To all whom it may concern:

I, CHARLES F. HEINS, of Charleston, in the county of Charleston and State of South Carolina, have invented a new and improved Barrel-Cover, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description.

My invention relates to covers for barrels or tubs from which sugar, salt, crackers, butter, lard, or other edibles or substances are retailed to consumers; and the invention has for its object to provide a simple, inexpensive, and efficient cover allowing the barrels or tubs to be placed either on their bottoms or side under counters or between shelves and giving most convenient access to the goods, and adapted to fully protect the contents of the barrel or tub from dust or other foreign matter, or from mice, rats, or vermin.

The invention consists in certain novel features of construction and combinations of parts of the barrel-cover, all as hereinafter described and claimed.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings, forming a part of this specification, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures.

Figure 1 is a top plan view of a barrel-cover made in accordance with my invention and partly broken away, and shown partly open in dotted lines. Fig. 2 is a bottom plan view of the cover. Fig. 3 is a vertical sectional view of the cover, taken on the line x x in Fig. 1, and shows also a part of a barrel to which the cover is applied. Fig. 4 is a transverse section of the cover, taken on the line y y in Fig. 1, and also shows part of the barrel; and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of a modified form of the cover, shown partly open.

The barrel-cover is made with two main portions A B, each being a little larger than a half-circle which would circumscribe the top of a barrel, keg, or other round box which the cover is intended to fit, so as to allow the part A to overlap the part B a little at the center of the cover. The part B is fixed to one side of an annular hoop or band C, which fits quite closely around the top of a barrel D, and at its upper part is preferably provided with an inner fixed auxiliary hoop or band E, which serves as a stay to that portion of the hoop C which overhangs the part B, and also braces the joint between the parts B C, and also forms a stop to the cover at the top of the barrel. The overhanging portion of the auxiliary hoop or band E rises to the top of the main hoop C, and with it gives a more substantial support to the movable portion A of the cover than it would have on the main hoop C alone. The part A of the cover is preferably provided with a semicircular marginal band F, which projects downward sufficiently to form a guide to it at the outer face of the hoop C of the relatively fixed portion B of the cover.

The two parts A B are pivoted together on a pin E, which is fixed in the part A, and to this pin is fixed one end of a coiled spring F, the other end of which is held by a pin or screw G to the under side of the part B, whereby, as the part A is swung around in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 1 of the drawings to open the cover, as indicated in dotted lines, the spring will be coiled up or put in tension, so that when the part A is released the spring, in uncoiling or expanding, will swing the part A around again and automatically close the barrel-cover. When the cover is closed, the beveled end G of a spring-pressed latch or pin H, fitted to the part A, will enter a notch I, made in the edge of the part B, and will stop against a bent metal plate J, fitted at said notch, as shown most clearly in Fig. 2 of the drawings. This latch G is preferably fitted within a metal collar K, fixed to the cover part A and accommodating the latch-spring, and beyond the collar a button-head L is fixed to the latch and serves to withdraw it against the pressure of its spring, and this head with the collar serves as a handle by which the part A of the cover may be conveniently operated or opened.

When the cover is to be opened, the latch G will be grasped and the part A will be thereby swung or turned around on the pin E as an axis of motion, and as the cover is quite fully opened the beveled face of the end G of the latch will strike the pendant edge F of a catch-plate M, which is fitted into the relatively stationary part B of the cover, and the latch will spring into a hole N made in the catch-plate and part B to prevent the spring F closing the cover, or, in other words,
to latch the cover open as long as may be desired to allow sugar, butter, lard, salt, grain, or other contents of the barrel to be removed at leisure. A stop-pin J, fixed in the cover-band C, stops the opening of the part A when the latch G engages its catch-plate I, and this pin is also adapted to be struck by the band a of the part A as the cover closes to partly relieve the shock of contact of the latch with the plate II. To close the cover it is only necessary to lift the latch-button or head g and thereby disengage the latch from the catch-plate, and then release hold of the latch and allow the spring F to instantly swing the part A around to close the cover, in which position it is shown in full lines in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawings.

A modified form of the barrel-cover is shown in Fig. 5 of the drawings, which represents a movable part A', pivoted at a to a relatively stationary part B', provided with a pendulum C', adapted to fit the top of a barrel, keg, or other round box or package. A button d on the part A' serves as a handle by which to swing or turn it to open or close the cover by hand in a manner which will readily be understood.

The cover may simply be laid on top of a barrel or it may be secured to the barrel by screws or nails, as represented in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

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

1. A barrel-cover consisting of two parts pivoted for movement face to face, one part provided with a hoop adapted to fit a barrel-top, combined with a spring normally closing the barrel-cover, substantially as herein set forth.

2. A barrel-cover consisting of two parts pivoted for movement face to face, one part provided with a hoop adapted to fit a barrel-top, combined with a spring normally closing the cover and a latch normally holding the cover open, substantially as herein set forth.

3. The combination, in a barrel-cover, of a relatively stationary part B, having a hoop C, a movable part A, pivoted by a pin E to the part B, and a coil-spring F, held to the pivot E and part B, substantially as herein set forth.

4. The combination, in a barrel-cover, of a relatively stationary part B, having a hoop C, a movable part A, pivoted to part B and provided with a spring-latch G, and a catch-plate I on the part A for said latch, substantially as herein set forth.

5. The combination, in a barrel-cover, of a relatively stationary part B, provided with a notch h, plate H, lining said notch, and a part A, pivoted to part B and provided with a spring-latch G, adapted to said notch and to a catch-plate on the cover, substantially as herein set forth.

6. The combination, in a barrel-cover, of a relatively stationary part B, having a hoop C, provided with a stop-pin J, a part A, pivoted to part B and provided with a latch, and a catch-plate on the part B for said latch, substantially as herein set forth.

7. The combination, in a barrel-cover, of a relatively stationary part B, having a hoop C and an auxiliary brace-hoop c, seated within said hoop, and a part A pivoted to part B and moving on the face thereof, substantially as herein set forth.

Witnesses:

CHARLES F. HEINS.

DANIEL R. BURIE,

HERMANN F. BRUNER.