(No Model.) 2 Sheets—Sheet 1.

A. W. WALKER.

FOLDING CRATE.

No. 354,846. Patented Dec. 21, 1886.

Fig. 1.

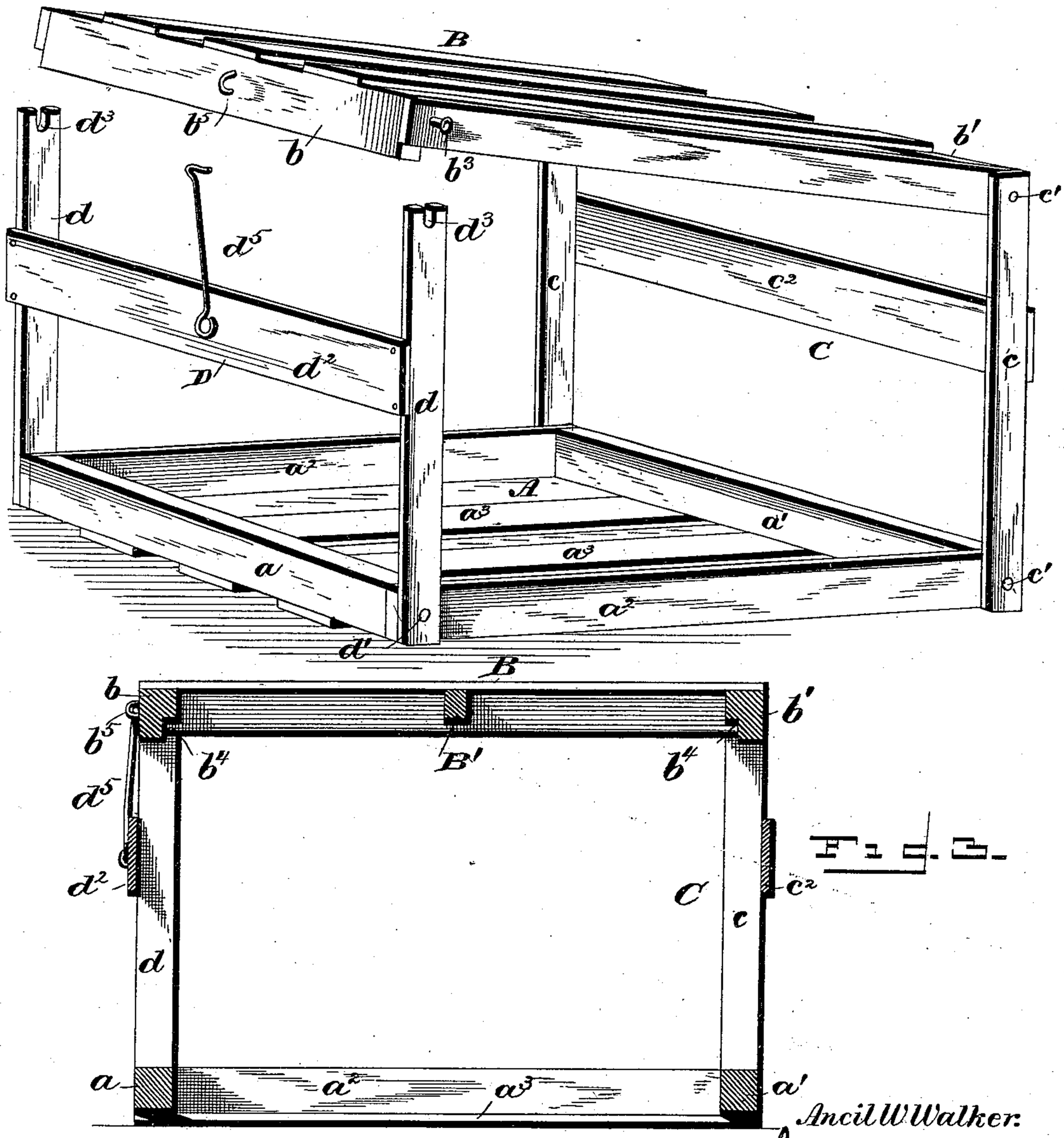

Fig. 2.

WITNESSES

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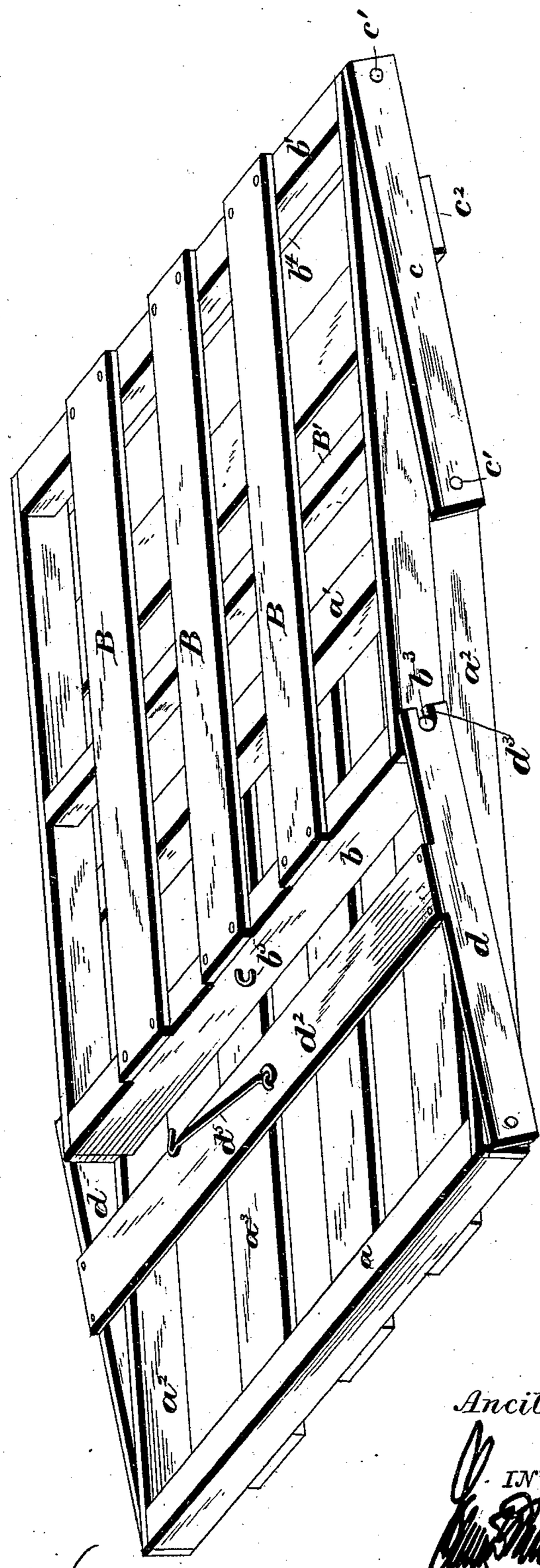

WITNESSES

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ANCIL W. WALKER, OF DOUGLAS, MICHIGAN, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO CHARLES E. BIRD, OF SAME PLACE.

FOLDING CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 354,846, dated December 21, 1886.

Application filed October 28, 1886. Serial No. 217,454. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, ANCIL W. WALKER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Douglas, in the county of Allegan and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates; and I do hereby 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 letters or figures of reference marked thereon, which form a part of this specification.

This invention relates to that class of devices variously known as "folding," "knock-down," or "return" crates.

The object of the invention is to produce a light inexpensive return-crate adapted to prevent the shifting or withdrawal of baskets or other packages contained within them.

My improved crate will be fully described in this specification and the novel features pointed out in the claims at the close thereof.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view showing my improved crate about to be closed. Fig. 2 is a similar view of the crate folded for return. Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken through the center of the crate.

The crate bottom A is composed of the end bars a a', side rails, a^2, and flooring-slats a^3. The floor-slats a^3 and side rails, a^2, consist of comparatively light pieces, and are secured rigidly to the end bars, a a', by suitable means, said end bars and side rails extending up a little distance above the floor-slats and forming a raised sill.

The crate-top B is substantially similar in construction to the bottom A, except that said top B is provided centrally with a cross-bar, B′, (one or more,) and the end bars, b b', are rabbeted, as at b^4, said rabbets terminating in a plane with the exposed face of the cross-bar B′.

The crate end or end section, C, is composed of two side rails or standards, c, connected at their ends with the end bars, a' and b', of the top and bottom by pivot-bolts, c', as shown, a brace-rail, c^2, being rigidly connected at its ends with said standards to render the end sections more rigid.

The crate end or free end section D is composed of the standards d and brace-rail d^2, said standards being connected at their lower ends to the ends of the bottom end bar, a, by pivot-bolts d', and provided at their upper ends with longitudinal notches d^3, to engage pins or studs b^3, projecting outwardly from the top end bar, b. Upon the engagement of the studs b^3 with the notches d^3 the free end section, D, is to be secured to the top B by a hook and staple, d^5 b^5, or other well-known means.

The crate which I have illustrated in the drawings is more especially designed to facilitate the handling and transportation of fruit and the like contained in baskets and in practice I arrange each crate to hold a certain number of baskets, say four or six.

The crate is unfolded to its full extent and the baskets placed side by side on the floor-slats a^3 in rows. The side c is now raised and the top B folded over, the cross-bar B and rabbets b^4 resting upon opposite sides of the top rims of the baskets, thus holding said baskets firmly between said bars B′ and rabbets b^4 and the floor-slats a^3.

I claim—

1. In a return-crate, the combination, substantially as before set forth, of the bottom, the end sections connected thereto by pivot-bolts, the top connected to one of the end sections by pivot-bolts, and provided with studs arranged to engage notches in the free end section, and a locking device to secure the free end section to the top.

2. In a return-crate, the combination, substantially as before set forth, of the bottom, the end sections, the top having a cross-bar and rabbeted end bars, and a locking device to connect the free end section to the top.

3. The combination, substantially as before set forth, of the bottom having projecting sills, the top provided with a cross-bar and rabbeted end bars, and sills projecting beyond said cross-bar and rabbets, the end sections, and a locking device to secure the free end section to the top.

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

ANCIL W. WALKER.

Witnesses:

L. A. PHELPS,

CHARLES E. BIRD.