J. E. WAYNE.

FRONT FOR POULTRY COOPS.

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1,248,220.

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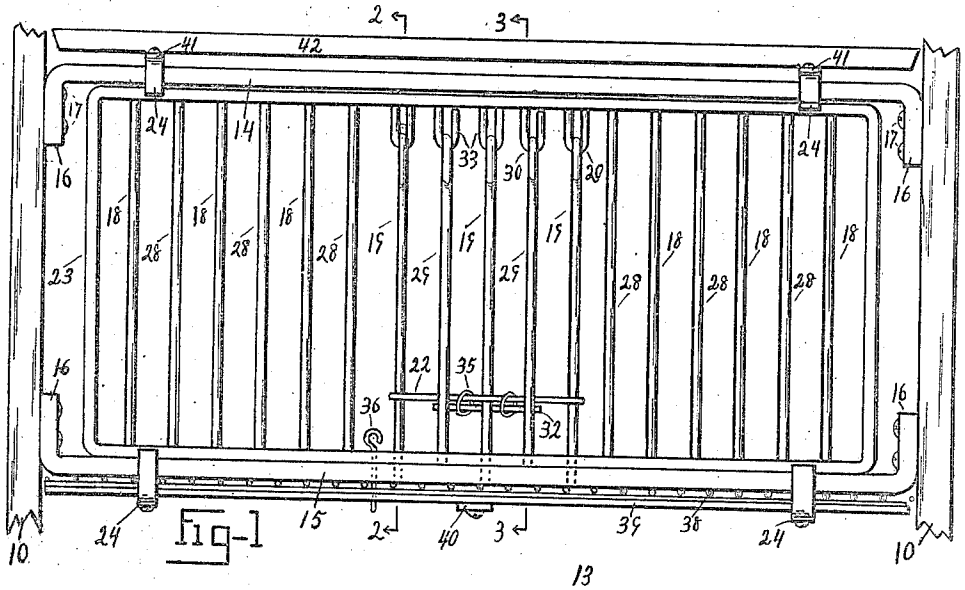


Fig-1

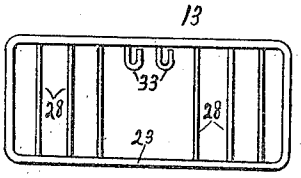


Fig-5

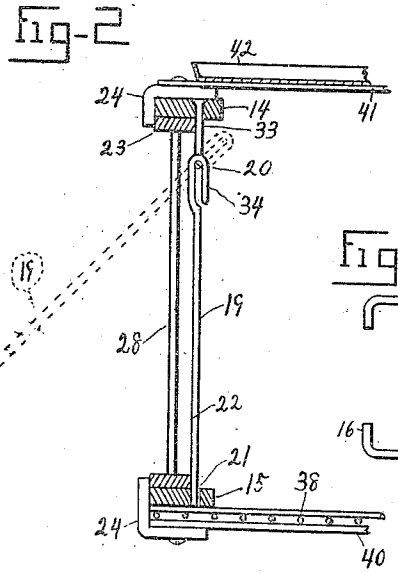


Fig-2

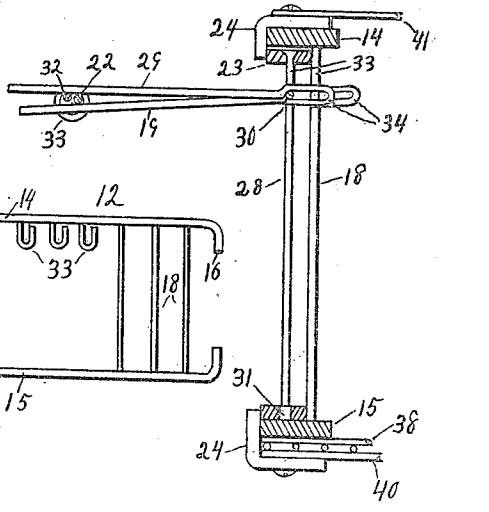


Fig-3

Fig-6

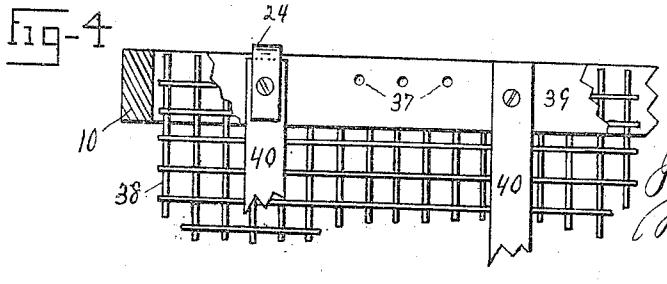


Fig-4

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FRONT FOR POULTRY-COOPS.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH E. WAYNE, a citizen of the United States, residing at Huntingburg, in the county of Dubois and State of Indiana, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fronts for Poultry-Coops, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to fronts for poultry coops.

At stations where poultry is received in large numbers and held for fattening, before being dressed for shipment, means must be provided for economizing space, while at the same time handling the fowls efficiently and expeditiously. The ends of the coops are generally arranged in unitary structures termed batteries, which are mounted on rollers, so that they may be moved about readily, as from the feeding rooms to the dressing rooms. A battery comprises a plurality of coops, or compartments, arranged in tiers, usually four in a tier, the compartments in each tier, being arranged in pairs back to back. The fronts of the compartments are generally closed by gratings which have vertical bars so spaced that fowls may reach their heads through to obtain food from a receptacle, usually a trough hung on the structure. The vertical bars must be spaced according to the size of the fowls which are to be placed in the battery, as, if large fowls are placed in a coop having bars so spaced as to accommodate small fowls, they would not be able to get their heads through the space between the bars, and if small fowls are placed in coops the bars of which are spaced to accommodate large fowls, the small fowls could escape. The result is that if there should be a run of large or small fowls, there would be a number of unavailable batteries taking up space.

An object of this invention is to provide a front for poultry coops wherein the distance between the bars may be varied to accommodate any size fowls which may be placed within the coop, thus rendering the coop available regardless of size of the fowls being handled.

With the foregoing and other objects in view, the invention consists of the novel construction and arrangement of parts illustrated in the accompanying drawing, which forms a part of this specification, wherein is set forth an embodiment of the invention, but it is to be understood that such changes and modifications may be resorted to as come within the scope of the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawing, wherein similar reference numerals designate like parts in the several views, Figure 1, is a front elevation of my improved front as applied to an apartment of a battery; Fig. 2, a vertical section on line 2—2 of Fig. 1; Fig. 3, a vertical section on line 3—3 of Fig. 1; Fig. 4, a plan of a portion of the bottom of a compartment of a battery; Fig. 5, a front of the fixed, or stationary grating; Fig. 6, a front elevation of the sliding grating.

Referring now to the drawing, the reference character —10— designates the vertical members, or posts of a battery of coops, between and to which my improved front is secured. The front comprises a fixed member, or grating —12— and an adjustably sliding member grating —13—. The grating 12 comprises upper and lower longitudinal stringers —14— and —15— which have oppositely disposed right angled extensions —16— adapted to fit against the vertical posts to which they are secured by suitable means such as screws, or bolts —17—. Positioned between the stringers are vertical bars, or rods, suitably spaced to permit of the passage therebetween of the head of the largest fowl to be handled. Certain of the rods as —18— are rigidly secured to the stringers and maintain them in fixed spaced relationship; others as —19— have a hinged or pivotal connection —20— near the upper ends thereof, the lower, or free ends fitting in perforations —21— in the lower stringer (see Fig. 2). The rods 19 are connected near their lower ends by a rod —22— secured thereto by suitable means, such as soldering. The width of the sliding member 13 is such that it will fit between the stringers 14, 15 of the fixed member, and it is shorter than the fixed member within which it slides a distance approximately the same as the space between the rods 18 of the fixed member. The sliding member comprises a rim —23— of suitable material, the width of which is such that it will fit between the edges of the stringers 14, 15 and the rods 18 being retained in position by suitable means such as angular clips —24—. The sliding frame is provided with vertical bars, or rods spaced approximately the same as those in the frame, certain of which as —28— are rigidly secured at each end to the rim while

others as —29— are provided with a hinged or pivotal connection —30— similar to those in the rods of the fixed member and are connected near their lower ends by a rod —32—, the lower ends fitting in perforations —31—. As illustrated the joints in the rods 19 and 29 comprise elongated loops, or eyes —33— secured to, and depending from the upper member of the frames and elongated hooks — 34— on the upper ends of the rods adapted to be engaged in the eyes, the arrangement being such that the groups of loose rods, which serve as a door, may first be raised, to disengage their free ends from the perforations 21 and 31, in the lower frame members, and then be swung outward, and upward to give access to the interior of the coop. The two sets, or groups of loose rods are connected by suitable means such as rings —35— which encircle the connecting rods —22— and 32, whereby they may be operated as a unit to gain access to the coop and yet permit free longitudinal movement of the sliding frame. It is to be observed that by shifting the sliding frame, the space between the vertical rods may be varied from a minimum (shown in Fig. 1) to a maximum, as suits requirements. The sliding frame may be held in adjusted position by suitable means such as a pin —36— which may be extended through openings —37—. The coops may be provided with a bottom of square mesh material —38— held in position by means of a retaining strip —39—. Transverse strips —40— assist in supporting the reticulated bottom. Transverse strips —41— extended from the upper stringer serve to support a pan —42— to catch droppings from the coop above.

Having thus described my invention so that anyone skilled in the art pertaining thereto, may make and use the same, I claim:

1. In a device of the character described, a fixed frame, a frame movable longitudinally relative thereto, each of said frames having a plurality of spaced vertically stationary bars, and a plurality of movable bars adapted to be swung transversely relative to the frames, and connections between the movable bars of the two frames whereby they may be swung as a unit transversely of the frame while permitting independent movement of said movable frame.

2. In a device of the character described, a fixed frame, a second frame slidably associated therewith, said frames each having groups of stationary spaced vertical bars, said frames each having a group of movable bars, a connection between the groups of movable bars whereby they may be swung in unison transversely relative to the frames, said connection permitting independent movement of said sliding frame.

3. In a device of the character described, a frame comprising upper and lower stringers, a plurality of spaced bars rigidly connecting said stringers, a group of similarly spaced bars having a connection intermediate their length which permits of a vertical and lateral motion thereof, a frame slidably positioned within said first named frame and provided with correspondingly arranged bars and a connection between the movable groups of bars whereby they may be raised and swung transversely in unison while permitting longitudinal movement of the sliding frame.

4. In a device as characterized, a stationary frame, a frame associated with and movable relative thereto, each of said frames having a plurality of spaced stationary bars and a plurality of movable bars, and means connecting the movable bars of the two frames, whereby the said bars may be moved as a unit in one direction without obstructing movement of the movable frame in another direction.

JOSEPH E. WAYNE.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D. C."