R. H. WAKEMAN.

PORTABLE FOLDING CHICKEN COOP.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 12, 1912.

1,121,425.

Patented Dec. 15, 1914

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.

Fig. 1.

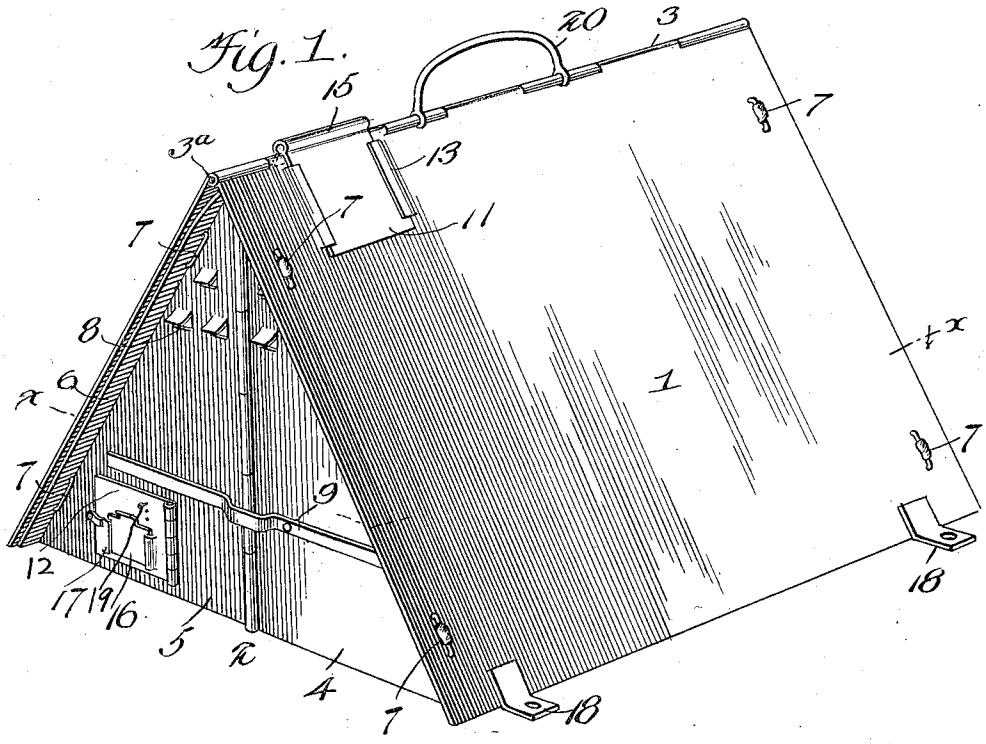


Fig. 2.

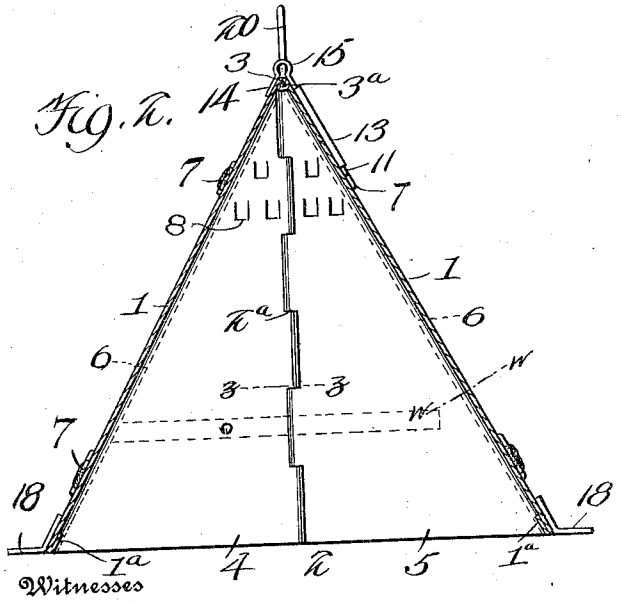
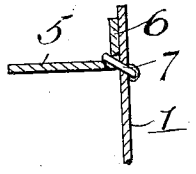


Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.



Witnesses

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.

Fig. 3

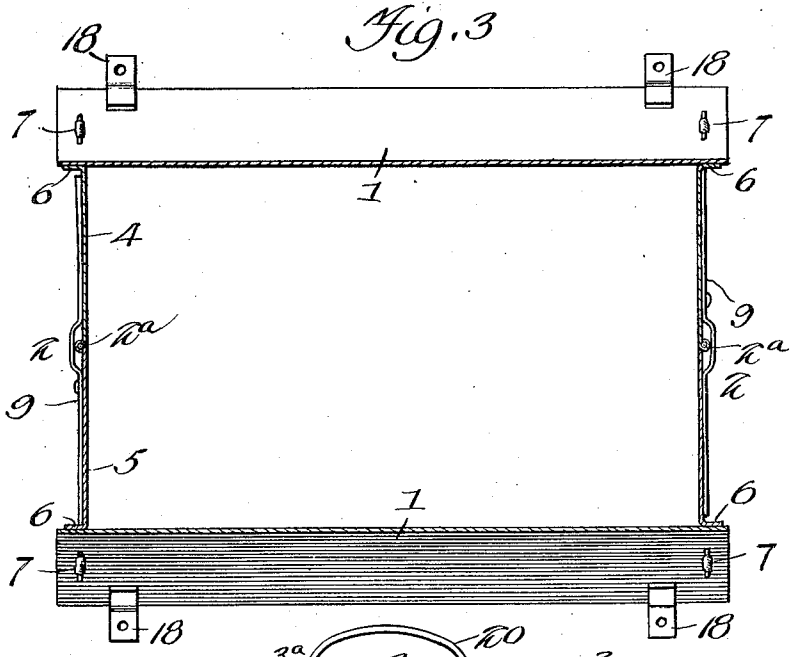


Fig. 4.

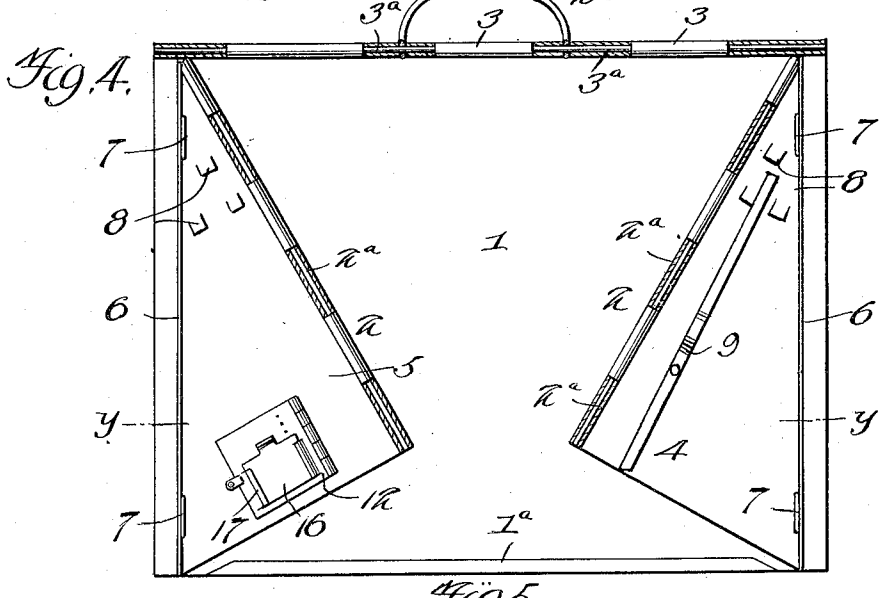
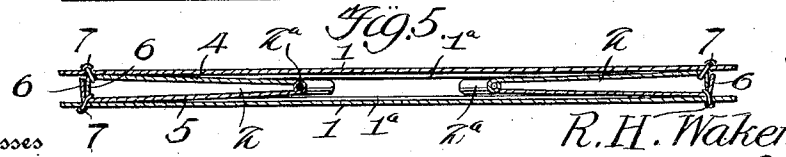


Fig. 5.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

RUDOLPH H. WAKEMAN, OF BROCKROAD, VIRGINIA.

PORTABLE FOLDING CHICKEN-COOP.

1,121,425. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Dec. 15, 1914.

Application filed June 12, 1912. Serial No. 703,281.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, RUDOLPH H. WAKEMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Brockroad, in the county of Spotsylvania and State of Virginia, have invented new and useful Improvements in Portable Folding Chicken-Coops, of which the following is a specification.

The invention provides a portable structure which may be used as a tent, house or protector and which specifically is designed as a housing for small stock and consists of a coop designed chiefly for protecting poultry, such as chickens and which is portable and foldable so as to be reduced to a compact form for convenience of handling and to occupy the smallest amount of space possible during transportation or when laid aside for future use.

The housing or protecting structure comprises oppositely inclined side walls and foldable end walls hingedly connected along their edge to the vertical edge portions of the side walls, the end walls folding inwardly between the side walls when the structure is reduced to a compact form for transportation or storage.

The invention consists of the novel features, details of construction and combination of parts, which hereinafter will be more particularly set forth, illustrated in the accompanying drawings, and pointed out in the appended claims.

Referring to the drawings, forming a part of the specification, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable folding structure embodying the invention. Fig. 2 is a vertical transverse section. Fig. 3 is a horizontal section on the line *x*—*x* of Fig. 1. Fig. 4 is a vertical central longitudinal section, showing the relation of the parts when the structure is folded. Fig. 5 is a horizontal section on the line *y*—*y* of Fig. 4. Fig. 6 is a sectional view of the joint between the leaves of a folding end of the structure on the line *z*—*z* of Fig. 2. Fig. 7 is a sectional view of the joint formed between a side and an end wall on the line *w*—*w* of Fig. 2.

Corresponding and like parts are referred to in the following description, and indicated in all the views of the drawings, by the same reference characters.

The structure comprises side walls 1 and end walls 2, the several walls being hingedly connected in any manner to admit of the side walls 1 folding one upon the other, with the end walls 2 between them, thereby resulting in a flattened package when the structure is folded. Any suitable material may be employed in the formation of the structure and the several parts may be hingedly connected in any convenient and substantial way. It is preferred to construct the device of sheet material, metal being preferred because of its lightness, strength and durability. The side walls 1 are hingedly connected along their upper edges, as indicated at 3. When the structure is set up for use the side walls 1 incline in opposite directions. The hinge joint 3 may be formed in any manner, preferably by rolling an edge portion of each wall upon itself and removing portions of the rolls thus formed to provide matching knuckles through which a stout wire or pin 3^a is passed. The lower edges of the side walls are reinforced, as indicated at 1^a, to stiffen and strengthen them, said reinforcement being had in any manner, being preferably formed by folding the lower edge portion of each side wall upon itself one or more times.

The end walls 2 are of like construction, each consisting of two leaves or sections 4 and 5 of like formation. The leaves of each end wall are hingedly connected to each other at their inner or opposing edges and have their outer edges hingedly connected to the vertical edge portions of the side walls. Each end wall is of triangular form and the hinge joint between its leaves occurs upon a medial line, thereby admitting of the end walls folding inwardly so that the leaves 4 and 5 thereof may come between the side walls, as indicated most clearly in Fig. 5. The leaves of the end walls may be hinged to each other and to the side walls in any manner to admit of the structure as a whole folding into flattened form. In the preferable construction the opposing edges of the hingedly connected parts are formed into matching knuckles in substantially the same manner as the hinge joint 3, the several matching knuckles being connected by means of a wire or pin 2^a passing therethrough. The vertical edge portions of the

end walls are bent outwardly, as indicated at 6, to form stops to engage with the side walls 1 and limit the outward movement of the end walls when the structure is set up for use. These bent portions 6 reinforce the vertical edges of the end walls. Wire fastenings 7 hingedly connect the leaves of the end walls to the side walls and pass through openings in the angles formed between the leaves and the flanges 6 and through openings formed in the walls 1.

A plurality of openings 8 are formed in the upper portion of each of the end walls, both for ventilation and to admit light. These openings are formed by partly cutting portions from the end walls and pressing the same outwardly along their lower edges, whereby the openings are protected so as to shed water and prevent the same entering the structure. When the structure is set up the end walls are held extended by means of bars 9, which are pivotally connected to one of the leaves 4 or 5 and extend across the hinge joint and engage the other leaf. Each bar 9 is mounted upon the side of the corresponding leaves 4 and 5 adjacent to the flanges or stops 6. The bar therefore resists relative swinging movement of the leaves in an inward direction, and the stops prevent further outward movement thereof. An offset portion is provided in each bar 9 inwardly of its pivot, which is adapted to bridge the rib formed, by the hinges of the leaves 4 and 5 when the latter are extended in their operative positions. A shoulder is thus formed in the bar which will engage the said rib to prevent movement of the bar into inoperative position, normally, but this shoulder may be freed from engagement with the rib so that it may pass thereover, when the bar is being rendered inoperative, by flexing the corresponding end portions thereof outwardly.

Access may be had to the interior of the structure by means of either one of two doors 11 and 12, the former being provided near the top of one of the side walls and the latter being arranged in one of the end walls. The upper door 11 is designed chiefly to admit of supplying feed to the chickens and said door is slidably mounted in guides 13, the latter consisting of portions of the side wall adjacent the opening folded upon themselves to receive opposite edge portions of the door 11. The sliding door 11 has a bent portion 14 along its upper edge to overlap the upper edge portion of the side wall opposite the one having the door opening, thereby limiting the downward movement of the door and insuring the formation of a close joint. An upstanding portion 15 at the upper end of the door 11 provides convenient means to be grasped by the hand when manipulating the door 11. The end door 12 is hingedly connected to one of the leaves of an end wall and has an opening which is closed by means of a slide 16, which is mounted in guides 17 formed in a manner similar to the guides 13 provided for receiving the door 11. The slide 16 may be held in any adjusted position to regulate the size of the opening to be had in the door 12 so that chicks may have free ingress and egress, while the mother hen may be confined.

Cleats 18 are located at the lower edges of the side walls 1 and are adapted to receive suitable fastenings for securing the structure either to the floor or to the ground or other supporting surface upon which the coop may be placed. When the structure is set up for use the leaves of the end walls aline and are held in such position by means of the bars 9 in the manner herein stated. The side walls 1 incline in opposite directions and the space inclosed between them is closed by the end walls 2. The chickens are fed through the door controlled opening 11 and when it is required to admit of the chicks running at large the slide 16 may be set according to the size of the chicks, said slide being fixed by means of a pin 19 passing through one of a series of openings formed in the slide and door. When the coop is to be set aside or is required to be transported it may be reduced to compact form by folding the end walls inwardly and bringing the side walls 1 together, thereby providing a compact package of flattened form, as indicated most clearly in the drawings. A handle 20 is had for convenience of carrying the device and is mounted on the wire 3^a.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the advantages of the construction and of the method of operation will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention appertains, and while I have described the principle of operation of the invention, together with the device which I now consider to be the best embodiment thereof, I desire to have it understood that the device shown is merely illustrative, and that such changes may be made when desired as are within the scope of the claims appended hereto. Each of the bars 9 is of a maximum length to form a substantial brace for the leaves of the end walls when the structure is set up. One end of each brace is beveled, as indicated most clearly in Figs. 2 and 4, so as to engage with the outstanding portion 6 of the wing to which the brace is pivoted, thereby forming a stop to hold the brace in horizontal position.

The wire fastenings 7, constituting the hinge connections between the end and side walls, have their end portions connected by a drop of solder, thereby preventing the weather from having any effect thereon. This solder may also serve to secure the fas-

tenings to the side walls and completely close the openings therein through which the fastenings pass.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed as new, is:—

1. A portable and foldable structure of the nature specified, the same comprising side walls, end walls closing the space between the side walls, each of such end walls comprising similar leaves which are hinged to each other, said leaves having their outer vertical edge portions bent at a right angle to form stops to limit the movement of the leaves in one direction, wire fastenings passing through registering openings formed in the side walls and in the angles formed between the leaves and the bent edge portions of such leaves and constituting hinged connections between the leaves and side walls, and means for limiting the movement of the leaves in an opposite direction to the before mentioned stops and acting jointly therewith to hold the end walls in fixed position.

2. A portable and foldable structure of the nature specified, the same comprising oppositely inclined side walls pivotally connected at their upper edges, triangular shaped end walls comprising similar leaves which are hinged to each other, the outer edge portions of the leaves being bent at a right angle to form stops, wire fastenings passing through registering openings formed in the side walls and angles formed between the said leaves and the bent edge portions thereof and hingedly connecting the leaves to the side walls, and bars pivotally connected to one of the leaves and adapted to extend across the joint formed between the leaves to act jointly with the bent edge portions of such leaves to hold the end walls in fixed position.

3. A portable and foldable structure of the class described comprising relatively movable side walls, end walls adapted to close the space between the side walls, each end wall consisting of similar leaves having their adjacent edges hinged to each other and their outer side edges hinged to the side walls, outwardly projecting stop flanges formed upon the outer side edges of the leaves of each end wall for engagement with the inner faces of the side walls when the said leaves are extended in operative position, and a brace bar pivotally connected with one of the leaves of each end wall on the side thereof adjacent to its stop flange for swinging movement in a plane parallel to the said leaf, the said bar being adapted to be extended in operative position along the adjacent face of the companion leaf, an exteriorly disposed rib being formed upon the meeting edges of the leaves of each end wall by the hinge thereof, each securing bar being provided upon one of its arms with an offset portion adapted to bridge the said rib when in operative position and affording a shoulder engageable with the opposite leaf.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

RUDOLPH H. WAKEMAN.

Witnesses:
B. J. MARSHALL,
GEO. W. SHEPHERD.

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