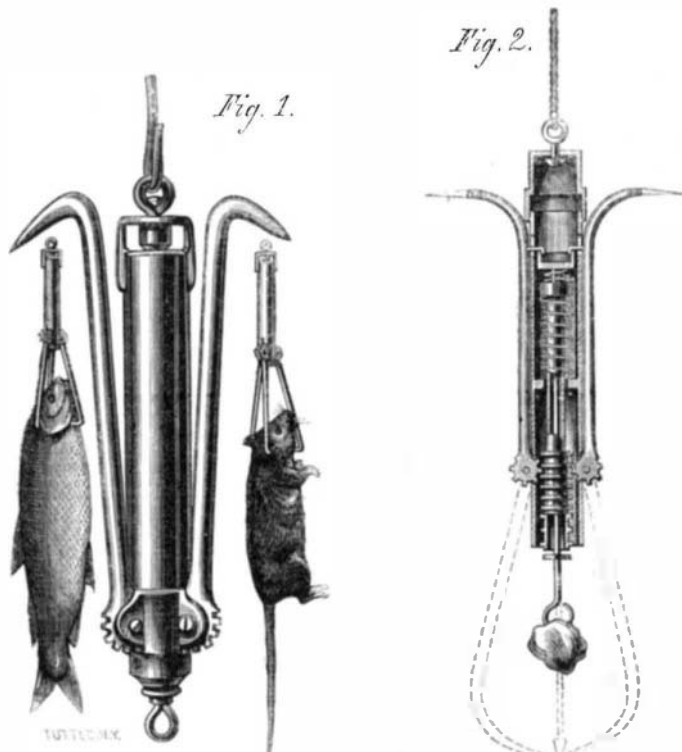


KING'S SPRING FISHHOOK AND TRAP.

The engravings give a correct idea of an improved spring trap patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency, by Jacob King, Jr., of Fort Wayne, Ind., Nov. 20, 1866. Fig. 1 shows the external appearance of the instrument, as set—large figure—and as sprung in the smaller figures. A section exhibiting the interior mechanism is seen in Fig. 2. The outside is a tube having a swivel hook at its upper end, and near the lower projections or ears to receive three hooks. The pivoted ends of the hooks are formed into pinions or segments of gears which engage with a rack cut on the exterior of an inner tube contained inside the outer case. Encircling a portion of this inner tube is a spiral spring one end of which bears against a collar on the end of the tube and the lower end on a projection on the interior of the case. This spring has sufficient tension to spring the hooks down with great force when allowed to stretch after being compressed. Inside the tube is a rod or wire having a hook or ring at its lower end for the reception of the bait, and a hollow disk at the upper end which is held up to position by means of a light spiral spring between the bottom of the disk and the collar on the tube as seen in Fig. 2.

To set the trap the hooks are elevated and a catch on one or more of them passes through



IMPROVED FISHHOOK AND TRAP.

the outer case—small apertures being left for that purpose—and engages with the projecting rim of the disk on the bait rod. A very slight pull or movement of the bait overcomes the limited resistance of the small spring, depresses the disk, disengages the hooks, and allows the larger spring to act.

These traps are made of different sizes for fish and also for other game from bears down to mice. The patentee desires to dispose of the entire right. He can be addressed as above.

STATE OF THE PATENT OFFICE.

Now that Congress has assembled we hope that early attention will be given to the condition of the Patent Office, which sadly needs reconstruction.

The work of examining inventions, in many of the most important classes, is half a year, more or less, in arrears. The Commissioner has long had authority to increase the force and bring up the work; but there he sits in his official chair, month after month, day after day, overwhelmed at the complaints, but provides no remedy. If the promises he makes to provide a remedy, but fails to keep, could be represented by broken crockery, and he surrounded with it, the height of the pile would totally conceal him from view.

A large share of our time as patent solicitors is consumed in writing excuses for grievances occasioned by the incompetence and mismanagement of the Commissioner. In the name of thousands of suffering inventors we appeal to Congress for a speedy correction of the Patent Office abuses. Let a committee of investigation be appointed, witnesses sworn, and all its mismanagement exposed.

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A VALUABLE INVENTION.—A bank lock has recently been patented which possesses some valuable features. It is the invention of Chas. Flesci, a Rochester mechanic and practical man in the manufacture of safe locks. It is intended to obviate some of the defects of ordinary locks, and to add features which will be recognized by practical safemen as of the first importance. The lock works are operated by a turning key spindle as usual; but the actuating cam inside supports the parts in such a manner that when the spindle is pressed in the dog cannot touch the edges of the wheels at all, and when drawn out, it can touch but once in a revolution. This is of the utmost importance, for it is by the touch of the dog on the wheels that the burglar and lock pick are enabled to ascertain the position and open the lock. Another valuable feature is the closing jaws which form the bolt, being so arranged that a double stop or shoulder is interposed to remove the strain of the bolt-work from the combination wheels. There are no springs to get out of order, and no magnet in the lock. The lock has been on exhibition for some days at Dewey's windows, in the Arcade. The inventor is certainly deserving of much credit for producing so fine a specimen of workmanship.

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