

(No Model.)

P. A. & R. S. WIMBROW & H. P. DALE.
BERRY CRATE.

No. 517,713.

Patented Apr. 3, 1894.

Fig. 1.

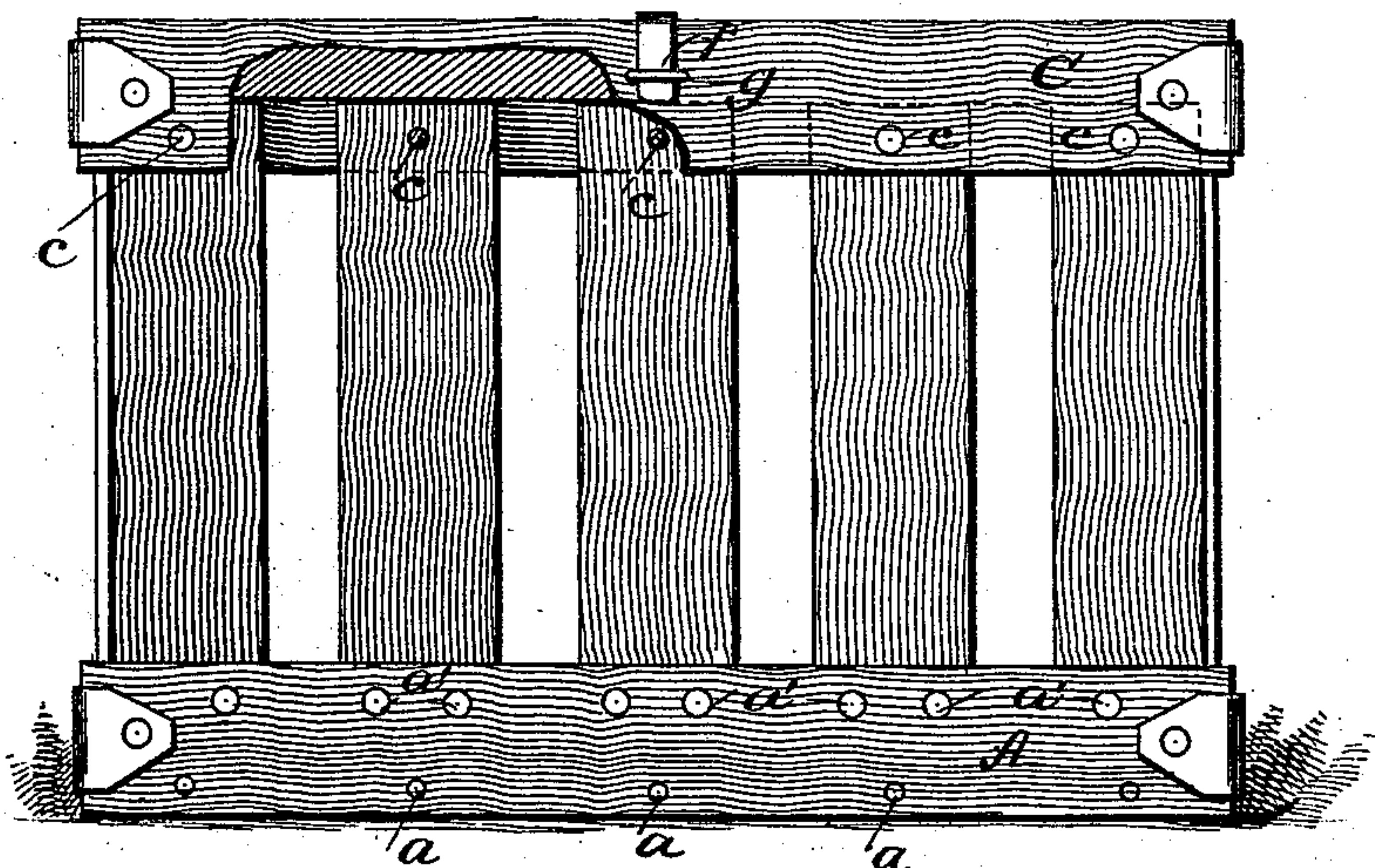


Fig. 2.

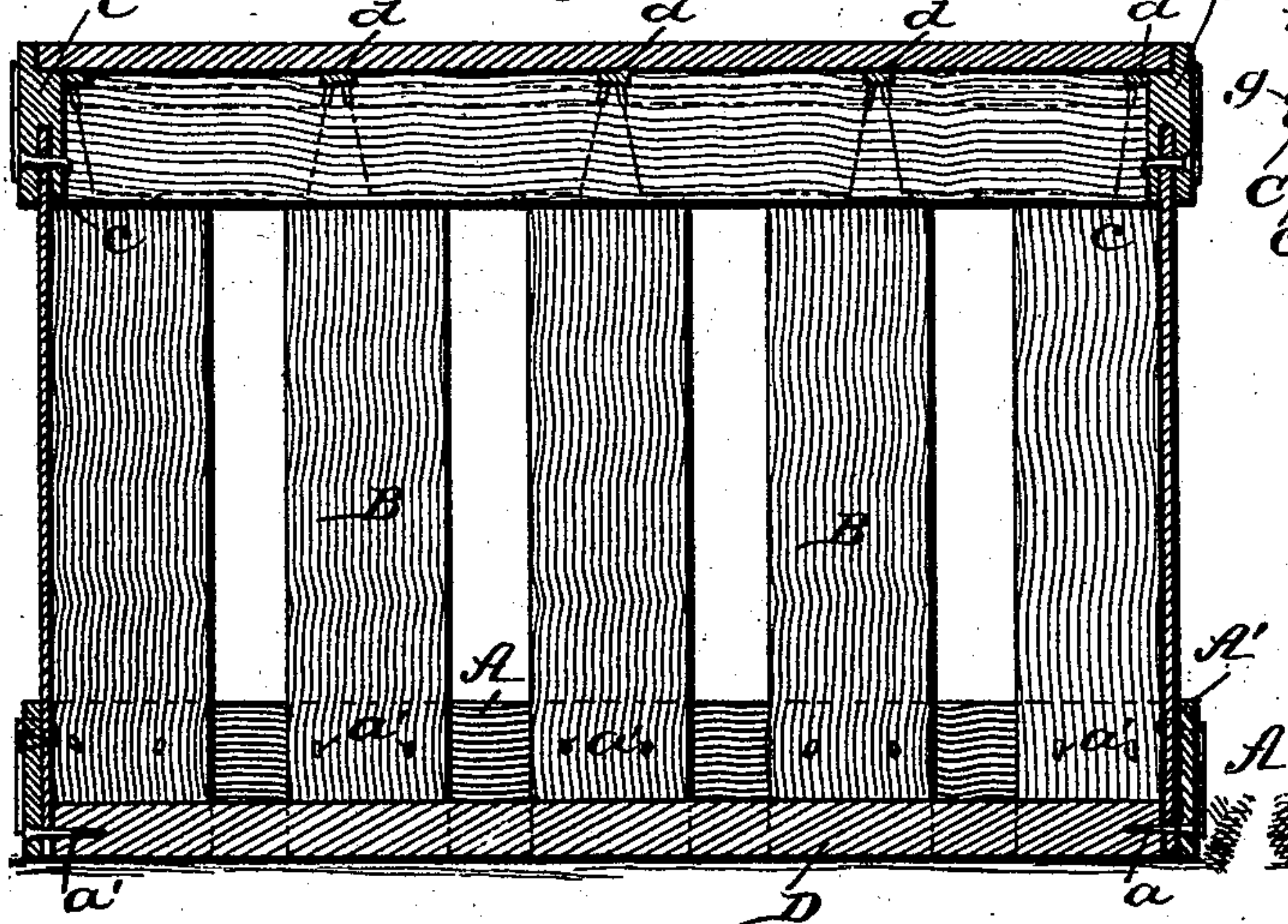
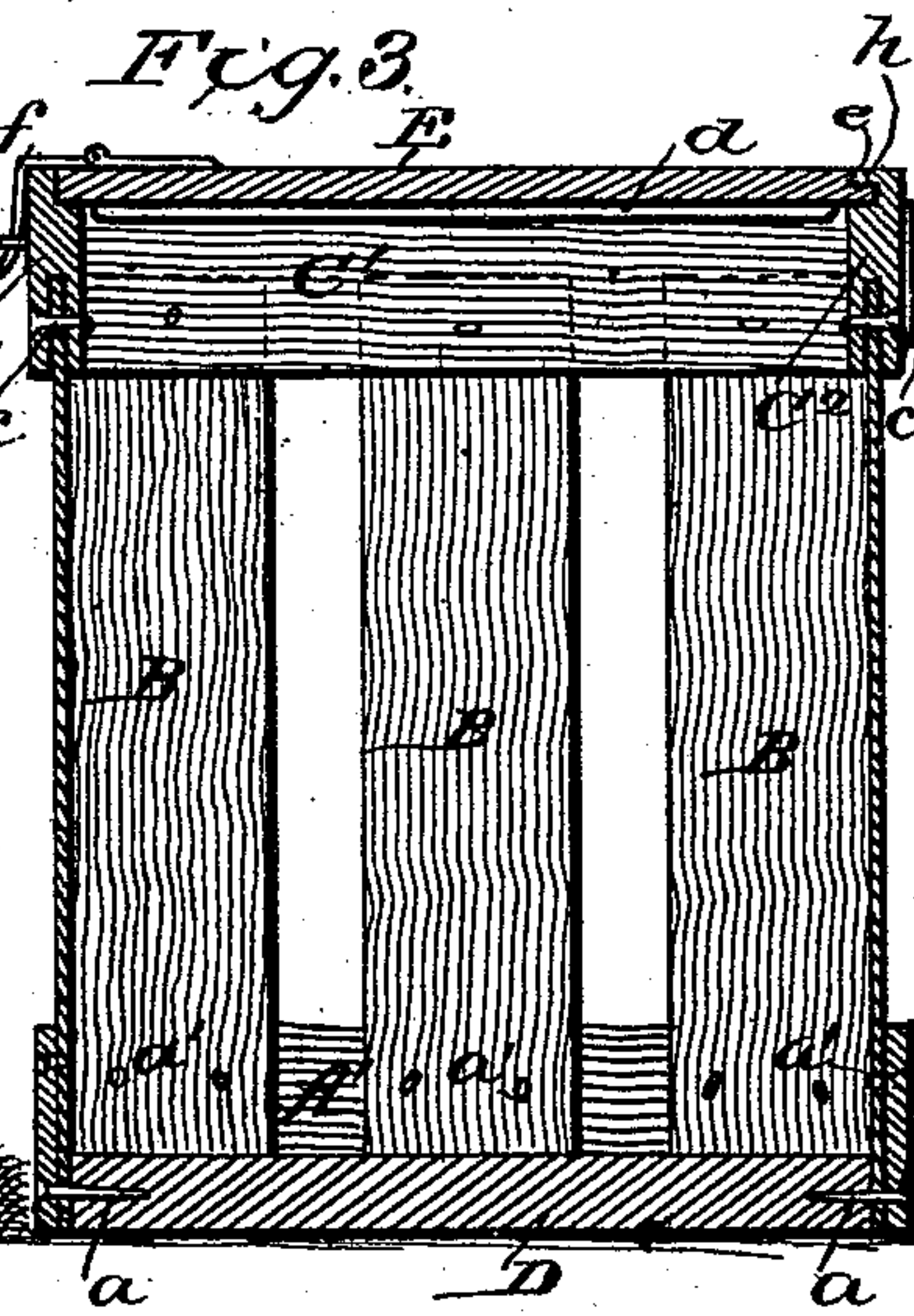


Fig. 3.



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BERRY-CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 517,713, dated April 3, 1894.

Application filed July 10, 1893. Serial No. 480,063. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, PETER A. WIMBROW, ROBERT S. WIMBROW, and HARRY P. DALE, of Whaleysville, in the county of Worcester and State of Maryland, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Berry-Crates, of which the following is a specification.

Our invention relates to certain improvements in berry crates, and it consists in the peculiar construction and arrangement of the various parts whereby a strong and light crate is made at a moderate cost, and one well calculated to safely hold the berry baskets without injuring the berries.

This peculiar construction we will now proceed to describe with reference to the drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of the crate partly in section. Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal section, and Fig. 3 a vertical transverse section.

The body of the crate is made of horizontal rails or bottom strips $A A'$, vertical and parallel side or slat strips B , and horizontal rails or top strips $C C' C^2$. The vertical side strips B are made of veneer and are quite thin and flexible, in contradistinction to stiff pickets or bars. Their lower ends are secured to an imperforate bottom D by a nail a which also passes through the bottom strips $A A'$. These vertical strips are also further secured to the bottom strips $A A'$ by two nails $a' a'$ driven into them from the outside, so as to make a stiff joint that requires no angular bracing. At the upper ends the vertical veneer strips B are secured to the upper horizontal strips by a peculiar construction of the latter. For this purpose the upper horizontal strips $C C' C^2$ are grooved out vertically by a saw or otherwise on their lower edges so as to form a deep and narrow vertical groove that penetrates to about one half the vertical depth of the strips. This groove is just wide enough to receive the thickness of the veneer strips whose ends are cut off square, and are forced up into the groove until their said square ends fit closely against the bottom of the groove. In this position they are secured by a single nail c driven through both the horizontal strip and the vertical strip. This single nail tightly holds the vertical strip in

the groove, and as the squared upper end of the vertical strip bears solidly against the bottom of the groove there can be no turning or pivotal motion about this nail, and all angular bracing is dispensed with. This makes a very light, strong, and cheap construction for this part of the crate.

E is the cover which is a plain imperforate board having transverse cleats d on its under side, a rabbet e at one of its longitudinal edges, and a metal hasp or fastening f at its opposite edge adapted to be secured by the staple g on the side of the crate.

In constructing the upper horizontal strips $C C' C^2$, the edges of the front side and two ends are rabbeted or recessed to allow the lid to fit down into the same flush, but the back strip C^2 is simply grooved in its inner side so as to leave an overhanging lip h beneath which is secured the recessed edge e of the lid. When the lid has the recessed edge e inserted beneath the lip h and the other edge is fastened by the staple or otherwise, it will be seen that it is impossible to remove said lid until it is regularly opened by the removal of the hasp or other fastening.

When the lid E is fitted bodily down into the grooved edges of the rail, it will be seen that said cover lies flush with the upper edge of the rail, and in this relation it acts as a brace against the crushing inwardly of the top rail, and especially against diagonal or "skewing" strains which result from pitching the crates off the wagon and landing upon the corners. When such strain comes the cover with its right angular corners, fitting within the right angles of the top rail, braces and maintains these corners against any possible change of angle, which such oblique strains would tend to produce. Furthermore as the side strips are of very light and thin stuff, the upper edges of the rail sections would bend inwardly were they not braced and held stiffly by the flush fitted corner. Hence there is a co-active or correlated function between the special construction of the sides and top of the crate; that is to say the rail sections with the deep grooves in their lower edges and the inserted veneer slats, are correlated to the rabbeted upper inner edge of the rail and the flush fitted cover.

The objects of the cleats *d* on the under side of the lid is to press down upon the edges of the baskets, shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, so as to hold the tiers of baskets firmly without mashing the berries.

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

A rectangular berry crate having each of its front top rail sections composed of a single piece of wood having a deep narrow central groove in its lower edge, and a groove or recess on its upper and inner edge; in combi-

nation with the thin slat-strips entered into the deep narrow groove in the lower edge of the rail sections, and a cover or lid fitting bodily down into the recesses of the upper edges, substantially as and for the purpose described.

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