

J. S. MOSHOLDER & H. I. BLOUGH.
 FOLDING GRATE AND BOX.
 APPLICATION FILED MAR. 14, 1911.

997,931.

Patented July 11, 1911.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

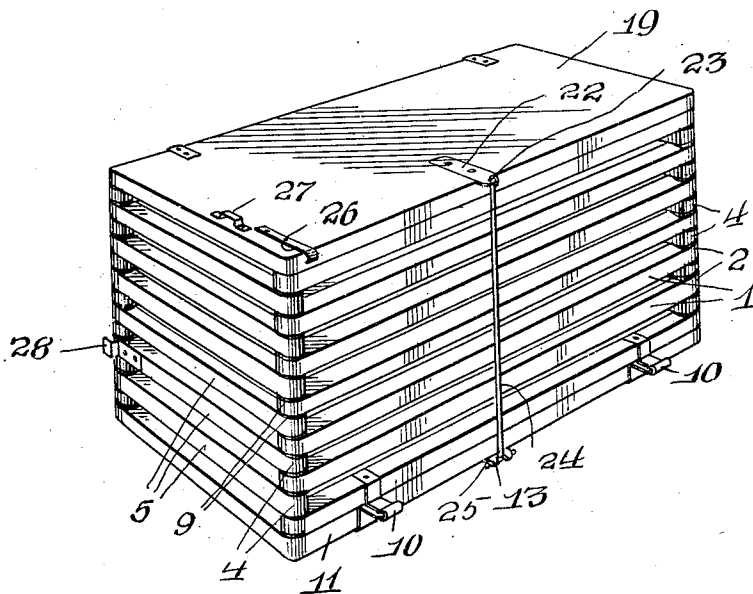
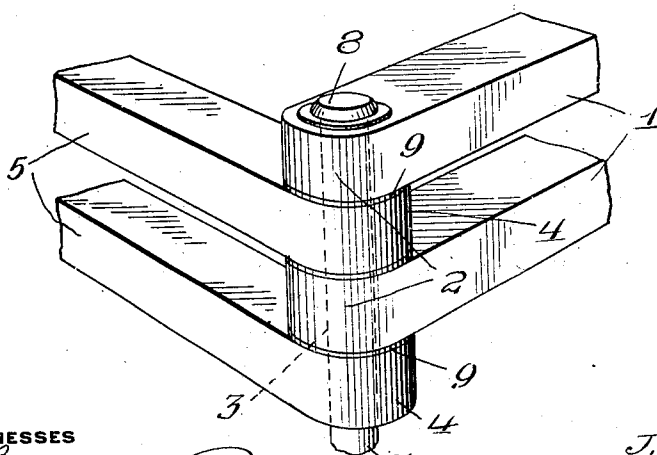


Fig. 2.



WITNESSES

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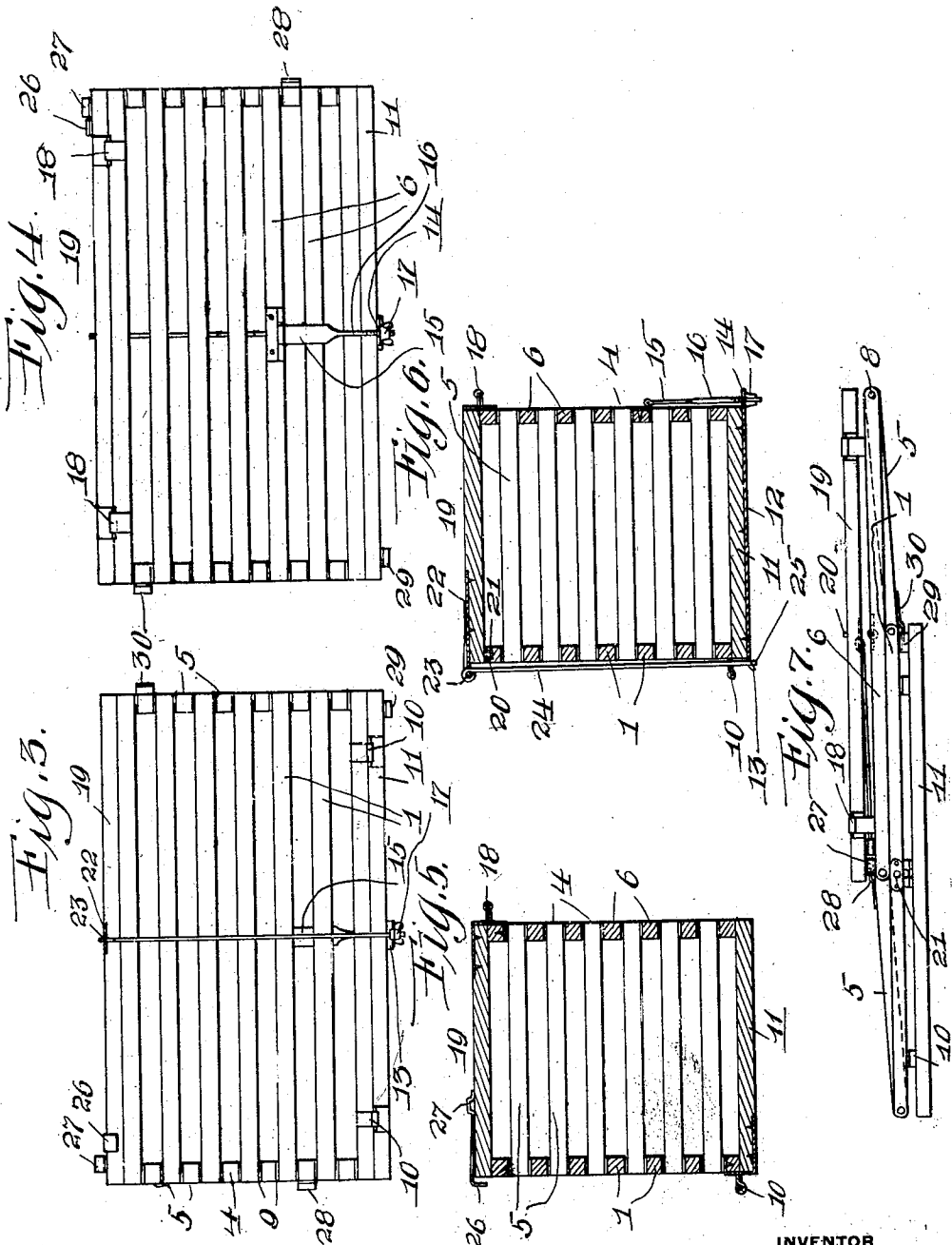
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JONATHAN S. MOSHOLDER AND HENRY I. BLOUGH, OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA.

FOLDING CRATE AND BOX.

997,931.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 11, 1911.

Application filed March 14, 1911. Serial No. 614,368.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JONATHAN S. MOSHOLDER and HENRY I. BLOUGH, citizens of the United States of America, residing at 5 Johnstown, in the county of Cambria and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates and Boxes, of which the following is a specification, reference being 10 had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to folding crates and boxes, and the primary object of our invention is to provide a crate or box that 15 can be folded or collapsed to occupy a comparatively small space in transit or storage.

Another object of the invention is to provide a folding crate or box that can be advantageously used in the shipment of various kinds of merchandise, particularly 20 fruit and poultry, where it is customary to return the box or crate to the shipper.

A further object of the invention is to furnish a folding crate or box with novel 25 means, in a manner as will be hereinafter set forth, for maintaining the same in a rigid and set up position.

A still further object of the invention is to accomplish the above result by a mechanical construction that is simple, free 30 from injury by ordinary use and efficient for the purposes for which it is intended.

With the above and other objects in view, the invention resides in the novel construction, combination and arrangement of parts 35 to be hereinafter specifically described and then claimed.

Reference will now be had to the drawings, wherein like numerals of reference 40 designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the box or crate in a set up position, Fig. 2 is an enlarged perspective view of a portion of 45 the crate illustrating the pivotal connection between the vertical walls thereof, Fig. 3 is a front elevation of the crate, Fig. 4 is a rear elevation of the same, Figs. 5 and 6 are cross sectional views of the crate, and 50 Fig. 7 is a plan of the same folded or collapsed.

The front wall comprises a plurality of bars or slats 1 having the ends thereof rounded, as at 2 and apertured, as at 3. 55 These slats are equally spaced apart and extending between the rounded ends of said

slats are the rounded ends 4 of equally spaced slats 5 forming the end walls of the crate. Arranged between the rear ends of the slats 5 are slats 6 forming the rear wall 60 of the crate, and the ends of all of said slats are pivotally connected together by vertical pivot pins 7 having the upper and lower ends thereof provided with heads 8. To prevent undue wear of the sides of the slats 65 forming the crate, we interpose metallic washers 9 between the pivoted ends of said slats.

Hinged to the bottom slat 1 of the front wall by strap hinges 10 is a rectangular bottom plate 11, the hinges 10 being located 70 adjacent the ends of said bottom plate. The bottom plate intermediate the ends thereof is provided with a transverse strap 12, the forward end of said strap is bent 75 downwardly and bifurcated, as at 13, while the rear end thereof is bifurcated, as at 14.

Connected to one of the slats 6 of the rear wall is a pivoted hasp 15 having the lower cylindrical threaded end 16 adapted to fit in 80 the bifurcation 14 of the strap 12, said head being retained in engagement with the bifurcated end of said strap by a winged thumb nut 17.

The top slat 6 of the rear wall is provided 85 with strap hinges 18 adjacent to the ends thereof and these strap hinges support a rectangular lid 19. The forward edge of the lid is provided with a depending pin 20 adapted to engage in a socket 21 provided 90 therefor in the top slat 1 of the front wall. Secured to the lid 19 at the front edge thereof is a strap 22 and pivotally connected to the forward end of said strap, as at 23 is a tie rod 24 having the lower end thereof provided 95 with a T-shaped head 25 adapted to be sprung into engagement with the forward bifurcated end of the strap 12.

The lid 19 adjacent to one end thereof is provided with a resilient clasp 26 and this 100 clasp is adapted to hold the headed end of the tie rod 24 in an elevated position in longitudinal alinement with the front edge of the lid 19, when the crate is collapsed. The same end of the lid 19 is provided with a 105 keeper 27 and adapted to engage in this keeper is a catch 28, carried by one of the slats 5 of one end wall, and the bottom plate 11 is provided with another keeper 29 adapted to receive a catch 30 carried by one 110 of the slats 6 of the other end wall, these catches assisting in maintaining the front

and rear walls in parallelism when the box is collapsed, with the bottom plate 11 folded against the front side of the front wall and the lid 19 folded rearwardly against the 5 outer side of the rear wall.

By reference to Fig. 7 of the drawings it will be noted that the crate or box occupies a comparatively small space when folded or collapsed, and we reserve the right to make 10 the box or crate of wood or metal and of various sizes.

What we claim is:—

1. A folding crate comprising vertical 15 front, rear and end walls formed of slats and with the ends of the slats of the end walls extending between the ends of the slats of the other walls, said front wall having its upper slat formed with a socket, vertical pins pivotally connecting the ends of 20 said slats whereby the rear wall of said crate can be folded into parallelism with the front wall thereof, a bottom plate hinged to the lower slat of the front wall of said crate, a transverse strap carried by said bottom 25 plate and having each of its ends bifurcated, a pivoted hasp carried by one of the slats of the rear wall of said crate and adapted to be detachably connected to the bifurcated rear end of said strap, a lid hinged to the 30 upper slat of the rear wall of said crate, a tie-rod pivotally supported by the forward edge of said lid and adapted to have the lower end thereof detachably connected to the bifurcated forward end of said strap, and a depending pin carried by the forward edge of 35 said lid and adapted to engage in the socket of the upper slat of the front wall of said crate.

2. A folding crate comprising vertical front, rear and end walls formed of slats and with the ends of the slats of the end 40 walls extending between the ends of the slats of the other walls, washers interposed between the ends of said walls, vertical pins pivotally connecting the ends of said slats whereby the rear wall of said crate can be 45 folded into parallelism with the front wall thereof, said pins extending through said washers and the ends of said slats, a bottom plate hinged to the lower slat of the front wall of said crate, a transverse strap carried 50 by said bottom plate, a pivoted hasp carried by one of the slats of the rear wall of said crate and adapted to be detachably connected to the rear end of said strap, a lid hinged to the upper slat of the rear wall 55 of said crate, a tie rod pivotally supported by the forward edge of said lid and adapted to have the lower end thereof detachably connected to the forward end of said strap, a depending pin carried by the forward 60 edge of said lid and adapted to engage in the upper slat of the front wall of said crate, and means including catches and keepers adapted to retain said lid and said 65 bottom plate in a folded position in parallelism with the front and rear walls of said crate.

In testimony whereof we affix our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

JONATHAN S. MOSHOLDER.
HENRY I. BLOUGH.

Witnesses:

JOHN LUNGER,
H. J. MCCHESENEY.