March 29.—Steam Woolen Mill, Catskill, N. Y. Fire in picker room, originating in a wool picker, probably from foreign matter in the wool. Loss about $1,500.

April 22.—Amoskeag Mills, Manchester, N. H. Fire in No. 5 picker, discovered issuing from a Creighton opener, probably from foreign matter in cotton. Extinguished by the sprinklers. In pulling over the cotton the fire broke out anew, and the sprinklers were applied again. There were 24 bales of cotton in the room. Loss only $465.

April 29.—Souhegan Mill, Milford, N. H. Fire was discovered by the watchman, in the basement, at about 1.20 A. M. The watchmen changed at 12.30 and the fresh man says he passed through the basement about 1 o'clock when all was right; about 20 minures later he saw the fire from the boiler house, and went for the agent. When the latter reached the mill, he found so much smoke in the next room above the basement that he could not get at the pump fixtures, and the fire was so located in the basement as to prevent reaching the pump in that room, and it was not started at all. At this time the fiercest of the fire was among about one hundred sets of nearly new harnesses hanging in the usual manner overhead in the basement. Whether the fire originated in these harnesses, or was kindled accidentally by the watchman, or was the work of incendiaries, may never be determined. Loss total, or $100,000.

May 2.—Fall River Print Works Mills, Fall River, Mass. Fire broke out in the center of a Sharp & Roberts mule carriage, about one hour after starting work in the morning, probably from a dry step on an upright shaft, and run both ways. After ineffectual efforts with buckets, the pumps were started and the mill pretty thoroughly drenched. The damage was considerable, both from fire and water, the latter chiefly on cards, etc., in the lower room; one pair of mules destroyed, all rollers uncovered, etc., besides the loss of most of the window glass and sash, and the whole amounted to $5,643.95.

May 6.—Chas. Wilds, Valatie, N. Y. Fire in an English opener at 6.15 A.M., supposed to have been from foreign matter in cotton. Loss small.

May 17.—Cocheco Mills, Dover, N. H. Fire in a mule carriage from friction. Put out by buckets of water. No claim.

May 18.—Greenwoods Company, New Hartford, Conn. Fire in a first picker at second beater, from foreign matter in cotton. Beater blade roughed up, but nothing found. Put out by pails of water. No claim.

June 23.—Stillwater Woolen Mill, Smithfield, R. I.—Fire was discovered at about 10.30 A. M. of Sunday. The mill was nominally watched on Sunday, but on this day the watchman was permitted to leave his charge to attend church, and the fire was seen from a dwelling (about half an hour after the man had reported all safe), and in the second story of the wing, and as the day was warm, the doors of the mill above the first story were all open, and the doors to the elevator open also, and the fire after getting headway rushed up and through the mill without hindrance. There was a good organization connected with the force pumps, and the fire fixtures were esteemed better than an average, but all the men who belonged to this organization were out of the village at the time of the discovery of the fire, as was the agent also. The efforts of the men not used to the pumps resulted in breaking the main gear of the wheel, and the mill was totally destroyed in about 45 minutes. Cause, spontaneous combustion in bags of shoddy stored in lower story of wing. Loss to Mutual Companies, $160,000.

June 23.—Slater's Mills, Jewett City, Conn. The superintendent reports two fires in the picker room on a Saturday in June, within an hour of each other. An examination of the cotton delivered from the opener resulted in finding matches, which they thought had passed through without ignition. Put out by "extinguishers" without loss.

July 30.—Stark Mills, Manchester, N. H. Fire in picker of No. 2 mill, in a bin which received the cotton from a willow, and attributed to foreign matter in the cotton. The alarm being given, an effort was made to let water into the sprinklers by turning the valve wheel the wrong way, and persisted in until the valve stem twisted off. The fire was subdued by streams from the hose after getting well advanced. Loss made up at $1,940.

August 21.—Dodgeville Mill, Attleborough, Mass. Fire was discovered about 5.30 A. M., in the gauze room of the picker house, supposed to have been caused by a spark from the chimney alighting on the ventilator of gauze room and working its way downwards into the cotton. Extinguished by steam. Loss moderate.

August 21.—Cocheco Print Works, Dover, N. H. Fire in dust house of singeing department, caused by a spark from the singeing machine. No claim made.

August 29.—Wamsutta Mills, New Bedford, Mass. Fire in the picker room of No. 2 mill, first seen on the floor under an opener apron, and was soon all over the room. Extinguished by steam, sprinklers, and hose. Cause not ascertained. Damage, $1,000 to $1,200.

September 11.—Stevens Linen Works, Dudley, Mass. Fire in jute card room, supposed to have been caused by matches. Extinguished by sprinklers and hose. Loss about $711.

September 11.—Lonsdale Mills, Lonsdale, R. I. Fire in No. 3 picker house, cause not known. Loss about $1,000.

October 17.—John S. Brown, Fisherville, N. H. Fire found in the gauze room of east picker, attributed to foreign matter in cotton. Extinguished chiefly by "chemical fire engine;" sprinklers and hose were also used, but probably unnecessarily. Loss $485.

October 18.—Lancaster Mills, Clinton, Mass. Fire in opening machine, caused by matches. Extinguished in season to prevent loss.

October 24.—Washington Mills, Lawrence, Mass. Fire in cotton picker, caused by a piece of flint stone passing through the opener. Extinguished by sprinklers and hose. Loss $145.

October 24.—Bates Mills, Lewiston, Me. Fire in No. 2 picker in a Creighton opener, caused by winding up of roving waste which fired by friction. Extinguished by sprinklers. Loss $733.

November 4.—U. S. Flax Company, Lincoln, R. I. Fire in cotton picker room in stock passing through a Jillson whipper, and caused by matches. Extinguished by steam and sprinklers. Loss about $1,000.

November 4.—Cocheco Print Works, Dover, N. H. Fire in engraving shop by spontaneous combustion in a heap of dirty neglected rags. Put out by watchman with a pail of water. No claim made.

December 7.—Greenwoods Company, New Hartford, Conn. Fire in picker room of warp mill, caused by the friction of a belt on its enclosing box. The fire being out of sight, much water was thrown in and the stock damaged thereby. Loss not large.

It will be observed that the pickers still keep up their reputation as the most frequent originators of fires, 18 out of 35 having been in that department. There are also several cases of spontaneous combustion, and woolen manufacturers should be warned by the case at Stillwater. The attention of all is directed to the case of firing of cotton laps by steam pipes in the Utica mills, as one to which very many concerns are liable, from the practice of allowing combustible matters to remain in contact with steam pipes. The sprinklers alluded to consist of perforated pipes placed on the ceilings, through which water is sent in case of fire.

PATENT OFFICE DECISIONS.

IMPROVEMENT IN INDEX LAMPS.—HENRY H. BLAKE.—FORFEITED APPLICATION.

THACHER, *Acting Commissioner:*

The only date that can be regarded by the Office as entirely reliable is that of filing, as indicated by the official stamp upon the paper. As this was more than two years subsequent to the last official action on the application, and no explanation of the delay is offered, the Commissioner is left by the law without discretion in the matter. The application must be treated as abandoned under the provisions of section 32, act of 1870.

IMPROVEMENT IN HORSE RAKES, GRANTED TO HARVEY W. SABIN, DECEMBER 3, 1850.—CALISTA E. COX, EXECUTRIX.—PRACTICE UNDER RULE 44.—REISSUES.

THACHER, *Acting Commissioner:*

It has been urged that the practice should be relaxed in this instance, as the claims, or at least some of them, have been sustained by United States Courts. I do not think this position is tenable. The law makes no exception whatever in reissue applications. Section 54 of 1870, relating to reissues, provides that "the specification and claim in every such case shall be subject to revision and restriction in the same manner as original applications are." Now the claims have been sustained by construing them as claims for devices, and although under a former more lax practice they were granted without objection, now that they are before the Office again, in an application for reissue, they are undoubtedly subject to revision, and should be amended to conform to the decisions of the courts and the present practice of the Office. This objection of the Examiner is therefore sustained.

TOOL HANDLE OR HOLDER.—WM. W. DRAPER.—EXTENSION.

THACHER, *Acting Commissioner:*

This case, although very well presented before the Office, does not appear to be a strong one in the essential facts requisite to warrant the grant of an extension. The invention consists of a tool holder intended to center, clamp, and secure the tang of a file or other tool, and is adapted to apply to tools of varying sizes.

I am not favorably impressed with the contract by which it is proposed that the inventor is to obtain the adequate remuneration which it is alleged he has thus far failed to receive. The assignees or licensees engage to supply the market, but there is no evidence that there is any demand in the market for this particular tool holder. On the other hand, there is evidence that the main reliance for profit is upon suits for infringement of the "principle" of construction embraced in the first claim, which would avail the inventor nothing. Twenty-five per cent of the net profits of manufacture after deducting the expenses of extension, do not, under the circumstances of this case, promise the inventor adequate compensation.

Altogether the case does not commend itself to my mind, upon the evidence adduced, as a proper one, having due regard to the intent of the law and the interests of the public, to warrant the grant of the extension sought and it is therefore refused.

DECISIONS OF THE COURTS.

United States Circuit Court---Southern District of New York.

METHOD OF PRESERVING FISH.—ENOCH PIPER *vs.* GEORGE T. MOON *et al.*

BLATCHFORD, *Judge:*

The patent to the plaintiff, granted March 19, 1861, is for an "Improvement in Method of Preserving Fish."

The claim is for "preserving" fish or other articles in a close chamber by means of a freezing mixture, having no contact with the atmosphere of the "preserving" chamber, substantially as set forth.

The specification of the patent, in describing the process claimed, describes the process previously used for preserving frozen ice cream. All that the patentee has done, according to his claim, is to take the frozen ice cream out of the vessel and put into it a fish or other article, frozen or unfrozen. That is no patentable invention. If the process of preserving the frozen ice cream had not existed previously, the use of such process, in the manner stated, would be within the claim of the patent, and would be an infringement of it. The prior use of such process must, therefore, be an anticipation of the claim of the patent at least in a case like this.

The patentee may be the first person who has practically succeeded in introducing into the market, at all seasons, salmon as fresh as when first caught, and may thus have supplied a great desideratum and have established a business that is commercially profitable. He may have invented something, in that connection, which is capable of being protected by a patent, and he may have described in this specification, or shown in the model or drawings accompanying it, something which may be claimed, and well claimed as an invention, and which may be secured to him by a reissue. But the difficulty with the present claim is that it is too broad, and that it covers nothing but a process, and that a process practiced before, substantially in the same manner set forth in the specification.

For these reasons the bill must be dismissed with costs.

M. B. Andrus and Browne & Holmes, for complainant.

W. C. Witter and George Gifford, for defendants.

Recent American and Foreign Patents.

Improved Vapor Stove for Heating Soldering Irons.

David Berkey, Huntington, Ind.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved vapor stove or fire pot for tinners' use for heating their soldering irons. The body of the stove is made of any sheet metal in the form of an inverted frustrum of a cone. The body is provided with a conical cover, terminating in a neck to receive the smoke pipe. The reservoir to contain the kerosene or other light hydrocarbon is supported by rods. From the reservoir a pipe leads downward, and is then curved to enter the lower part of the stove. To the end of the pipe is attached a semicircular piece of pipe. To the other end of the semicircular pipe is attached a short piece of pipe, which is bent into such a shape that its other end, to which the burner is attached, may be directly beneath the center of the curved pipe so that the flame from the said burner may strike the said pipe and vaporize the liquid before it passes to the burner. The burner is made in the form of a short tube, and with a number of small holes in its closed upper end. A disk fits into the stove and has a slot with flanged side edges formed in it. It is so adjusted that the slot may be longitudinal with the semicircular pipe, the flanges of said disk overlapping the sides of the said pipe so as to collect the heat from the burner and guide it through the slot in the said disk so that it may come into direct contact with the copper tubes placed above and upon the disk; and its open ends communicate with holes in the side of the stove through which the irons are inserted to be heated.

Improved Corn Husker.

John M. Carlisle, Sumter, S. C.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved machine for separating ears of corn from their husks, enabling the work to be done faster than it can be by hand, saving the hands of the operator from injury, and leaving the husks in fine condition for being fed to stock. In using the machine the ear to be husked is laid upon the rest with its stem forward, and is pushed forward till stopped by the stop claw. The spring lever holder is then lowered to hold the ear, and the sash is forced downward. By the downward movement of the sash the stop claw is withdrawn, the knife cuts the ear from its stem, and the husks are slit longitudinally, by the points as they are drawn back along the ear by the rearward movement of the head block, and drop from the ear, which is then removed from the rest and placed in a basket or other receptacle. The sash is then raised and the machine is ready for another ear.

Improved Spectacle Frame.

Julius King, Warren, O.—A difficulty has heretofore been experienced in joining the bow to the bridge, or nose piece, in manufacturing steel frame spectacles. By making the bridge of silver, gold or other non-oxidizing metal, the soldering of such metal to the steel is done at much lower temperature, and prevents burning, which renders ordinary steel frames very brittle. By the use of a combination of metals, greater strength is obtained, and the liability of the bridge to oxidization is prevented. Mr. King is a practical optician, and author of a chart by the use of which persons are enabled to determine the focus of their sight, and thus be readily fitted with glasses of the number they require.

Improved Cartridge Loader.

Joel S. Warner, Ogdensburg, N. Y.—The object of this invention is to produce a portable device but little larger than the cartridge shell for placing the wads therein, and the invention consists in a tube counterbored to fit over cartridge shell and provided with a spring plunger very effectively applied.

Improved Glove.

James F. Mason, Johnstown, N. Y.—This invention relates to that class of gloves which are made partly of leather and partly of cloth, and known as "combination gloves," and consists in the patterns and in the glove made therefrom.

Improved Steam Boiler.

Atwood Wigzell, Halifax, England.—This invention relates to the construction and general arrangement of steam boilers, having particular reference to the class known as "sectional steam boilers," and consists in a series of conical tubes attached to or forming a part of horizontal parallel tubes upon the sides of the boiler, the said conical tubes being so arranged that the tubes of one part fit between the tubes of the other part, thus forming one or more horizontal tiers of these conical tubes, two or more such tiers being contained and operating in combination with a steam chamber.

Improved Adjustable Pipe Tongs.

William Kearney, Belleville, N. J.—This invention relates to improvement in pipe tongs, of the class in which one jaw is made adjustable by means of a screw, but is more particularly a modification of a device described in the patent of H. N. Smade, dated August 29, 1871. The object of this invention is to provide an adjustable jaw which shall be capable of adapting itself, within moderate limits, to the object to be seized or held, and of being readily adjusted to various positions.

Improved Awl.

Godfrey K. Mellor, Woonsocket, R. I.—The lower part of the awl is made with two or more sides, each side being grooved. The grooves extend to the pointed end. By being thus grooved, the awl forms several sharp edges at its sides which cut easily through the leather, and which, therefore, make it easier to use the improved awl than the awls in common use.

Improved Slide Valve.

Peter Peartree, Lansingburg, N. Y.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved device for operating the valve of a steam engine, which shall be so constructed as to enable the steam to be cut off at any desired part of the stroke, and which will operate the valve so as to give a lead, which may also be regulated at will.

Improved Pruning Shears.

Oscar Chase, Rutland, Ohio.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved pruning shears, so constructed as to cut the bows with a circular or drawing cut, so as to do its work easier than when the cut is made in the ordinary manner, and which may also be used with equal advantage for cutting bolts and other articles of iron or other metal; and it consists in the continuation of the handles, one of which is provided with a hook, guide arm, and stop, and the cutter and the link slotted in its inner end and provided with a finger or cam.

Improved Boots and Shoes.

Robert Sommerville, Sandusky, O.—This invention consists in the use of wire gauze cloth for the uppers of boots and shoes. The principal advantage of this shoe is that it gives the foot free ventilation, and it is sufficiently pliable to allow free action to the foot.

Improved Picket Fence.

Joseph Willhite, Pilot Point, Texas.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved picket fence, which shall require a comparatively small amount of timber, can be easily repaired, and cannot be rubbed down by the stock, and it consists in the construction and combination of the various parts of the fence, so that all may incline laterally, and the timber may be made light, and at the same time the fence will be strong and substantial. With this construction, also, when any of the pickets rot off they may be driven down into the ground or replaced with new pickets, without disturbing the wire, rails, or posts, which cannot be done when the wire passes through the pickets.

Improved Ore Crusher.

William P. Hammond, Napa city, Cal., assignor to himself and Henry Mygatt, same place.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved device for operating the stamp of a stamp mill or ore crusher, enabling the stamp to be raised with a less expenditure of power than when the stamp is operated in the ordinary manner, and it consists in the tappet, in combination with the stamp shaft, cam, and driving shaft. By suitable construction and arrangement of the tappet the friction will be lessened, the cam will rotate the stamp more surely, and the power required to raise the stamp will be diminished, the point of contact being directly above the driving shaft.

Apparatus for Filling, Polishing, and Varnishing Moldings.

Max Hamburger, Isaac J. Siskind, and Achille Klein, New York city.—This invention has for its object to furnish an improved machine for filling, French polishing, finishing, varnishing, and sand papering wood moldings, etc. In using the machine, the molding or other work to be operated upon is secured to the table, which table is then raised to bring the work against the brushes or rubbers with the necessary pressure. A lever is then operated to bring a clutch in contact with a wheel that will carry the brushes or rubbers in the proper direction. The motion of the brushes or rubbers may be reversed at any time, and as often as desired, so that a short strip of molding or a part of a long strip may be operated upon, as required.

Improved Balanced Slide Valve.

Hubbard Hendrickson, Red Bank, N. J.—This invention relates to a new means of balancing the slide valves of steam engines with such exactness and regularity that the motion of the valve will be made easy, its wear prevented, and friction avoided. The invention consists, first, in connecting a pivoted yoke with the slide valve, said yoke having a vertical stem that swings at its upper end on a horizontal pivot. This pivot is supported in a tube or cylinder, which is held balanced by the steam, so that the actual support is supplied to the valve by the steam, but indirectly under said cylinder, and thence to the pivot at the upper end of the rod.

Improved Pole Clamp.

Henry Haering, New York city, assignor to himself and Hermann Allis, of same place.—This invention consists of a U-shaped yoke with bearings in the bars near the open ends, an eccentric clamp with a hand lever, and journals for working in the aforesaid bearings, and a fastening chain or rope, all combined or arranged so that a couple of scaffold or other poles lapping each other may be embraced between the bottom of the yoke and the eccentric clamp by placing the yoke around them and then putting the clamp in its bearings, and thus be bound together very firmly and in a simple manner. The clamp is designed for splicing scaffold, tent, and other poles.

Improved Plow.

Edwin Reese, Eutaw, Ala.—The invention consists in a self sharpening plow having the landside of such peculiar construction that the point and edge of share are allowed in a uniform and certain manner to wear upon both upper and lower side so as to retain the same edge until completely worn out.

Improved Butt Hinge.

Isaac L. Thompson, Sardis, Ohio.—This invention relates to an improvement in the class of butt hinges provided with supporting arms or straps, and consists in constructing such arms or straps with lugs for taking into the wood and relieving the screws from strain.

Improved Chair Seat and Back.

William T. Doremus, New York city.—This invention has for its object to furnish chairs, provided with elastic seats and backs, which shall be simple in construction, strong and durable, and at the same time convenient in application and comfortable in use; and it consists in the arrangement of alternate rigid and elastic blocks, having flexible connections.

Improved Lubricator

John McLure Power, Port Discovery, Washington Territory.—The neck of the lubricator is screwed into the cylinder head. A pipe is connected with the branch from the neck of the lubricator and with the condenser, through which steam is admitted from the cylinder. This pipe enters the condenser and is closed at its end. It has a short vertical branch pipe screwed into it. A valve spindle is attached near the bottom of the reservoir, for drawing off the surplus water of condensation. A spindle valve is located in the cup or receiver, by which the flow of oil is controlled, and the condensing surface increased or diminished. A solid plug, made of any non-conducting material, closes the top of the neck tube. Steam will pass up through the branch and pipe from the cylinder into the condenser, which steam will be condensed in whole or in part, and the water of condensation will fall by its own gravity into the reservoir. The water, being of greater specific gravity than the oil, will settle at the bottom of the reservoir, and when it accumulates in too great quantity, it is drawn off through the valve. The lubricating oil flows over into the pipe, and reaches the cylinder by virtue of its own gravity. The flow of steam upward, as well as of oil, may be shut off by means of the valve spindle.

Improved Tool Holder.

James S. Ettenborough, Easton, Pa.—This invention consists of a relief bar or plate pivoted to the end of the shank by which the tool is attached to the reciprocating bar of the machine at right angles to the line of motion, with a tool post similar to the tool post of a turning lathe, for holding the tool, the relief bar being arranged to swing and free the point of the tool from the work when it moves back, to prevent it from rubbing on the work and being worn thereby or broken when escaping from the end of the work, the said bar being provided with a spring to throw it back into the working position before beginning to cut, and the tool post being arranged to shift the tool sidewise for under cutting, slotting, and other purposes.

Improved Door Check.

George Rohrbaker, Penn Station, Pa.—The object of this invention is to provide means for holding swinging doors in any desired position; and it consists in one or more circular plates forming part of a frame attached to the casing and arranged concentric with the door hinges, and in an elastic friction block connected with the door and working in contact with said circular plates, thereby causing friction, by means of which the door is held.

Improved Farm Gate.

Cyrus E. Gillespie, Edwardville, Ill.—This invention relates to an improved mechanism for operating gates on roadways at a distance therefrom so as to make it convenient for persons on horseback or in carriages to open such gates before reaching them, and to reclose them after they are passed, all without dismounting. The invention consists mainly in connecting the latch of the gate with a crank on a pinion that hangs on its lower pivot, so that as said pivot is moved to one side or the other, the pinion will be turned and the latch opened to permit the opening of the gate.

Inventions Patented in England by Americans.

[Compiled from the Commissioners of Patents' Journal.]

From January 3 to January 9, 1872, inclusive.

CAR SPRING.—P. G. Gardner, New York city.

DRYING PEAT, ETC.—L. W. Boynton, N. Y. city, J. E. Holmes, London, Eng.

ELECTRIC SIGNAL.—W. Robinson, Brooklyn, N. Y.

EXTRACTING NAILS.—G. J. Capewell, Cheshire, Conn.

HAT.—R. Eickemeyer, Yonkers, N. Y.

HOSPITAL BED.—I. Waller, Cleveland, O., H. Fowler, Detroit, Mich.

PRINTING TELEGRAPH.—G. L. Anders, E. B. Welch, Cambridge, Mass.

PUDDLING FURNACE.—L. S. Goodrich, Waverly, Tenn., I. H. Hillman, G. W. Goodrich, Trigg Furnace, Ky.

TOY.—W. W. Rose, New York city.