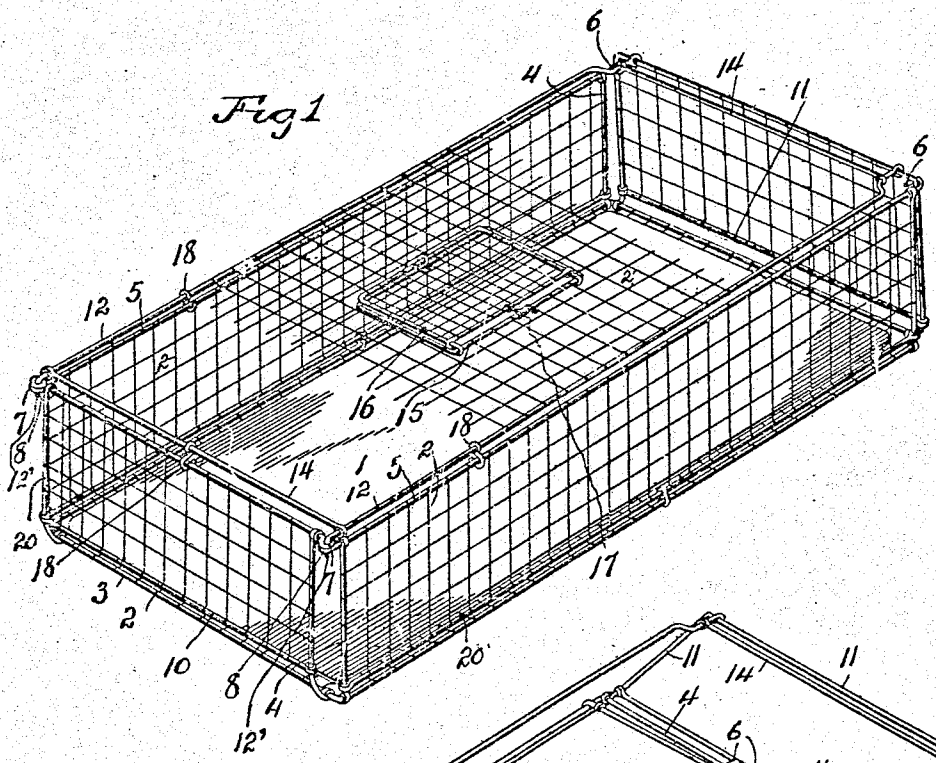
C. R. BROWN.

COLLAPSIBLE CRATE.

APPLICATION FILED AUG. 10, 1908. RENEWED DEC. 18, 1909.

968,028. Patented Aug. 23, 1910.

Fig 1



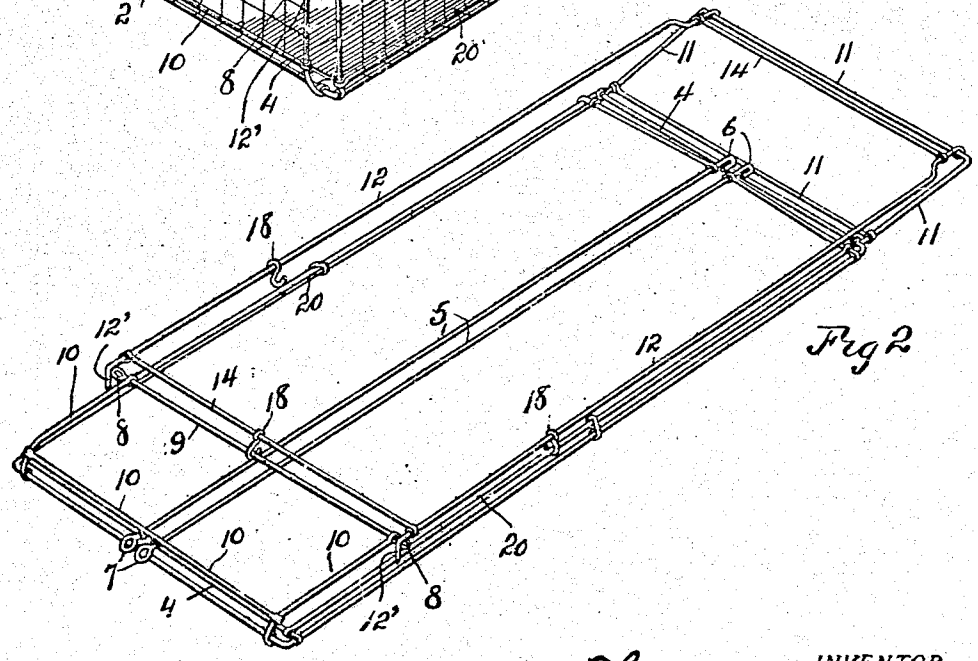


Fig 2

WITNESSES:

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COLLAPSIBLE CRATE.

968,028. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Aug. 23, 1910.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES R. BROWN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Kansas City, in the county of Jackson and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Crates, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to improvements in collapsible crates.

The object of my invention is to provide a crate, adapted for the shipping of poultry, which is simple in construction, quickly collapsed into a flat condition, and easily and quickly assembled into form for containing poultry and the like.

The novel features of my invention are hereinafter described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings illustrating the invention, Figure 1 is a perspective view of the crate, a portion of the wire netting of the top member being removed, and the parts being shown in the assembled condition. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the crate collapsed, the wire netting being removed from the top, base side and end members.

Similar characters of reference denote similar parts.

The horizontal base of the crate comprises, preferably, a rectangular board bottom 1 mounted on wire netting 2 secured to a horizontal rectangular border rod 3. Hinged to opposite edges of the base are two side members 4 provided each at its outer edge with a longitudinal border rod 5. Like ends of the border rods 5 are provided with inwardly turned hooks 6, which are horizontally disposed when the side members are in the vertical position shown in Fig. 1. The other ends of the border rods 5 are provided with eyes 7 which are horizontally disposed and aline with eyes 8 provided at the ends of a border rod 9 on the outer edge of one of two end members 10 and 11 which are hinged at their inner edges to opposite ends of the base.

To the outer edge of the end member 11 are pivoted one set of ends of two longitudinal border rods 12 the other ends of which are downwardly turned, and are adapted to enter the eyes 7 and 8 when the end and side members are in the vertical position, shown in Fig. 1. The border rods 12 form part of the top member 13 which is provided with transverse end rods 14 secured to the rods 12. The side, end and top members, are like the base covered with wire netting 2. Secured to the wire netting of the top member 13 is a rectangular frame 15 which encircles an opening normally closed by a door 16 hinged to said frame 15. A spring 17 secured to the frame 15 normally forces the door to the closed position.

Hooks 18 are hinged to the border rods 12 and the outer end rod 14. These hooks are adapted to engage the border rods 5 and 9 for releasably locking the parts in the assembled position shown in Fig. 1.

To collapse the crate, the hooks 18 are released from the side and end members, thus permitting the top member 13 being swung upwardly so that the hooks at the ends of the rods 12 and denoted by 12′ may be removed from the eyes 7 and 8. The side members may then be swung inwardly to a flat position upon the base, as shown in Fig. 2, and the ends members 10 and 11 may be swung with the top member 13 to a horizontal position. The hooks on the border rods 12 may then be caused to engage the longitudinal border rods 20 disposed one at each inner edge of the side members 4, thereby locking the parts in the collapsed position.

Modifications of my invention, within the scope of the appended claims, may be made without departing from its spirit.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. In a collapsible crate, the combination with a base, of two side members hinged to the base and provided each at one end with a hook and at the other with an eye, two end members hinged to the base, one end member being adapted to be engaged by the hooks of the side members when the members are swung at right angles to the base, the other end member having eyes at opposite ends adapted to aline respectively with the eyes of the side members when the members are disposed at right angles to the base, a top member hinged to the end member which is engaged by said hooks, said top member having two hooks for insertion through the eyes of the end and side members, when the end and side members are in the right angled position and the top member is swung to a position parallel with and over the base, and releasable means for

locking the top member in the last named position.

2. In a collapsible crate, the combination with a base, of two side and two end members hinged to the base so as to be swung from a position substantially parallel with the base to a position at right angles thereto, one set of ends of the side members having hooks for engaging the adjacent end member when said side and end members are in the right angled position, a top member hinged to said end member and provided with hooks, the opposite set of ends of the side members having eyes and the other end member having eyes for respectively alining with the eyes of the side members when the side and end members are in the right angled position, the hooks of the top member being insertible in said eyes of the end and side members when said members are in the right angled position, and hooks for releasably securing the top member to the side and end members when the hooks of the top member are inserted in the eyes of the end and side members.

3. In a collapsible crate, the combination with a horizontal base, of two side members hinged to the base and provided each at its outer edge with a border rod, like ends of said border rods of the side members having hooks and the other ends provided with eyes, said hooks and eyes being horizontally disposed when the side members are swung to a vertical position, the hooks in such position being inwardly turned, two end members hinged to the base, one end member being movable to a vertical position in which it will be engaged by said inwardly turned hooks, a top member hinged to the outer edge of said end member and provided at its opposite end with two hooks, the other end member having at its outer edge a border rod provided at its ends with eyes adapted to be in vertical alinement with the eyes of the side members, when the end and side members are in the vertical position, the hooks of the top member being adapted to enter the eyes of the side and end members when the said members are swung to the vertical position and the top member is swung to a horizontal position over the base, and hooks pivotally mounted on the top member and adapted to respectively releasably engage the border rods of the side members and the end member having the eyes, for locking the top side and end members together, the side and end members when released being movable to a horizontal position.

4. The combination with a base, of two side members comprising two rectangular frames hinged to the opposite edges of the base and provided each with inner and outer longitudinal border rods, like ends of the outer rods having hooks, the opposite ends of the outer border rods having eyes, said side members being adapted to be swung from a vertical position to a position lying flat upon the base, two end members hinged at their inner edges to opposite ends of the base, and provided each at its outer edge with a border rod, the border rod of the end member adjacent to the said eyes having at its ends eyes adapted to vertically aline with the first named eyes, a top member having two longitudinal border rods provided at one set of ends with hooks for inserting in the eyes of the end and side members when said members are vertically disposed, the other set of ends of the border rods of the top member being hinged to the other end member, and hooks pivoted to the border rods of the top member and adapted to releasably engage the outer border rods of the side members when the side members are in the vertical position, and adapted to releasably engage the inner border rods of the side members, when the side members are swung to a flat position over the base.

In testimony whereof I have signed my name to this specification in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES R. BROWN.

Witnesses:
E. B. HOUSE,
J. C. IRWIN.