

(No Model.)

J. M. & S. B. MOODY.
CRANBERRY PICKER.

No. 541,109.

Patented June 18, 1895.

Fig. 1.

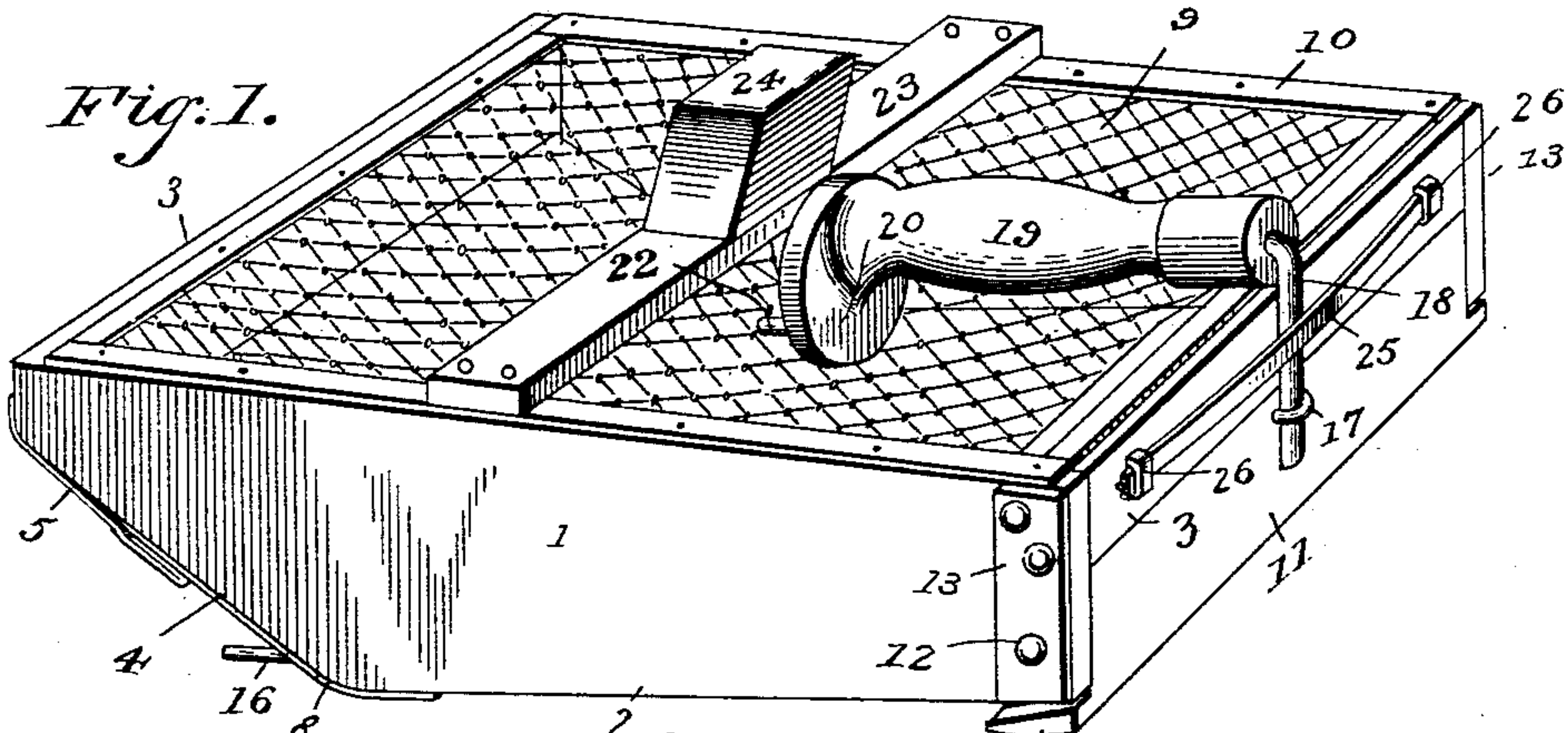


Fig. 2.

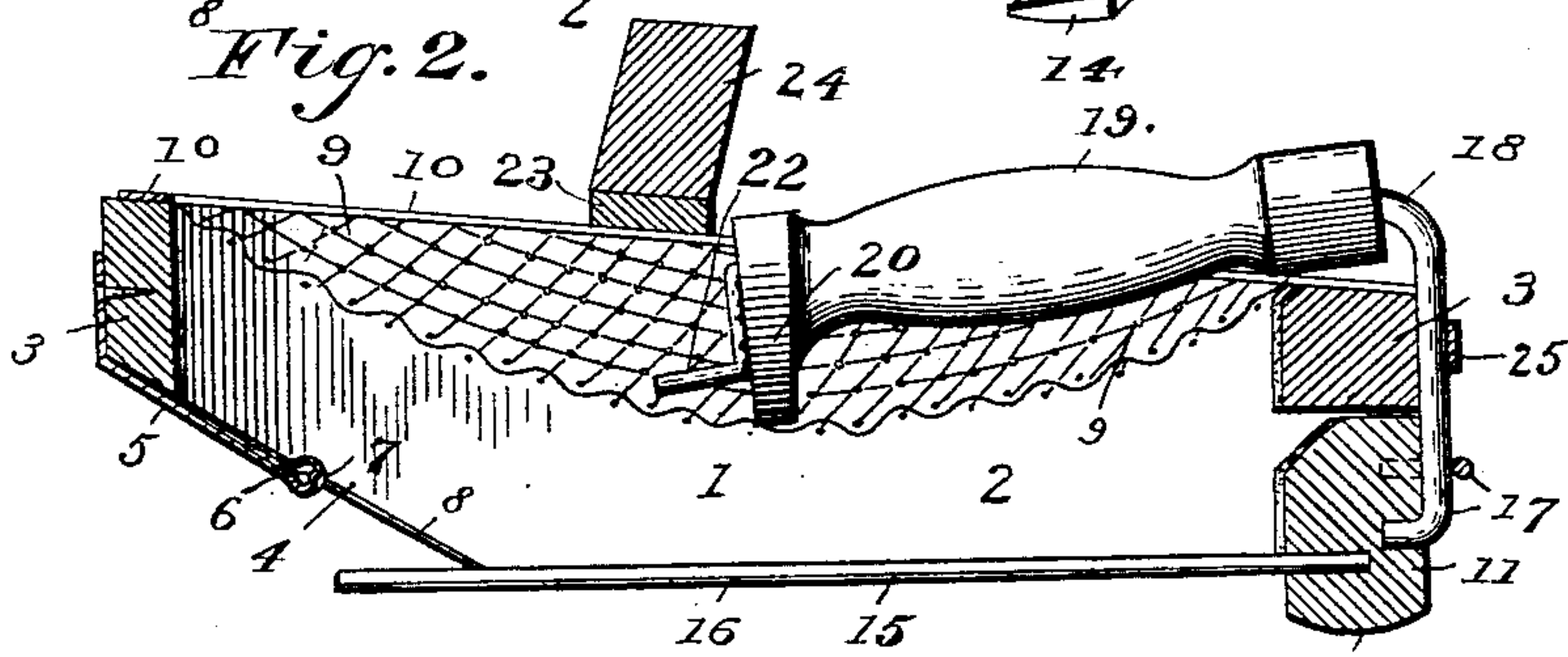
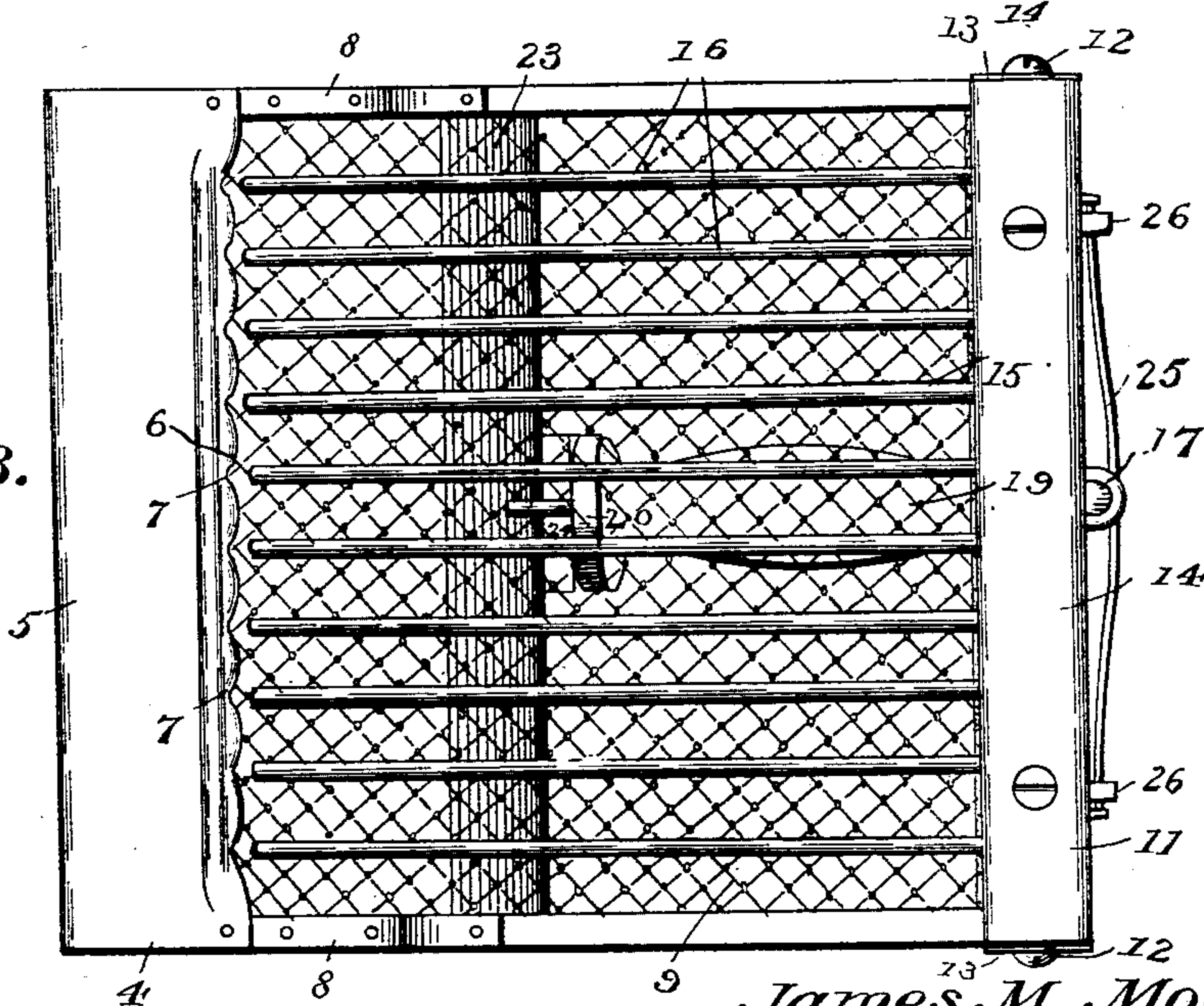


Fig. 3.



Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES M. MOODY AND SIDNEY B. MOODY, OF HARWICH, MASSACHUSETTS,
ASSIGNORS, BY DIRECT AND MESNE ASSIGNMENTS, TO AUGUSTUS M.
NICKERSON, OF SAME PLACE.

CRANBERRY-PICKER.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 541,109, dated June 18, 1895.

Application filed April 25, 1894. Serial No. 508,982. (No model.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, JAMES M. MOODY and SIDNEY B. MOODY, citizens of the United States, residing at Harwich, in the county of Barnstable and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Cranberry-Picker, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to cranberry pickers; and it has for its object to effect certain improvements in devices of this character whereby cranberries may be more readily picked from the vines than heretofore, and with the least possible degree of injury to both the berries and the vines.

To this end the main and primary object of the present invention is to provide in a cranberry picker simple and desirable means for stripping the berries from the vines and allowing the vines to escape from the picker after being stripped of the berries, and also to provide a construction whereby the manipulation of the picker is rendered easier and more effective.

With these and other objects in view, which will readily appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, the same consists in the novel construction, combination, and arrangement of parts hereinafter more fully described, illustrated, and claimed.

In the accompanying drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a cranberry-picker constructed in accordance with this invention. Fig. 2 is a central vertical longitudinal sectional view thereof, the picker being open to receive the berries and vine-tendrils. Fig. 3 is a bottom plan view of the picker, showing the gathering-fork closed or in position as elevated.

Referring to the accompanying drawings, 1 designates a picker box consisting essentially of the opposite side pieces 2, connected at their front and rear ends by the end cross bars 3, and said side pieces are gradually increased in width from their rear to their front ends in order to provide for elevating the front end of the box properly above the vines from which the berries are being picked, and the front ends of the said side pieces 2, are forwardly and upwardly inclined as at 4, to provide for properly disposing the outer ends of

the fork tines to be presently referred to. The inclined front ends 4, of the box side pieces 2, are connected below the front end cross bar 3, by the metallic stripper plate 5, that forms a part of the front end of the box to inclose that portion, and said metallic stripper plate is of a width to extend from the upper end of the inclined front portions 4, to an intermediate point of said inclined portions where the metal forming said plate 5, is bent upon itself to form at its lower edge a continuous thickened stripper bar portion 6, that extends from side to side of the box, and is provided in its broad or wide edge with continuous regular scallops 7, consisting of a regular waved surface or a series of alternate rounded ridges and depressions, the function of which, in connection with the gathering fork, will be more particularly described, and below the lower stripper bar edge of the plate 5, the inclined front portions 4, that round into the lower edge of the said pieces 2, are faced with the metallic wear strips 8, that take the contact of the ground at the front end of the box and act somewhat in the capacity of runners therefor.

The picker box 1, is entirely open at the top and bottom, and extending completely over the open top of the box is the loose or flabby top cord netting 9, that is secured at its edges to the top edges of the box by the metal fastening strips 10, tacked or otherwise suitably secured to the side and end top edges of the box, and said netting not only serves to inclose the top and prevent the berries from escaping, but is an advantage over other similar devices employing netting in that the operator can observe the entire working of the picker.

The rear end cross bar of the picker box, like the front end cross bar is not of the same width as the side pieces 2, and between the rear ends of said side pieces directly below the rear end cross bar is arranged the turning fork bar 11. The turning fork bar 11, receives at its opposite ends, the pivot screws 12 that are passed through the lower ends of the metal side straps 13, secured at opposite rear ends of the side pieces 2, and the lower edge of the turning fork bar is preferably

rounded as at 14 to provide for an easy contact on the ground and vines. The turning fork bar 11, carries an upwardly movable gathering fork 15, that consists of a forwardly projected series of parallel fork tines or bars 16 of equal length, that together form the enclosing bottom for the picker box, and are adapted to be elevated to bring their outer extremities in very close proximity to the stripper bar 6, in order to strip the berries off of the vines when the picker is operated, and fixedly connected at its lower end to the outer side of the turning fork bar 11, as at 17, is the lower end of the handle arm 18, the upper end of which is fitted into the rear end of the forwardly extending handle 19. At its front end the handle 19, is provided with an enlarged depending rest flange 20, that forms a bearing for the forefinger of the hand when pushing the picker into the berries, and thereby prevents the hand from slipping on the handle. At its front end, the handle 19, is further provided with the angled stop arm 22, that is adapted to work beneath and to engage against the transverse stop bar 23, that is secured transversely across the top of the picker box, and supports at an intermediate point the upwardly projecting finger block 24, on which is placed the thumb of the hand, in order that the handle 19, may be elevated to elevate the gathering fork to bring the berries into the box.

The handle arm 18, that extends upwardly from the turning fork bar 11, is arranged in rear of the transverse leaf spring 25, at an intermediate point thereof. The transverse leaf spring 25, is loosely secured at its opposite ends as at 26, to the rear end cross bar 3, so that the spring will readily bow outwardly as the handle 19, is elevated, and by reason of its tension will normally hold the handle arm to a position that will depress the outer end of the gathering fork below the stripper bars 6, and substantially in a line with the bottom edges of the picker box.

In operation, with the gathering fork normally depressed as noted, the picker box is pushed into the vines to allow the berries and vine tendrils to pass into the box between the outer ends of the fork tines and the stripper bar immediately thereabove. With the hand grasping the handle and the thumb on the block 24, the handle is elevated to bring the outer ends of the fork tines up to a position directly opposite and in close proximity to the stripper bar 6, after which the picker box is pulled off from the vines which movement will strip the berries therefrom, while the vines pass between the fork tines, and between the stripper bar and the end of the tines without substantial injury. In this connection it is to be noted that the widened stripper bar 6, presents a perfectly smooth edge to the vines, and the depressions of the scallops are disposed directly opposite the points of the tines so that the vines will escape more easily when the picker is closed by

elevating the fork, and the rounded ridges or projections of the scallops are adapted to extend across and substantially close the spaces between the ends of the fork tines in order to prevent the berries from escaping through the spaces between the points of the tines, and by this arrangement it will be obvious that the construction of stripper bar adds strength to the device and gives a broader surface for wear while at the same time securing the desirable object of bringing the points of the fork tines as near the stripper bar as possible, while not interfering with the free escape of the vines at the ends of the tines. Furthermore, the broad edge of the stripper bar in front of the points of the fork tines provides means whereby the tines can spring up or down in operating the picker without increasing the space between them and the stripper bar, and this result makes it easier to adjust the tines to the stripper and prevents losing berries out of the picker box when the teeth spring downward in withdrawing the picker from the vines.

Changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed, and desired to be secured by Letters Patent, is—

1. In a cranberry picker, an open box, a stripper plate arranged at the front end of the box and provided at its lower edge with an integral smooth thickened stripper bar portion, said stripper bar portion having a regularly waved or scalloped edge consisting of a continuous series of alternate rounded ridges and depressions, and a normally depressed upwardly movable gathering fork having tines of equal length adapted to be elevated to a position with their ends in close proximity to the waved or scalloped edge of the stripper bar portion, said stripper bar portion being sufficiently broad or wide to permit of a limited spring of the tines without decreasing the distance between the tine ends and said stripper bar portion, and said rounded ridges being adapted to extend across and substantially close the spaces between the ends of the fork tines when elevated to prevent the escape of berries through the spaces between and immediately beyond the ends of the tines, while at the same time allowing for the free escape of the vines at the ends of the tines, substantially as set forth.

2. In a cranberry picker, the combination of the open picker box, a stripper bar arranged at the front end of the box, a pivoted fork mounted within the bottom of the box, an operating handle connected at one end to the fork bar of said pivoted fork and provided at its front end with an enlarged depending rest flange and an off-standing stop arm, a transverse stop bar arranged on top of the box above the stop arm of the handle, a

finger block mounted at an intermediate point on said stop bar, and a spring for normally depressing the fork, substantially as set forth.

3. In a cranberry picker, the open picker
5 box having a stripper bar at its front end, a fork bar pivotally mounted at the rear end of said box and carrying a series of forwardly extending tines forming the inclosing bottom for the box, a handle arm secured fast at its
10 lower end to said fork bar, a forwardly extending handle secured to the upper end of said handle arm, and a leaf spring arranged

outside of said handle arm and loosely secured at its ends to the rear end of the picker bar, substantially as set forth.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as
our own we have hereto affixed our signatures
in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES M. MOODY.
SIDNEY B. MOODY.

Witnesses:

MIRON W. ROGERS,
ALPHONSO L. WEEKES.