

(No Model.)

C. E. BARTRAM.

KNOCKDOWN FOLDING FRUIT CRATE AND PACKING BOX.

No. 260,357.

Patented July 4, 1882.

Fig. 1.

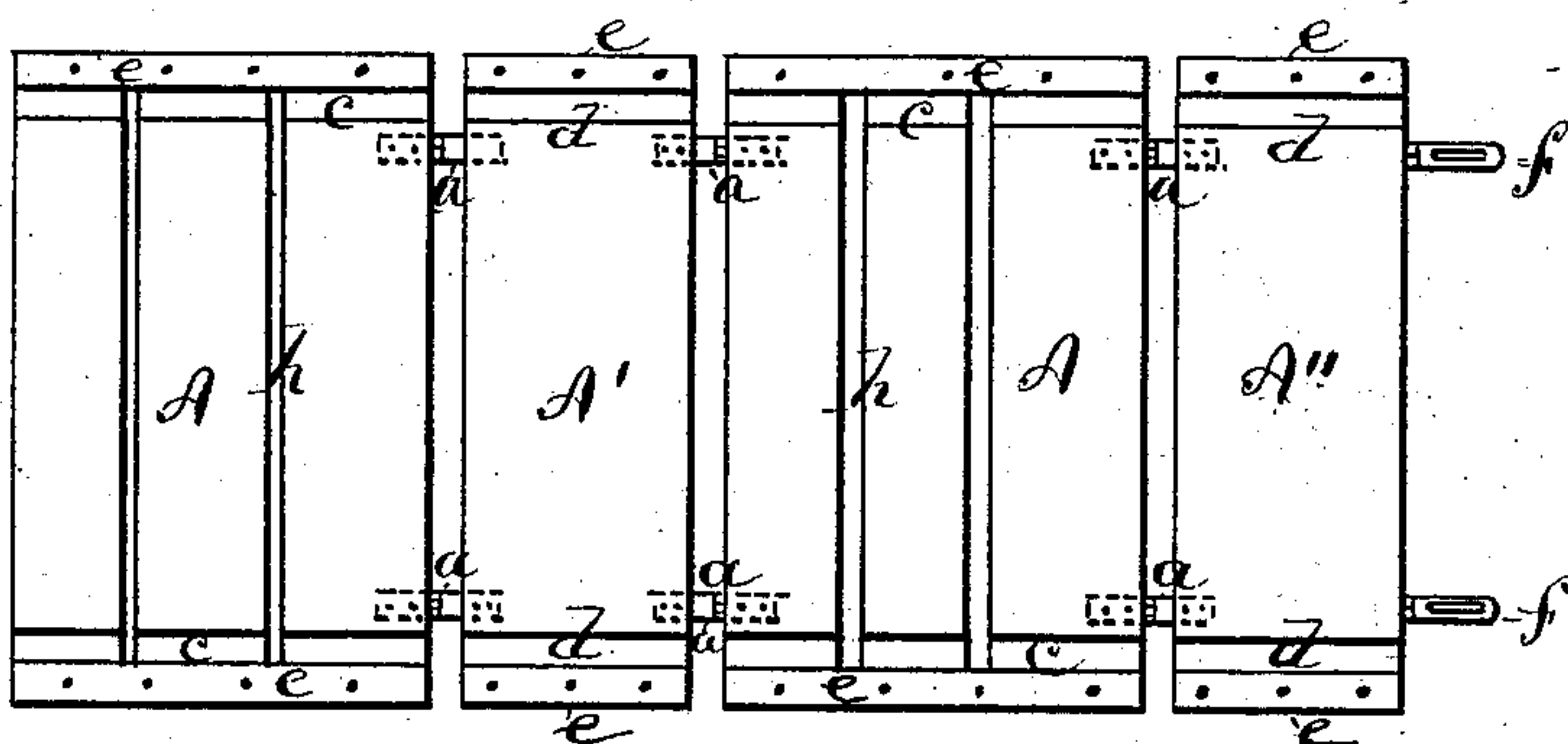


Fig. 2.

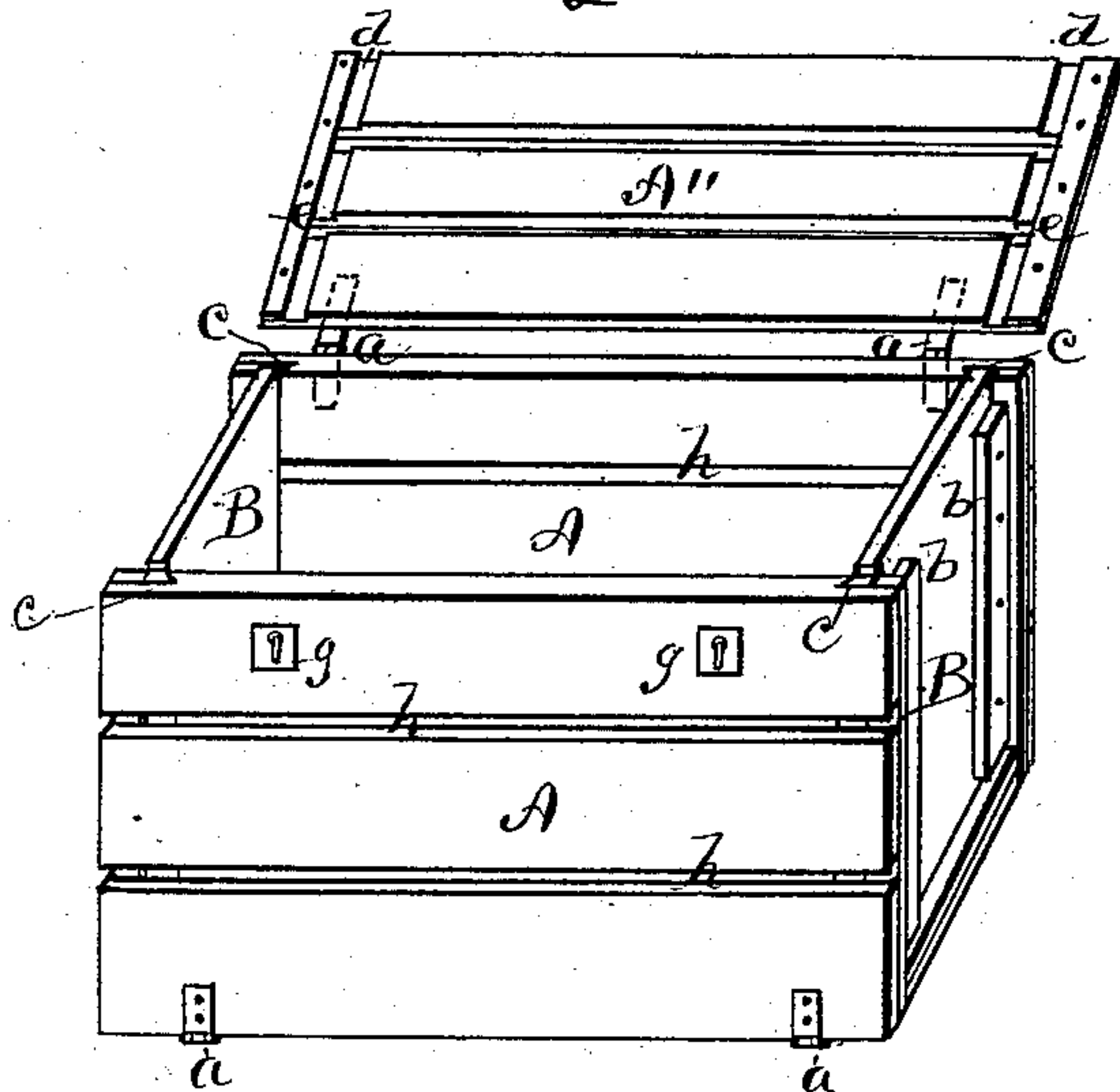


Fig. 3.

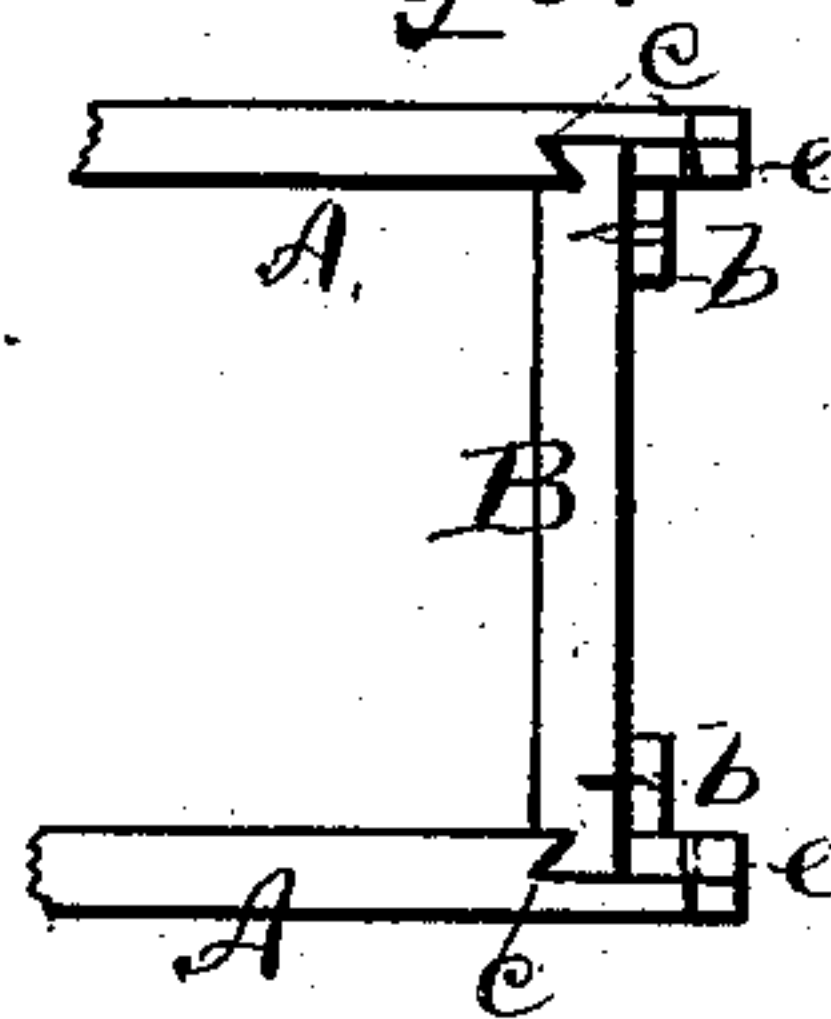


Fig. 4.

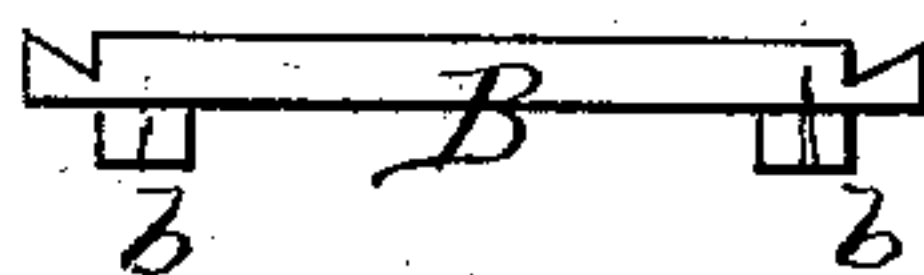
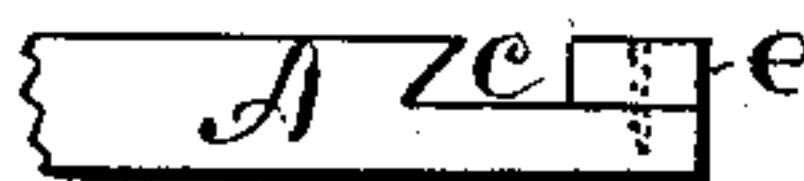


Fig. 5.



Witnesses:
D. H. Parsons.
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att'y.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES E. BARTRAM, OF FREDONIA, NEW YORK.

KNOCKDOWN FOLDING FRUIT-CRATE AND PACKING-BOX.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 260,357, dated July 4, 1882.

Application filed May 20, 1882. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES E. BARTRAM, a citizen of the United States, residing at Fredonia, in the county of Chautauqua and State of New York, have made certain Improvements in Fruit-Crates, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to a knockdown crate or box, of rectangular form when set up, for transporting fruits, &c.; and the invention consists in its construction, as fully hereinafter explained.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is an inside plan of the box opened out flat; Fig. 2, perspective of box set up; Fig. 3, detail of one end, being a top plan view, showing grooves; Fig. 4, edge view of one end piece separate; Fig. 5, an enlarged detail of grooved end of side pieces.

A A represent the two sides of the crate, A' the bottom, and A'' the top or cover. These are all held together by hinges *a a a*, (see Figs. 1 and 2,) which are either on the inside or outside of the pieces forming the crate or box.

B B are the two ends. These are usually constructed of a single piece of wood, and have a groove or half-dovetail cut in each, near the ends, (see Figs. 3 and 4,) and with strengthening-pieces *b b* on the back (see Figs. 2 and 3) to prevent warping.

A corresponding dovetail or groove, *c*, is cut in the ends of the two side pieces, A A, (see Figs. 2 and 5,) in which these end pieces set, as in Fig. 2.

The top A'' and bottom A' have straight grooves *d d*, into which the edge of each end piece, B, fits. These grooves are made by cutting down the outer end to the level of the depth required, and then nailing straight rectangular pieces or strips of wood *e e* onto the extreme edge of the pieces A A A' A'', as in Figs. 1 and 5, leaving the groove-spaces *c c d d*, as shown. The object of this is to give greater

strength to the grooves, as, if they were cut in the wood and so left, the outer edges would break away. Therefore I use these strips of wood *e*, made with the grain, and nail them on across the grain of the pieces A A A' A'', which not only strengthens the whole construction, but prevents checking or warping of the four pieces.

When the top A'' is shut its straight grooves *d d* therein fit on the end pieces, making a tight connection. Hasps *f f* engage with pivoted hooks *g g* and fasten the cover down.

This box or crate is made with open spaces *h* between the slats, or may be tight. It is intended to carry more especially valuable fruits to a distance, and for this reason will be usually ventilated by these openings *h*, or otherwise.

When the crate is to be returned the side pieces, B B, are drawn out and the sides, bottom, and top opened out flat, as in Fig. 1, or doubled over on each other, so as to take up but little room for freighting back to shipper or owner.

I claim—

A knockdown box or crate constructed with the side pieces, A A, top A'', and bottom A', all hinged together, and having the dovetails and grooves *c d* on the inside of said pieces, with grooved or dovetailed end pieces, B B, fitting in the corresponding grooves, *c d*, and with the groove-pieces *e e*, attached to pieces A A A' A'', and forming part of said grooves, all substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In witness whereof I have hereunto signed my name in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

CHARLES E. BARTRAM.

Witnesses:

J. R. DRAKE,
C. H. KELLOGG.