

(No Model.)

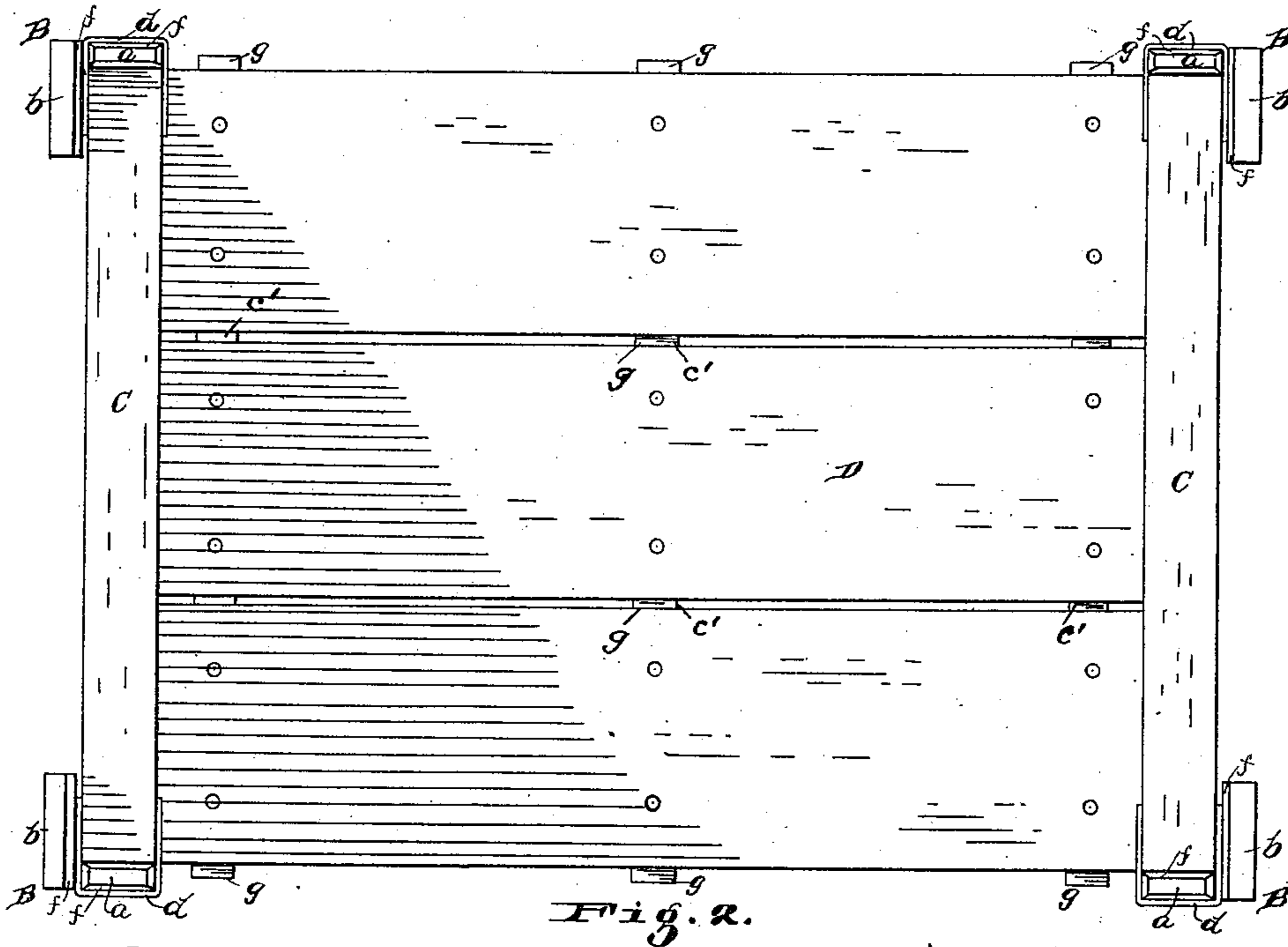
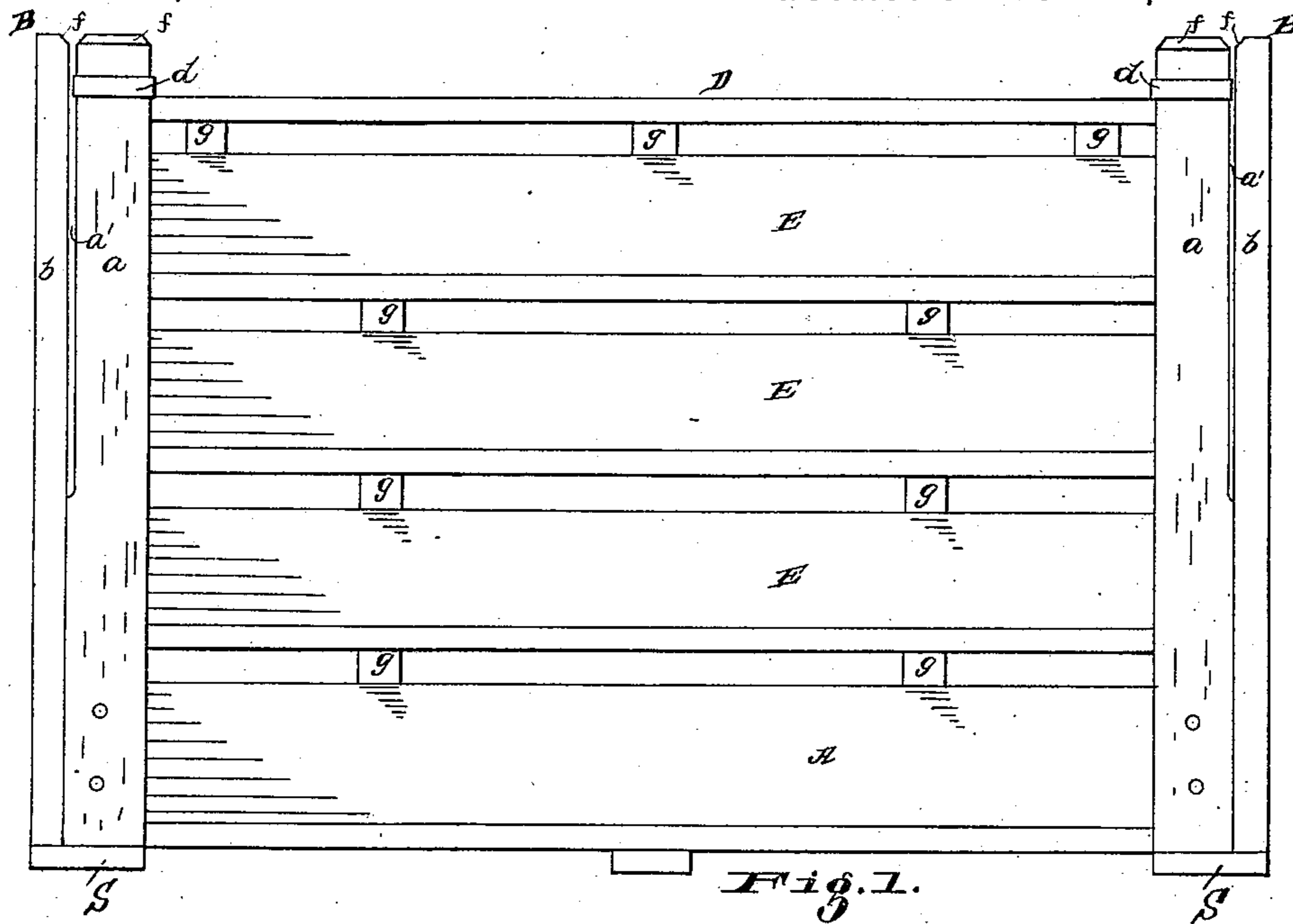
2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

S. G. RICE.

FRUIT CRATE.

No. 354,736.

Patented Dec. 21, 1886.



ATTEST—
Walter Chamberlain
Ed. R. Hill

INVENTOR—
Solomon G. Rice
per Wm. Hubbell Fisher
Atty

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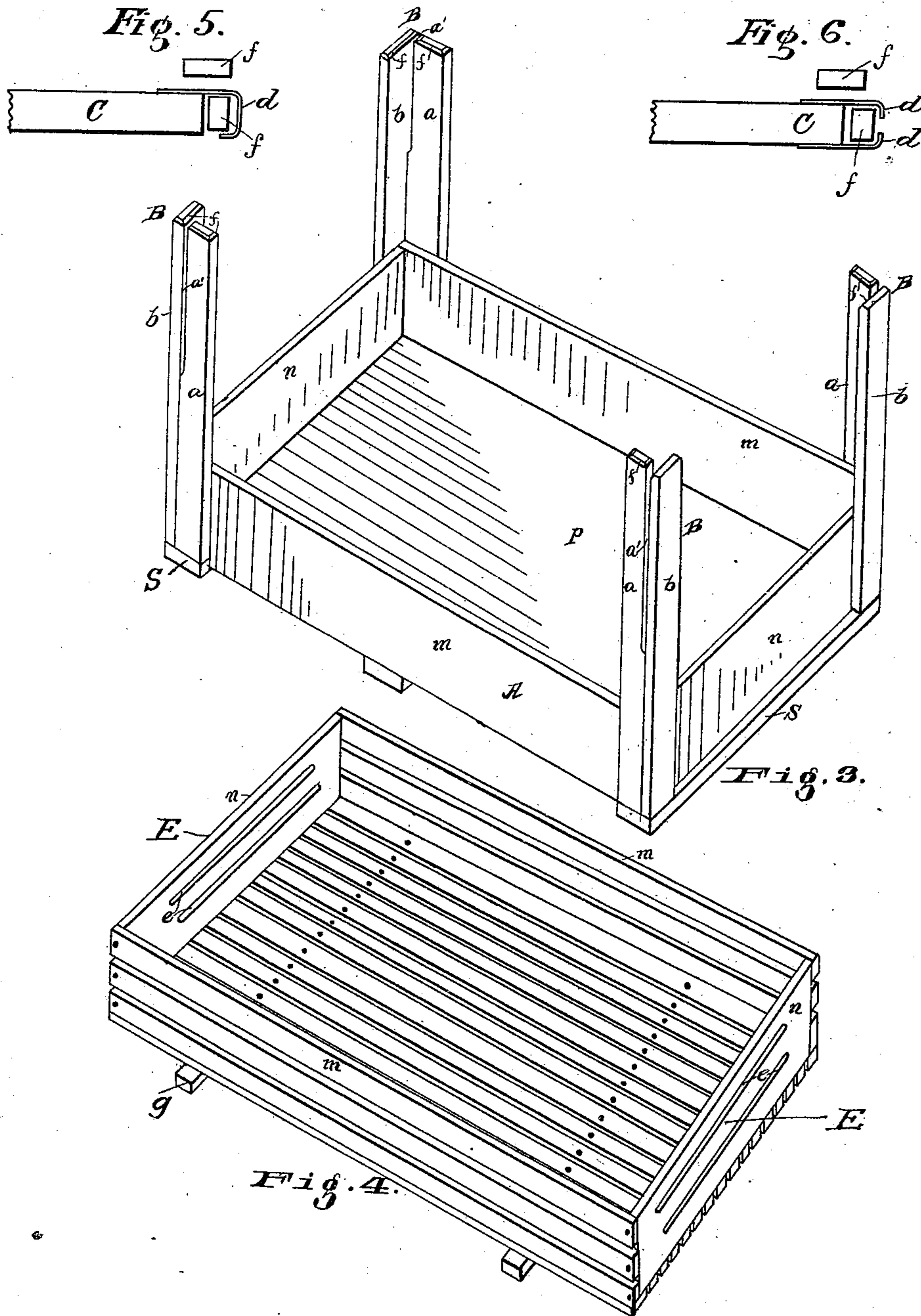
2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

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FRUIT CRATE.

No. 354,736.

Patented Dec. 21, 1886.



ATTEST —
Walter Chamberlain
J. W. Strehli

INVENTOR —
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SOLOMON G. RICE, OF CINCINNATI, OHIO.

FRUIT-CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,736, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed July 3, 1883. Serial No. 99,947. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SOLOMON G. RICE, a resident of the city of Cincinnati, in Hamilton county and State of Ohio, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Stands for Transporting Fruit and Vegetables, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to stands or crates consisting of a number of drawers or trays placed one above another.

The several features of my invention and the advantages resulting from their use, together or otherwise, will be fully apparent from the following description.

My invention is applicable to stands of any desired number of drawers.

For the purposes of illustration I will show my invention as applied to a stand containing four drawers.

In the accompanying two sheets of drawings, making a part of this specification, and to which reference is hereby made, Figure 1 is a side elevation of the stand, showing in position the drawers and the cover. Fig. 2 is a top view of the same. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the stand after the movable drawers have been removed therefrom. Fig. 4 is a perspective view of an optional form of drawer or tray, especially adapted for certain purposes hereinafter mentioned. Fig. 5 shows a modification of the loop, *d*, shown in Figs. 1 and 2. Fig. 6 shows another modification of the loop.

Each of the corner-posts may be made in one or more pieces, and in general each corner-post consists of two vertical portions united together at an angle, preferably a right angle, and forming, as shown, what may be termed a "double corner." For cheapness of construction each corner-post is made of two pieces, and where this is the case the pieces are preferably those shown—viz., one strip, *a*, and another strip, *b*, the strip *b* overlapping the edge of the strip *a*, the strips at their junction being firmly secured together by screws, nails, &c., as preferred. Each post is secured to the pieces forming the bottom tray, preferably as shown—viz., the portion *a* being secured to a side, *m*, of the tray, and the portion *b* to an end, *n*, of the tray, at a corner of the latter.

At each end of the stand is a bottom strip, *S*, firmly secured to the bottom of that pair of corner-posts which is at the same end of the

stand, and also firmly secured to the bottom board of the bottom tray or drawer, *A*, preferably by nailing or screwing up through the bottom strip, *S*, into the bottoms of the posts, and down through the bottom of the drawer *A* into the strip *S*, and in the last case the nails are preferably clinched. A vertical opening or slot, *a'*, is preferably present in each corner-post, which slot extends down in the post, preferably to a point corresponding with the top of the second tray, as shown. Where the slot is present and strips *a* and *b* are employed, the strip or portion *b* is cut away, leaving the slot *a'* in each corner-post.

The cover *D* is provided at each end with cross-cleats *C*, the width of the cover *D* and the length of the cleats *C* being preferably equal to the width of the drawers *A*, and the cleats *C* being secured to the cover *D* in such a position that the ends of said cleats, when the cover *D* is in position, will be opposite to the strips *a* of the corner-posts, the corners of the cover resting in angles of the corner-posts formed by the strips *a* and *b*. To each end of the cleats *C* is secured a loop, *d*, (preferably of hoop-iron,) capable of surrounding the strips *a*, as shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

Where the slot *a'* is omitted from the corner-post and it is desired to still retain the loop or eye *d* or a hook, the loop or hook may be made sufficiently large to inclose the entire corner-post.

The cover *D* may be composed, if desired, of one, but preferably of two or more, pieces secured together by the cleats *C*.

The bottom tray, *A*, and the corner-post *B*, secured thereto, form the frame for receiving the remaining trays, and when these various trays are in position in this frame the corners of each tray, resting in the angles formed in the corner-posts, are thoroughly protected by said corner-posts, and the trays cannot therefore be injured by coming in contact with any object. This liability to injury is a great objection to this class of stands as ordinarily constructed, the construction being such that the trays are not protected, and the ends of the trays are liable to be torn off in handling, and also in taking the trays in and out of the stand, and the fruit or vegetables are thus injured or lost. My invention obviates all danger of this kind.

Two or more trays may be used, and when the cover D is in position the loops *d* encircle the portions *a* of the corner-posts, passing down in the slots *a'* until the cover rests on the upper tray. The bottom of each tray and the lower side of the cover is, for the purposes of ventilation, provided with two or more cleats or strips, *g*, the ends of which cleats rest upon the sides of the tray below, and thus slight spaces are caused to be left between the various trays. The trays may be constructed as shown in Figs. 1 and 3.

When the fruit to be handled is delicate or the shipment is a long one, the trays are preferably formed as shown in Fig. 4. Either the side *m*, the ends *n*, or bottom *p*, or two or all of these, of the trays are provided with slots *e*. Preferably the ends are of one piece, the slots *e* being cut therein, and for the purpose of enabling the end pieces to retain sufficient strength the slots do not extend the entire length of said ends. Preferably the sides or bottom, or both, instead of being each made of one piece, as the ends, are composed of slats nailed or otherwise secured to the end pieces of the tray, slight spaces being left between the various slats, which construction allows a free ventilation.

The protection and support afforded to the trays by the corner-posts render these advantages in the construction of the trays available, and the corner-posts are in turn rendered available by means of the cleats firmly secured to the top, and having the links or eyes or hooks which engage the corner-posts. Thus, when the top is placed in position on the stand, the top co-operates to brace the posts, and, in combination with the trays, to render the stand well braced, secure, and strong. The top, being thus securely held in place, forms a strong and safe basis for another stand placed upon said top, and another stand may in turn be placed upon this second stand, and thus any desired number of stands be placed one above another without danger of injury to those stands which support those in turn above.

The ends of the posts are preferably chamfered—i. e., provided with bevels *f*—as shown, thus admitting of the eyes of the cleats being quickly placed upon the same, and also facilitating the insertion of the trays into the stand. The double corners permit the trays to be quickly placed in position in the stand or removed therefrom, and enable such insertion or removal to be done much more quickly than can be done in the stands as heretofore constructed.

The slots in the corner-posts are preferably made long, as shown. The object of making them long is as follows: It is frequently desirable to dispense with one or more of the movable trays, and after said drawers have been removed the slots permit the loops while engaging to descend said posts far enough for the top D to rest upon the top of the tray or trays in the stand.

In the stands as ordinarily constructed the trays are composed of three different lengths of material, for the reason that the ends of the trays project beyond the sides to engage with the corner-posts of the stand to hold the trays in position.

The angular corner-posts, besides possessing the advantages already described, also form strong braces for the stand, making it much more firm and durable than the stands as heretofore constructed.

What I claim as new and of my invention, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a stand for fruit and vegetables, the corner-posts B, provided with a slot, *a'*, in connection with a cleat provided with loops or hooks *d*, one portion of which loop enters the slot *a'*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

2. In a stand for fruit and vegetables, the corner-posts B, provided with a slot, *a'*, in combination with a cover provided with loops or hooks *d*, one portion of which loop enters the slot *a'*, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

3. The angulated corner-posts secured to the bottom drawer of a fruit and vegetable stand, each of said corner-posts having a vertical slot, in combination with the cover D, having secured thereto the cleats C, each of said cleats being provided with the loops *d*, entering its adjacent slot and encircling a portion of the post, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

4. The corner-posts B, consisting of the pieces *a* and *b*, secured to the bottom drawer of a fruit and vegetable stand, each of said corner-posts having a slot, *a'*, in combination with the cover D, having secured thereto the cleats C, each of said cleats being provided with the loops *d*, encircling the piece *a*, entering the slot *a'* of each post, substantially as and for the purposes specified.

SOLOMON G. RICE.

Witnesses:

J. WM. STREHLI,
MILTON HILL.