

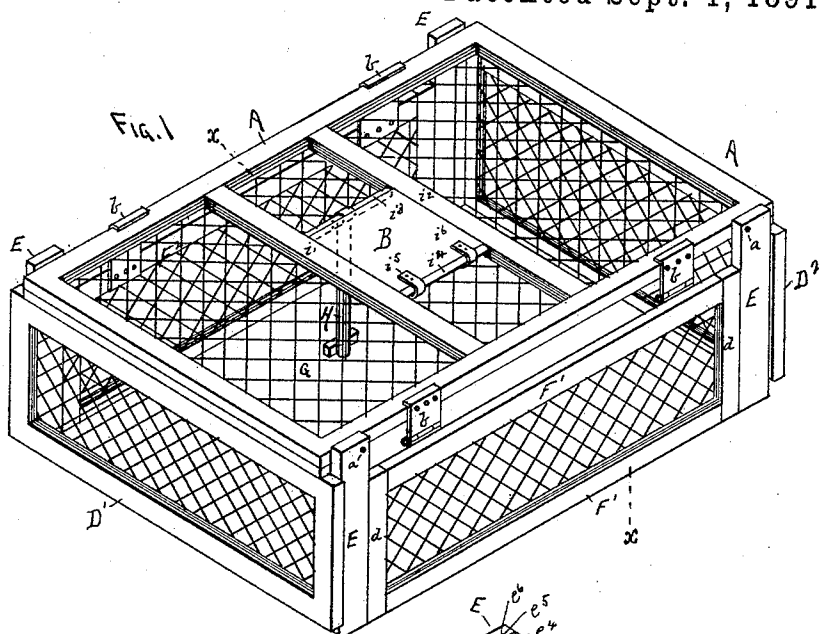
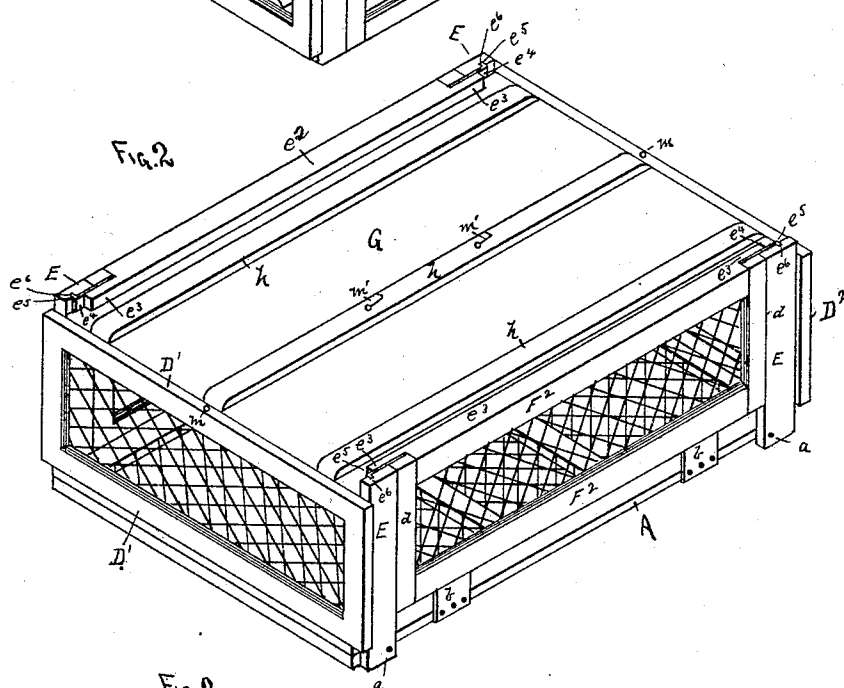
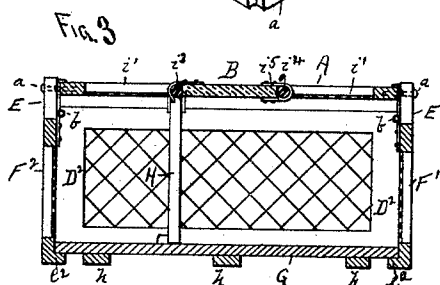
(Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

M. C. BURR.
FOLDING CRATE.

No. 458,689.

Patented Sept. 1, 1891.



WITNESSES
H. R. Buckworth
H. S. Webster.

Melbourne C. Burr.
INVENTOR, BY
Charles W. Woodward
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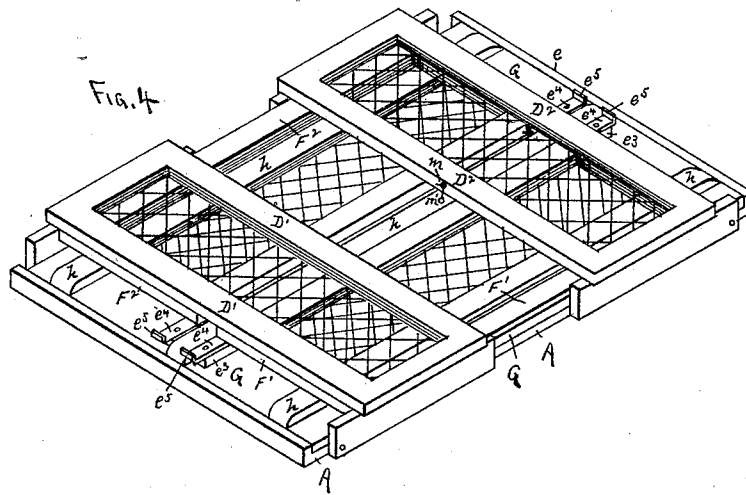
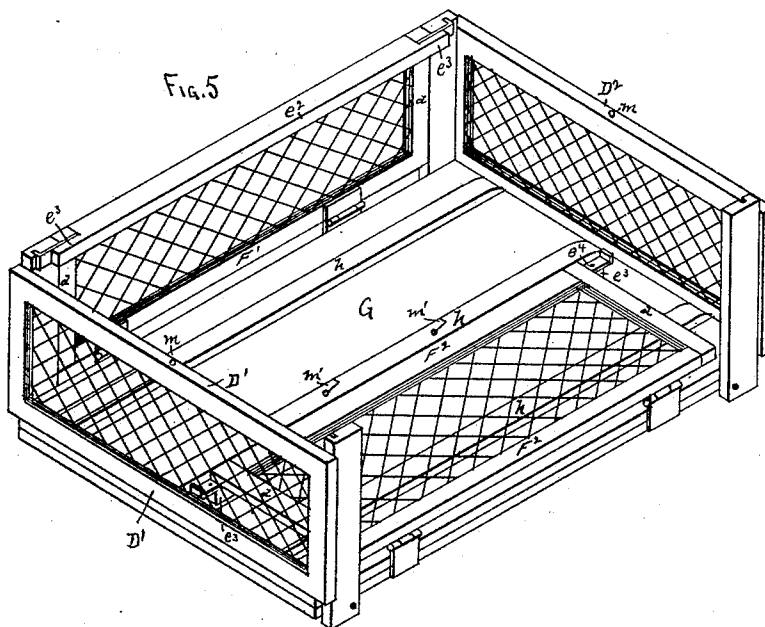
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

MELBOURNE C. BURR, OF MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.

FOLDING CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 458,689, dated September 1, 1891.

Application filed December 8, 1890. Serial No. 373,892. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, MELBOURNE C. BURR, a citizen of the United States, residing at Minneapolis, in the county of Hennepin and State of Minnesota, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates or Coops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to coops or crates for the transportation of fowls; and it consists in the construction, combination, and arrangement of parts, as hereinafter shown and described, and specifically pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective of the coop opened out ready for use. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the same inverted. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view on the line $x x$ of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the coop "knocked down" or folded together. Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the coop inverted and partially folded together.

A represents the top frame of the coop, formed with wire-netting panels and with a small door B in the center, through which access may be had to the interior of the coop; and $D' D^2$ represent the ends, likewise formed with wire-netting panels and provided on the edges with plates E, hinged at a to the corners of the top A, as shown, so that the ends $D' D^2$ may be folded over upon the top A, as in Fig. 4. The sides $F' F^2$ are likewise formed with net-work panels and are hinged at b to the top A and fit by their ends d between the plates E, as shown.

G is the bottom of the coop, which fits in between the ends $D' D^2$ and sides $F' F^2$, being supported by ribs $e^2 e^2$ on the lower edges of the sides $F' F^2$ and ends $D' D^2$. The bottom G is stiffened by cleats h , as shown. The ends of the ribs e^2 on the sides $F' F^2$ project beyond the ends of the sides at e^3 and against the inner surfaces of the plates E, so that stops are thereby formed to prevent the sides from moving outward beyond the lines of the plates E, as shown.

Attached to the faces of the stops e^3 are small metal plates e^4 , each having a rib e^5 fitting into a corresponding cavity e^6 in each of the plates E, so that the outward thrust of the end frames $D' D^2$ are partially borne by these plates e^4 and is not wholly borne by the pivots a .

The top frame A is provided with two cross-bars $i' i^2$, between which the door B is hinged to right-angled cross-bars $i^3 i^4$ in any suitable manner. The cross-bars $i^3 i^4$ will preferably be of round shape and the door secured thereto by straps $i^5 i^6$; but any other suitable construction may be employed. If found necessary, a post or stop H may be hinged to one of the cross-bars $i^3 i^4$ and adapted to project downward and rest by its lower end upon the bottom G to keep the coop distended and prevent its collapse if it is turned upside down when empty; but I do not wish to be restricted to the use of any means for holding the crate distended, as the weight of the bottom G is amply sufficient to accomplish this purpose and the crate is a complete and operative device without the support H. By this simple arrangement of parts a coop or crate is produced which may be folded together in a flat form, as in Fig. 4, or distended for the reception of the fowls, as in Fig. 1, without detaching any of the parts.

The employment of the small catching-plates e^4 is an important feature of my invention, as it greatly strengthens the construction and relieves the pivots a from undue strains. The cross-wire panel-work may be replaced by slats or other open-work which freely admits air, or one or more of the panels may be entirely closed, as circumstances may require. The sides and ends may be hinged to the bottom G, and the top A arranged to be raised and lowered in the same manner as the bottom is now shown to be raised and lowered; but this would obviously be a mere colorable change of construction and would be substantially the same as shown and would produce precisely the same results.

Some simple form of fastening—such as a hook and eye $m m'$ or other form of fastening—will be arranged to connect the ends $D' D^2$ to the bottom G when the parts are folded together.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new is—

1. In a folding crate or coop, the top A, having the ends $D' D^2$ pivotally connected thereto by plates E, sides $F' F^2$ hinged to said top and adapted to fit between said plates and provided with combined ribs and stops $e^2 e^3$, and a bottom plate G, adapted to fit be-

tween said sides and ends and supported upon said ribs, substantially as shown and described, whereby said parts may be folded together for transportation and distended for use.

- 5
2. In a folding crate or coop, the combination of a top A, ends D' D², pivotally connected to said top by plates E, sides F' F², hinged to said top and adapted to fit between
10 said plates and provided with combined ribs and stops e² e³, stop-plates e⁴, having ribs e⁵

fitting into cavities in said plates, and bottom G, fitting between said sides and ends and supported upon said ribs, substantially as and for the purpose set forth.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

MELBOURNE C. BURR.

Witnesses:

CYRUS W. WELLS,
C. N. WOODWARD.