(Model.)

R. L. SMITH & C. P. MILLER.

FOLDING STOCK SHIPPING CAGE.

No. 318,812. Patented May 26, 1885.

Fig. 1.

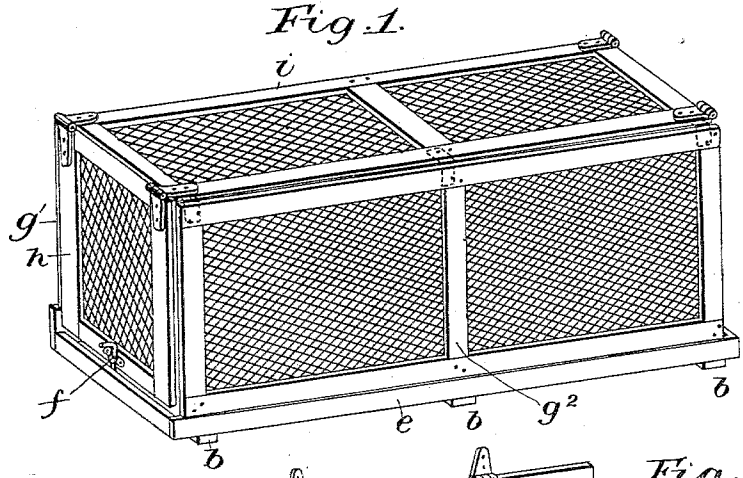


Fig. 2.

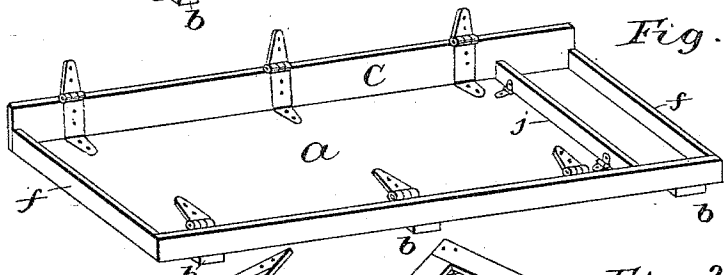


Fig. 3.

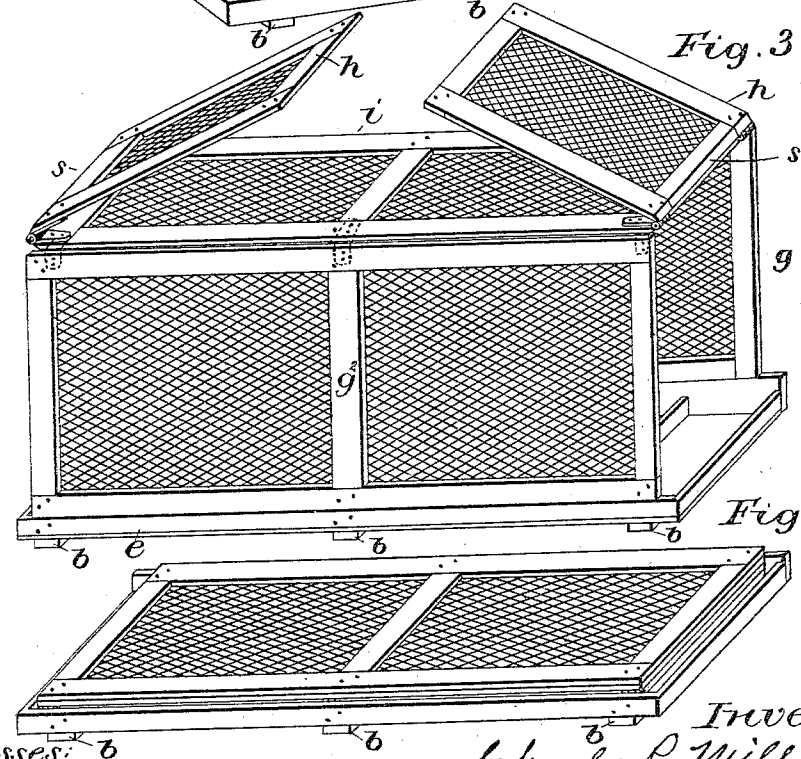


Fig. 4.

Witnesses:
Thos. H. Tuson
J. C. Brooks

Inventor.
Charles P. Miller
Russell L. Smith
per J. B. Majors Attorney

N. PETERS, Photo-Lithographer, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUSSELL L. SMITH AND CHARLES P. MILLER, OF SAVANNAH, MISSOURI.

FOLDING STOCK-SHIPPING CAGE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,812, dated May 26, 1885.

Application filed January 24, 1885. (Model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, RUSSELL L. SMITH and CHARLES P. MILLER, citizens of the United States, residing at Savannah P. O., in the county of Andrew and State of Missouri, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in a Folding Stock-Shipping Cage; and we do declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawings, and to the letters and figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

Our invention relates to a folding stock-cage for shipping stock; and the object of our improvement is to provide a crate or cage which is ventilated, light, convenient, durable, and much less cumbersome than any now in use, and one which can be returned after use with small cost. We attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings, in which—

Figure 1 represents a stock-cage in complete shipping order. Fig. 2 represents the floor, side, end boards, and feed-trough. Fig. 3 is a view of the stock-cage opened ready for folding. Fig. 4 represents the cage after be- folded for storage or return after being used.

Similar letters refer to similar parts throughout the several views.

The letter *a* represents the floor of the stock-cage, as shown in Fig. 2, which is composed of one or more broad boards.

Letters *b b b* are the three sills upon which the floor rests.

c is the higher side board, which is secured to the floor *a* by means of nails or screws. *e* is the other side board, which is secured to the other side of the floor in the same manner as *c*, but is not so high or broad as the other side board by one inch.

f f are the two end boards, and are secured by means of nails or screws to and at the end of the floor *a*, and to the side boards *c* and *e*.

g' and *g²* are the sides of the stock-cage, and are composed of a frame made of pieces about one-half or an inch thick and from two to six inches wide, as required by the size of the cage, with woven wire or iron bars used as panels, or to fill the vacant spaces. These wire panels may be set in and fastened to the frame in any manner preferred; or the frame may be made of two half-inch pieces or boards with the edges of the wire plates or panels pressed between them, and the said pieces then to be securely nailed together with brad or wrought nails, thus securely holding the wire panels between the several pieces of the frame. These sides are connected to the side boards, *c* and *e*, by means of hinges on the inside. Said hinges are to be fastened to the lower part of the frame of the sides, extending down across the side boards to the floor, being then turned, making an angle, so as to be screwed to the side board and floor also, thus filling the office of hinges and braces. The ends or doors *h h* are hung by means of hinges to the lid or cover *i*, the hinges being fastened on the outside of the cage, the inside corners of the end of the cover *i* and doors *h h* being beveled off so that the doors can be swung inside and past the upper edge of the end boards, *f f*, sufficiently far to admit feed for the stock in the cage through the aperture thus made.

i is the cover or lid of the cage, and is composed of a frame made similar to the sides, with wire or iron bars to cover the spaces, and is connected by means of hinges to the upper and inside edge of the side *g'*, and when shut down or ready for use is to be securely fastened to the upper inside edge of side *g²* by means of bolts and taps or other convenient means. The ends or doors are to be fastened by means of sliding keys or other means to the center of the end boards, *f f*.

j is a board secured by hinges about six inches from the end board, *f*, to the floor *a* in such manner as to be raised, forming a feed-trough in the end of the cage; or this may be dispensed with and a common trough used.

This stock-cage can be made of any kind of wood for frame and floor, with woven wire or small iron bars to fill spaces.

The general construction of the cage is such that the doors *h h* can be raised up and turned over so as to lie flat upon the top or lid of the cage *i*, then the lid *i*, with the doors *h h* so folded, as aforesaid, can be folded and dropped down on the inside of side *g²*, which can then,

with *h h* and *i*, be turned and folded down upon the floor *a*, and the other side, *g'*, can then be folded down upon and over them, thus reducing the whole cage and structure to a mere block about six or seven inches thick and the necessary breadth and length.

We do not claim the art and process of folding the cage.

We claim—

1. A folding crate with a bottom having one side higher than the others, and having hinged thereto the back and front, the top hinged to the front, the ends hinged to the top, as and for the purposes set forth.

2. A crate having an end or side hinged to the top so as to swing outward and beveled at the hinged joint and capable otherwise of swinging inward, whereby the end or side may be swung inwardly at its ends, as set forth.

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

RUSSELL L. SMITH.
CHARLES P. MILLER.

Witnesses:
JAMES G. WALKER,
JOHN LINCOLN.