No. 644,301. Patented Feb. 27, 1900.

W. C. POST.

SHIPPING AND STORING CASE.

(Application filed Dec. 9, 1899.)

(No Model.)

Fig. 1

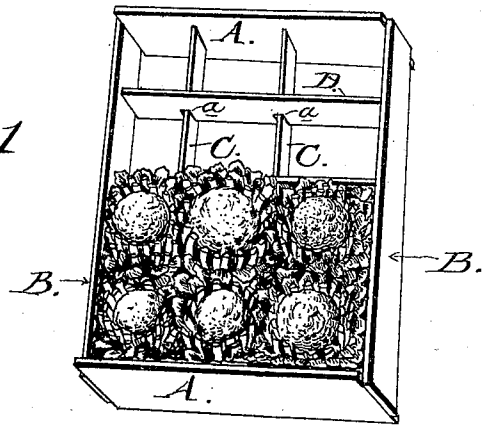


Fig. 2.

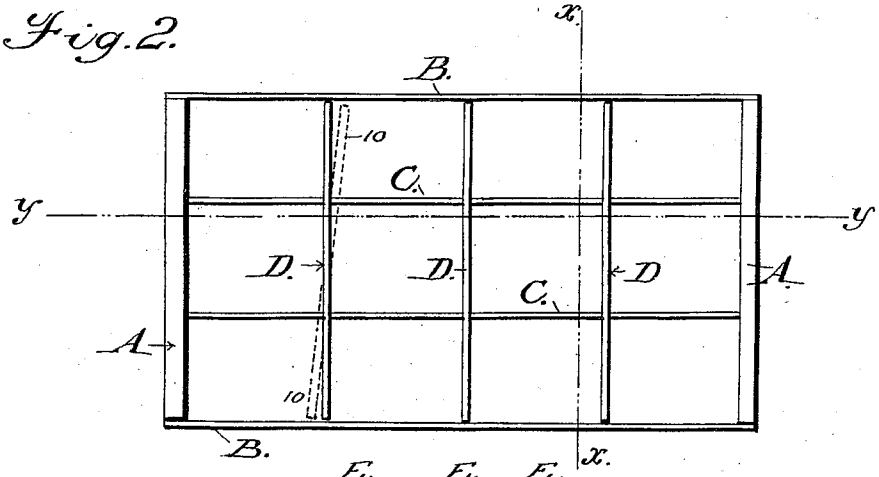


Fig. 3.

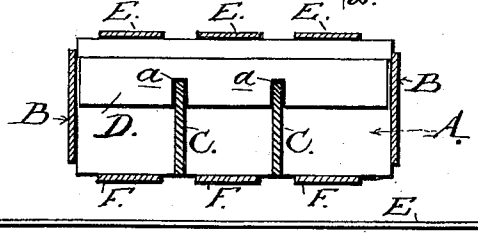
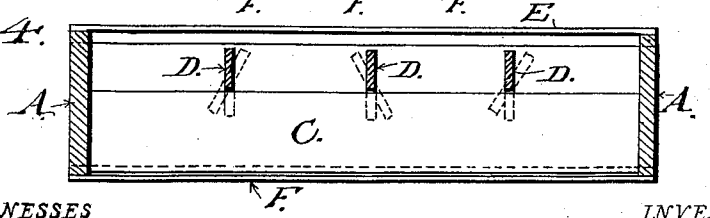


Fig. 4.



WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

WILLIAM C. POST, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO H. H. CORWIN, OF RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK.

SHIPPING AND STORING CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 644,301, dated February 27, 1900.

Application filed December 9, 1899. Serial No. 739,782. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, WILLIAM C. POST, a citizen of the United States, residing at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented new and useful Improvements in Shipping and Storing Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to means for the safe and economical packing and shipping of farm products generally, and especially the packing, shipping, and display of cauliflower in such a manner that the heads are arranged in rows out of contact with each other and sufficiently held to prevent excessive movement during transportation, each head being contained in its own cell and each case containing single rows of heads, one deep, and with the flower portions presented upwardly, so as to be readily inspected and at the same time present an attractive appearance.

My invention consists, essentially, of a comparatively-shallow case of sufficient depth to contain, one deep, rows of cauliflower, said case including rigid end pieces of greater height than the heads to be packed and longitudinal strips spaced so as to secure free ventilation to all parts of the case.

In addition to the foregoing the case consists of longitudinal spaced strips extending from one end piece to the other and suitable transverse strips loosely seated on edge on the companion longitudinal strips and capable of a slidable movement on said last-named strips, and a tilting movement by which they may stand at an incline to the vertical, and also a movement whereby one end of each strip may be placed in advance of the opposite end of the same strip to form individual cells or pockets of different sizes to correspond with the varying sizes of the heads of cauliflower which are to be received into said cells, all of which I will hereinafter fully describe, and specifically point out in the claims.

In the produce markets but few vegetables require as careful handling as what is commercially known as "cauliflower." It must be handled with care, and if packed in superposed layers, with the stems, leaves, or other portions of one in contact with the flower portion of another, the underlying heads will be bruised and will turn dark and unsightly and will soon not only lose their fresh and attractive appearance, but will decay. The method usually adopted for shipping this delicate vegetable is to pack the heads in barrels in bulk or in superposed layers and with the heads in direct contact. The result is that when the barrels are opened a large percentage of the heads are found bruised and discolored, and if they have been shipped a long distance the damaged heads begin to generate heat, and fermentation will set in and cause a rotting of the heads, a corresponding loss to the shipper, and in many cases the deterioration of the entire contents of the barrel. These conditions are further aggravated because of the poor ventilation afforded by the barrels. Another serious complaint in the handling of cauliflower in barrels and bulk is that it affords the farmer or packer the opportunity to pack inferior or damaged heads in the barrel, where they would be covered and kept out of sight by the heads above them, and as damaged or bruised heads will not keep in cold storage when the barrels are opened after being in such storage many heads are found unfit for sale and use.

The object of the present invention is to construct a light, shallow, and readily-portable case adapted to contain single rows of cauliflower, one deep, and with each row separated from the others by division-strips, some of which are loosely mounted, so that they adjust themselves and form, with other strips, cells or pockets adapted to adjust themselves to heads of different sizes, said heads arranged so as to show independent rows with the flower portions presented upwardly and exposed to full view.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, in which similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views, Figure 1 represents one of my improved cases, showing the manner in which the goods are packed and displayed, the exterior strips of the case being removed. Fig. 2 is a plan

view of Fig. 1 with the goods removed from the case. Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view on the line $x\,x$ of Fig. 2. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view on the line $y\,y$ of Fig. 2.

In carrying out my invention I construct the case, preferably, of light and strong wood, although other material may be used without departing from the spirit of my invention. The frame or exterior of the case includes end pieces A and longitudinal connecting side pieces B, said end pieces extending above and below the plane of the top and bottom edges of the side pieces to provide extensive ventilating-spaces along the longitudinal corners of the case. Interior to the case and extending from one end piece to the other are one or more longitudinal strips C, standing on edge. In connection with the strips C, I use transverse strips D, which also stand on edge and have notches *a* formed in their lower edges, adapted to receive the upper edges of the companion strip C, said strips D being thus loosely seated on the other strips and capable of a sliding movement thereon, whereby the strips D may be moved toward and from each other to vary the size of the cell or pocket thus formed between them and the other strips C and the side strips of the exterior case. Being loosely mounted, the strips D may be set at an incline to the vertical to correspond with the angle formed by the stems and leaves of the cauliflower, and said strips D are also capable of having their end portions moved back and forth in opposite directions, as shown at 10 in Fig. 2, whereby the irregularities in size and shape of the heads of cauliflower of each row may be compensated for and the strips made to separate or divide the several rows of heads, even though each row should contain heads of different sizes. The heads are placed in the cells thus formed with their flower portion and cut green leaves presented upwardly, so that they produce an attractive appearance. No part of the flower portion is directly pressed upon by the strips, and no portion of one head presses in direct contact with the flower portion of another head. Therefore the heads are not bruised or damaged and discolored by such contact, and as the cases are shallow and contain but single vertical rows of goods and the end pieces stand above the plane of the heads when packed it is manifest that even when the cases are packed in cars for transportation purposes no part of one case contacts with the goods contained in another case to damage the latter, and the free circulation of air throughout the assembled or nested cases is never impeded. The goods are therefore transportable for long distances with perfect security and invariably arrive in perfect condition. The heads can also be inspected with the utmost facility and without the removal of the same from the cells.

I have demonstrated that cauliflower packed as I have indicated will sell for more than when it is packed under the old methods, because of the perfect and attractive appearance in which it is kept, while the deterioration in cold storage and transporting long distances is reduced to a minimum.

These cases are also useful to the small dealers, who cannot buy the goods in large quantities, but who can handle the small cases, which, because of the manner in which the goods are displayed, often serve to advertise the dealer's other goods.

To secure the strips D against complete detachment from the companion strips C and to protect the heads from injury when packed for transportation, I use strips E and F, forming, respectively, the top and bottom of the exterior case, these strips being widely spaced to provide the required ventilation.

A case like the foregoing is cheaply made. It thoroughly protects the goods and permits them to be sent long distances without injury or deterioration and to be received in perfect condition at the end of the journey, and when the case is opened the flower portion of the heads is presented outwardly, so that the entire contents of each case is in full view and artistically displayed. I also prefer to wrap the flower portion of each head with paraffin-coated paper to keep out dust and dirt, and thereby add to the attractiveness of the heads.

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

1. A packing-case having a slatted top, bottom and sides, end pieces extending above and below the plane of the upper and lower edges of said sides, and longitudinal and transverse series of strips interior to said sides, the top one of said series being slotted and mounted on the upper edges of the other series said slots being of sufficient size to permit the strips of the upper series to be set at an angle both horizontally and vertically to vary the diameter and form of the entrance ends of the cells formed by the strips to correspond with irregularities in the shape and size of the goods to be packed.

2. A packing-case including an inclosing slatted frame having spaces for the free circulation of air, and superposed longitudinal and transverse strips standing on edge and forming cells for the goods, said superposed strips being notched into and mounted with relation to the lower strips said notches being of a size permitting the strips to have their ends set one in advance of the other and the entrances to the cells varied to correspond with the variations in the shape and size of the goods the cells are intended to receive.

3. A case for cauliflower consisting of a shallow slatted inclosure having ventilating-spaces and longitudinal and cross strips forming cells in which the heads of cauliflower are placed one deep and with their flower por-

tions of each out of contact with the case and with the other heads, one series of said strips being notched and seated loosely on top of the strips of the other series and yieldingly in contact with the leaves surrounding the flower portions of the heads.

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

WILLIAM C. POST.

Witnesses:
T. WALTER FOWLER,
GEO. E. TERRY.