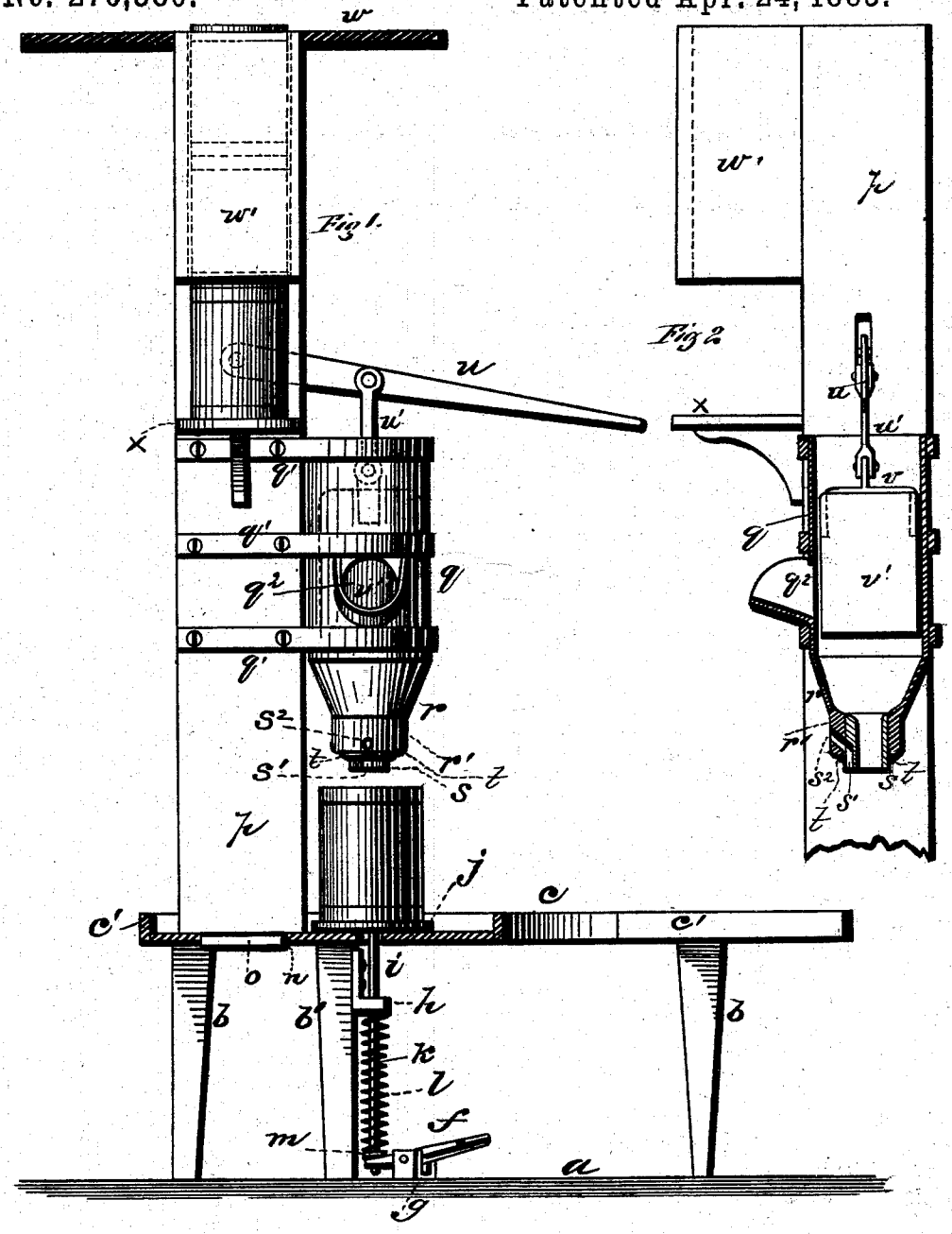
(No Model.)

T. P. FLETCHER.

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CANNING MACHINE.

No. 276,380. Patented Apr. 24, 1883.



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THOMAS P. FLETCHER, OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS.

VEGETABLE AND FRUIT CANNING MACHINE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 276,380, dated April 24, 1883.

Application filed February 24, 1883. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS P. FLETCHER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Lawrence, in the county of Douglas and State of Kansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Vegetable and Fruit Canning Machines; and I do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Figure 1 of the drawings is a side view of my machine, and Fig. 2 is a vertical sectional view through the cylinder.

This invention has relation to machines for canning fruits, vegetables, and the like; and it consists in the construction and novel arrangement of a table having an upright or post, to which is secured the feed-cylinder having the vented feed-funnel, the operating-lever and plunger, the can-table at its top, a can-tube and bracket, and the can-carrier beneath the feed-cylinder operated by a spring and treadle, as will be hereinafter more fully described, and particularly pointed out in the claims appended.

Referring by letter to the accompanying drawings, *a* designates the base of the machine, and *b b b* and *b'* posts upon which the work-table *c* rests. This work-table *c* is provided with a vertical flange, *c'*, around its edges, as shown, to prevent the cans from accidentally being shoved from the table during the handling of the same.

f indicates a foot lever or treadle pivoted in bearings *g*, secured to the base *a* near the post *b'*.

h is a perforated guide and spring-stop secured to one face of the post *b'*.

i is the can-carrier, consisting of a disk or plate, *j*, at the upper end of a rod, *k*, which latter is passed down through a perforation in the work-table near the post *b'* and through a spiral spring, *l*, the upper end of which bears against the under face of the stop-guide *h*, and the lower end upon a washer, *m*, on the treadle, and rests upon the treadle, so that it may be operated by the same to raise the disk, for a purpose hereinafter explained. The work-table *c* is mortised at *n* to receive the tenon *o* of a post, *p*. To this post the feed-cylinder *q* is secured by straps *q'*, and is provided with a feed-opening, q^2, and is provided at its lower end with a funnel, *r*, the collar *r'* of which is provided with an indented internal tube, *s*, the indentation *s'* being at one side and communicating at its upper end with a vent, s^2, to permit the escape of the air from the cans during the process of filling them. The bottom of the collar *r'* of the funnel consists of a convex ring, *t*, which is adapted to fit the concavity in the top of the can and prevent the escape of the material being forced into the can.

The post *p* is mortised above the feed-cylinder *q*, and in this mortise the operating-lever *u* is pivoted. A plunger-rod, *w'*, is pivoted at its upper end to the lever, and its lower end is pivoted to a strap, *v*, secured to the upper end of the plunger *v'*. The plunger is provided with suitable packing to cause it to fit the feed-cylinder tightly, and thereby prevent the material being fed to the can from passing up over the top of the plunger.

A can-table, *w*, is provided at the top of the post *p*, and a can-spout, *w'*, is secured to one side of the post beneath the can-table and above a bracket, *x*, also secured to the post *p*, so that the cans can be fed through the can-spout to the bracket within easy reach of the operator who is filling the cans. A can is removed from the bracket *x*, placed by the operator upon the can-carrier beneath the feed-cylinder, the treadle operated to raise the can-carrier, which carries the can up and causes the funnel or tube to enter the mouth of the can, in which position the can is held until the can has been filled, the material being fed to the cylinder through the feed-opening q^2, and the lever operated to force it into the can. The air escapes through the vent. The convex ring fits the concavity of the top of the can, and no escape of material, or bubbling, or sputtering takes place.

This construction has the advantage of being clean, noiseless, and more easily and rapidly worked than those heretofore used.

A horizontal feed-cylinder composed of two semi-cylindrical parts has been combined with a horizontal plunger, a lateral can-table at the mouth or discharge end of the feed-cylinder,

and a spring-piston, wedge, and treadle for holding the can in a horizontal position, so that the mouth of the can will encircle the discharge end of the feed-cylinder during the operation of filling the can, prior to my invention, and I do not claim said construction herein.

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

1. In a canning-machine for canning fruit, vegetables, and the like, the combination, with the work-table *c* and can-carrier *i*, resting normally on the same, and operated vertically by the rod *k*, spring *l*, and treadle *f*, of the post *p*, the vertical feed-cylinder *q*, secured to one side thereof above the work-table, the operating-lever *u*, and plunger *u'*, substantially as specified.

2. In a canning-machine for fruits, vegetables, and the like, the feed-cylinder having the collar of its funnel provided with the convex-ring bottom, the indented tube, and the vent in the collar, substantially as specified.

3. In a canning-machine, the combination, with the post *p*, of the can-table at its top, the can-spout beneath the same, and the can-bracket below the spout, substantially as specified.

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

THOMAS P. FLETCHER.

Witnesses:
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