(No Model.)

S. E. & J. M. SPROUT.

TRAY FOR DRYING FRUIT.

No. 318,436. Patented May 19, 1885.

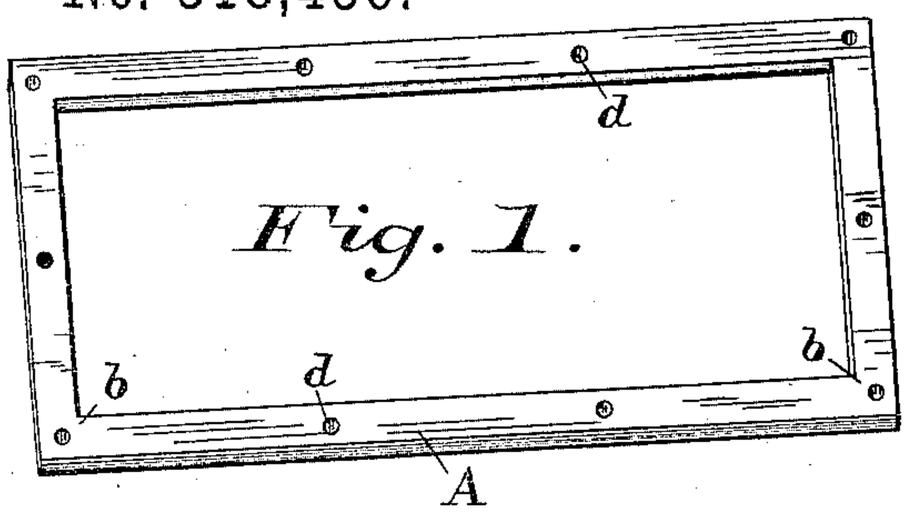

Fig. 1.

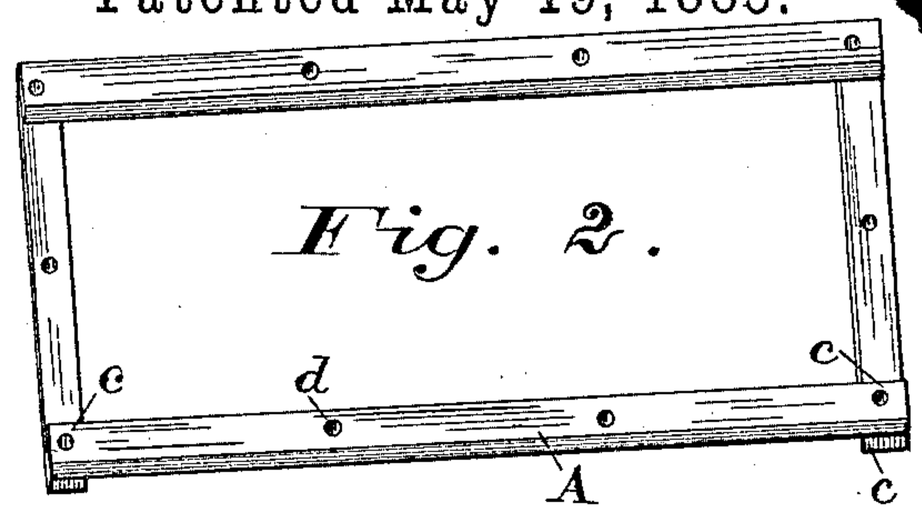

Fig. 2.

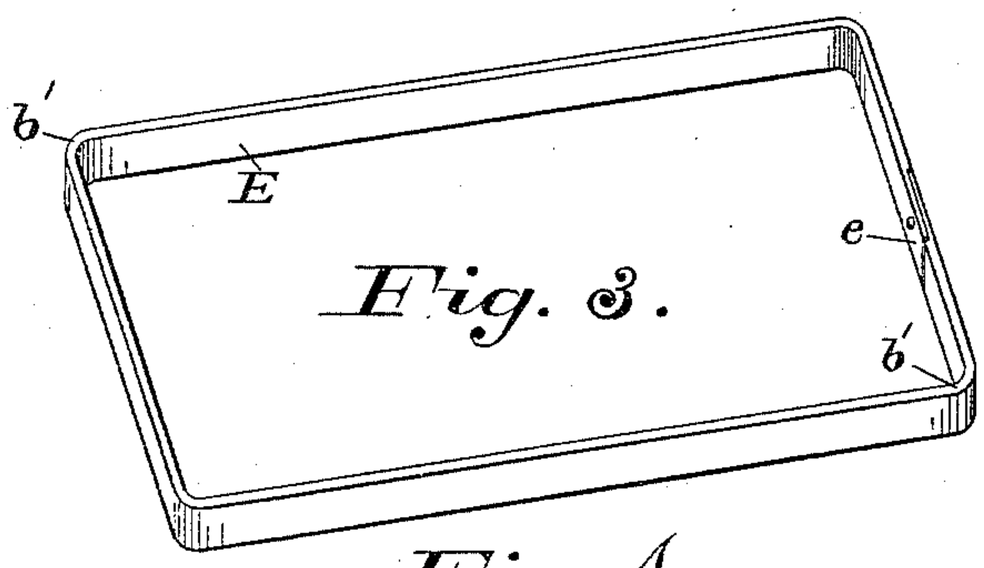

Fig. 3.

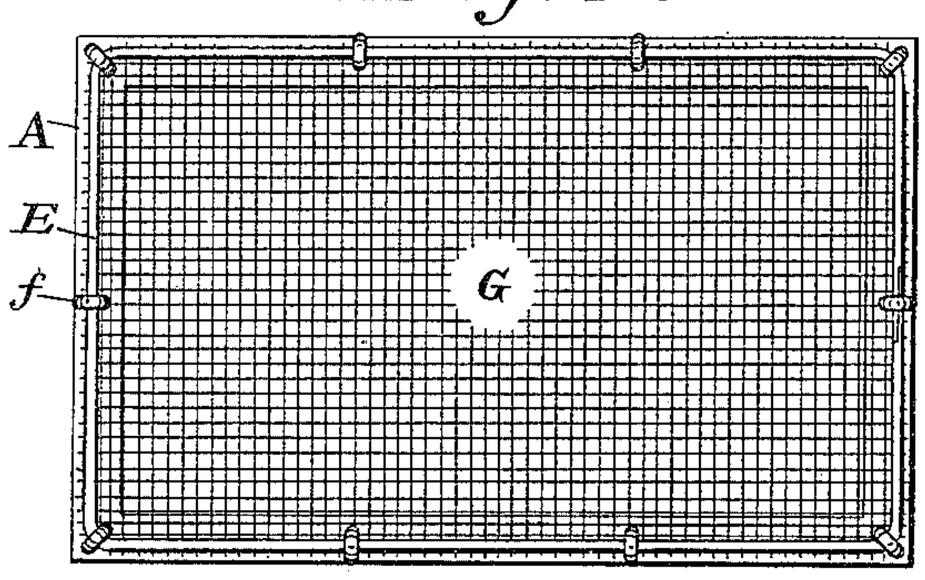

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

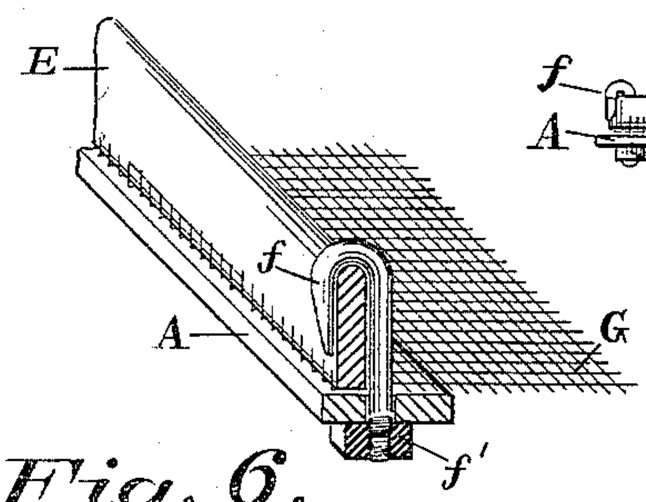

Fig. 6.

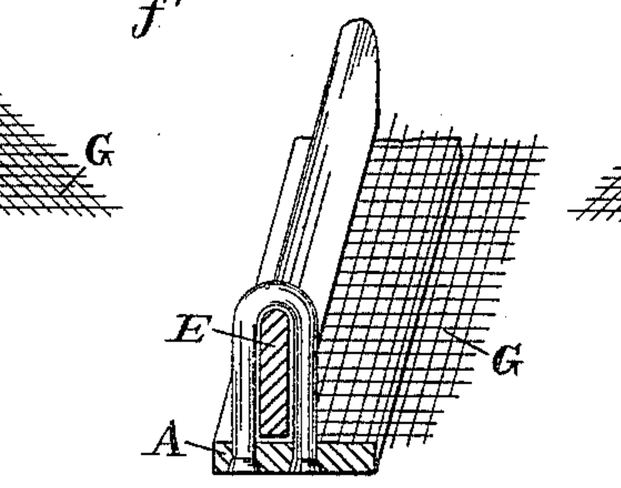

Fig. 8.

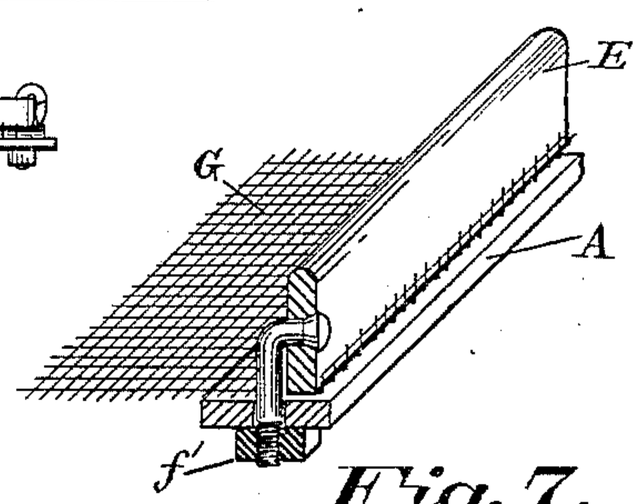

Fig. 7.

WITNESSES:

Edward A. Osse,
John E. Morris.

INVENTORS:

Samuel E. Sprout
James M. Sprout

By Chas B. Mann

Attorney.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SAMUEL E. SPROUT AND JAMES M. SPROUT, OF MUNCY, PENNSYLVANIA, ASSIGNORS TO SAID SAMUEL E. SPROUT.

TRAY FOR DRYING FRUIT.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 318,436, dated May 19, 1885.

Application filed August 12, 1884. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, SAMUEL E. SPROUT and JAMES M. SPROUT, citizens of the United States, residing at Muncy, in the county of Lycoming and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Trays for Drying Fruit, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to an improved tray for drying fruits, vegetables, and other articles.

The invention will first be described and then claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, which illustrate the invention, Figure 1 is a view of the bottom frame of the tray. Fig. 2 shows a modification in the construction of the bottom frame. Fig. 3 is a view of the upright flange or top frame. Fig. 4 is a top view of the tray. Fig. 5 is an end view of same. Figs. 6, 7, and 8 show modifications in the fastening device.

The letter A designates a flat bar of iron which forms the bottom frame of the tray. This bottom frame may consist of a single piece bent edgewise to produce the angles or corners *b*, as shown in Fig. 1; or it may consist of several pieces whose ends *c* are lapped where the corners are formed and secured, as shown in Fig. 2. Holes *d* are made in this bottom frame.

The sides or upright flange E forms the top frame of the tray, and is composed of a flat bar of iron bent sidewise to produce the angles or corners *b'*, corresponding with the bottom frame. The ends of the bar which form the upright flange lap at one of the short sides, as shown at *e*.

It will thus be seen the tray has two rectangular frames, one of which (the upright flange E) sets edgewise upon the flat surface of the other, (the bottom A.) The two thus form in cross-section an L-shaped angle. These two frames are secured together by hook-bolts *f*, or equivalent fastening devices, as hereinafter described.

The bottom G of the tray is preferably composed of woven wire similar to a wire screen. It may, however, be composed of interlaced metal strips or of perforated sheet metal, the construction of either of which will, in connection with this description, be readily understood by any one skilled in the art to which this invention relates.

The tray-bottom G, whether of woven wire or other equivalent material, is first cut to the proper size and placed upon the bottom frame, A, and the upright flange E is then placed upon the said bottom. Thus the tray-bottom is between the flat surface of the one frame and the edge of the other frame. The hook parts of the bolts *f* take over the edge of the upright flange E, and the ends of the bolts pass through the tray-bottom and then through the holes *d* in the lower frame, A, while a nut, *f'*, on the end holds the hook to its position, as seen plainly in Fig. 6. By this or equivalent fastening the two frames and bottom are firmly secured together.

It is not essential that the hook *f* be held by a nut, as it may be riveted instead; and instead of a hook a bolt may be used, as in Fig. 7, for attachment to the lower frame, while the upper part of the bolt is bent endwise and enters a hole in the upright flange E, where it may be riveted. Still another modification of the fastener is shown in Fig. 8, where a staple holds the upright flange, and the ends of the staple are made fast in the lower frame.

A tray thus constructed is unaffected by the heat of the oven and is very durable.

Should the tray-bottom at any time need renewal, it may be removed and the same frames employed with a new bottom.

Having described our invention, we claim and desire to secure by Letters Patent of the United States—

1. A tray for drying fruit, consisting of a top frame, E, which forms the upright flange, a woven-wire bottom, G, below the said upright flange, a bottom frame composed of a bar or bars, A, and hook-bolts *f*, or equivalent fastening devices to secure the upright flange, wire bottom, and bottom frame together, as set forth.

2. A tray for drying fruit, consisting of a woven-wire bottom, G, a frame composed of a flat metal bar or bars, A, with their broad surface in contact with the lower side of the

bottom, a metal frame, E, made of thin flat metal with its thin or narrow edge in contact with the upper side of the said bottom, whereby the two frames form in cross-section an L-shaped angle, and hook-bolts *f*, or equivalent fastening devices securing the bottom and top frames together, as set forth.

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

SAMUEL E. SPROUT.
JAMES M. SPROUT.

Witnesses:
DANIEL B. DYKINS,
THOMAS CLAPP.