e'* in a closed position when said clamp is pushed toward the center of the mouth of the sack.

Other means may be employed to fasten the sack-mouth, if desired, and, as far as the slack section, provided with the loop C', or other suitable means for forming two or more pockets, *c' c²*, is concerned, other forms of sacks or none may be employed.

It is apparent that, the whole apparatus being made of light material, which may be, so far as the upper sections of the throat are concerned, of light sheet metal, but slight strength is required to manipulate it.

Fruit may be selected on the tree and deposited in the first or upper pocket of the slack section without bruise or other injury, when the extension of the pole to select and pick other fruit straightens said upper pocket and delivers the fruit into the second pocket in said section. The second fruit is now received into the first pocket, and, by straightening the arm, the first fruit is delivered into the sack. In this manner the sack is filled without injury to the fruit, and by drawing the clasp up the sack may be emptied into any suitable receptacle.

I am aware that by grasping the tube closely about the pole a check in the fall of the fruit may be produced; but by the use of a section of the tube separated from the pole and provided with a loop adapted to receive the arm such a check may be twice produced without requiring the use of one or both hands.

Having described my invention and its operation, what I claim is—

1. The combination of the throat C, pole A, and hoop B, having the slot *b* formed centrally in the wire by bending it upon itself, to form a loop integral with and disposed below the

hoop, and curved inwardly to approximate a cup shape, substantially as shown and described.

2. The pole-sections A, chamfered as shown, and provided with the shoulders a' and staples a , in combination with each other and with the pin a^2 , substantially as shown and described.

3. The combination of the pole A and the slack section C' , separated from the pole and having a loop, C^2 , substantially as specified.

4. The combination of the pole A and section

C' , separated from the pole and having loop C^2 , with the sack D, substantially as specified.

5. The combination of the sack D and bars $e e' e'$, links e^2 , and clamp F, substantially as shown and described.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

WILLIAM S. CASTOR.

Witnesses:

THOS. J. HOLMES,
L. H. CASTOR.