

No. 607,574.

Patented July 19, 1898.

J. A. REEDER.  
SHIPPING CRATE.

(Application filed Aug. 30, 1897.)

(No Model.)

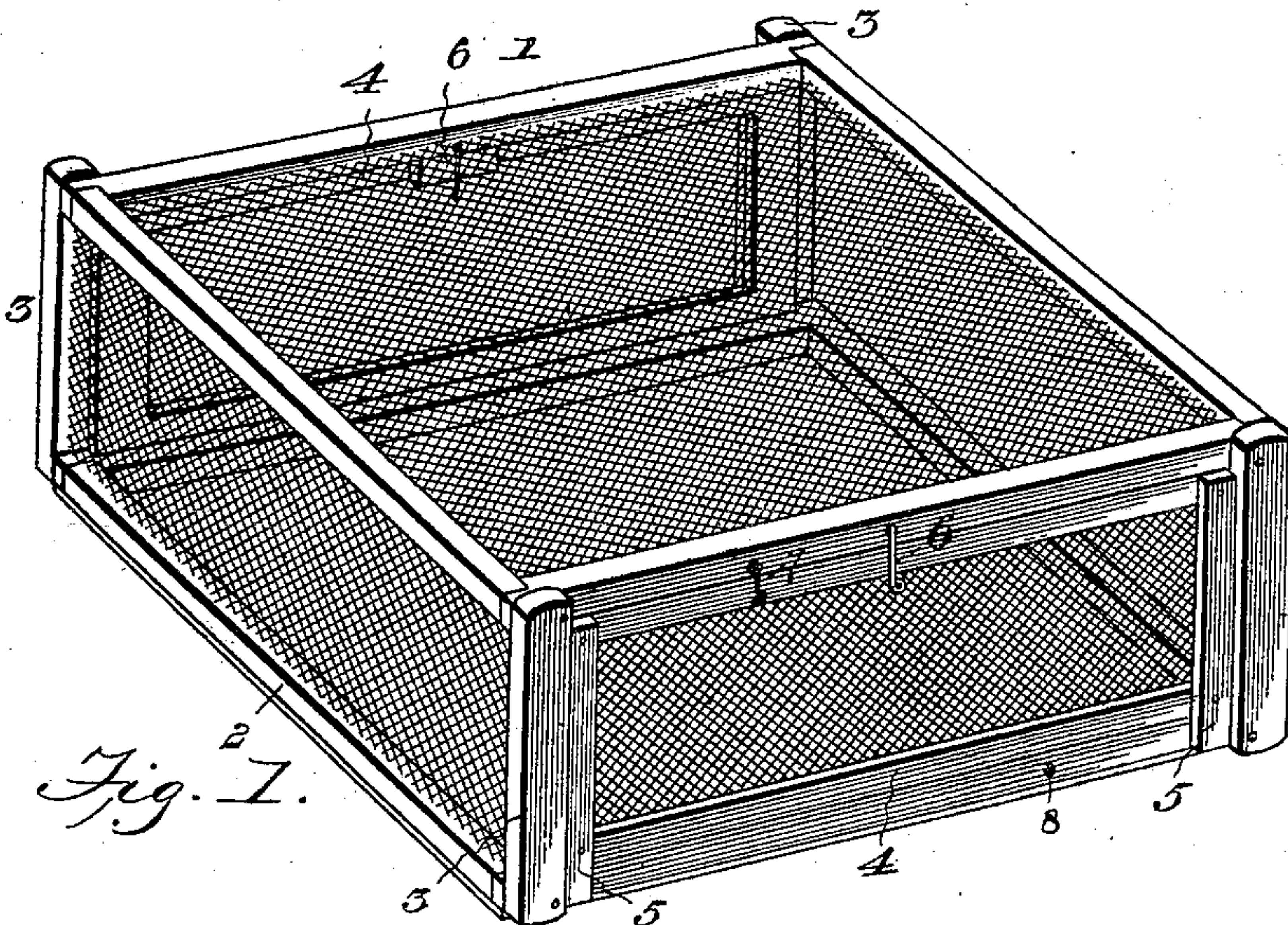


Fig. 1.

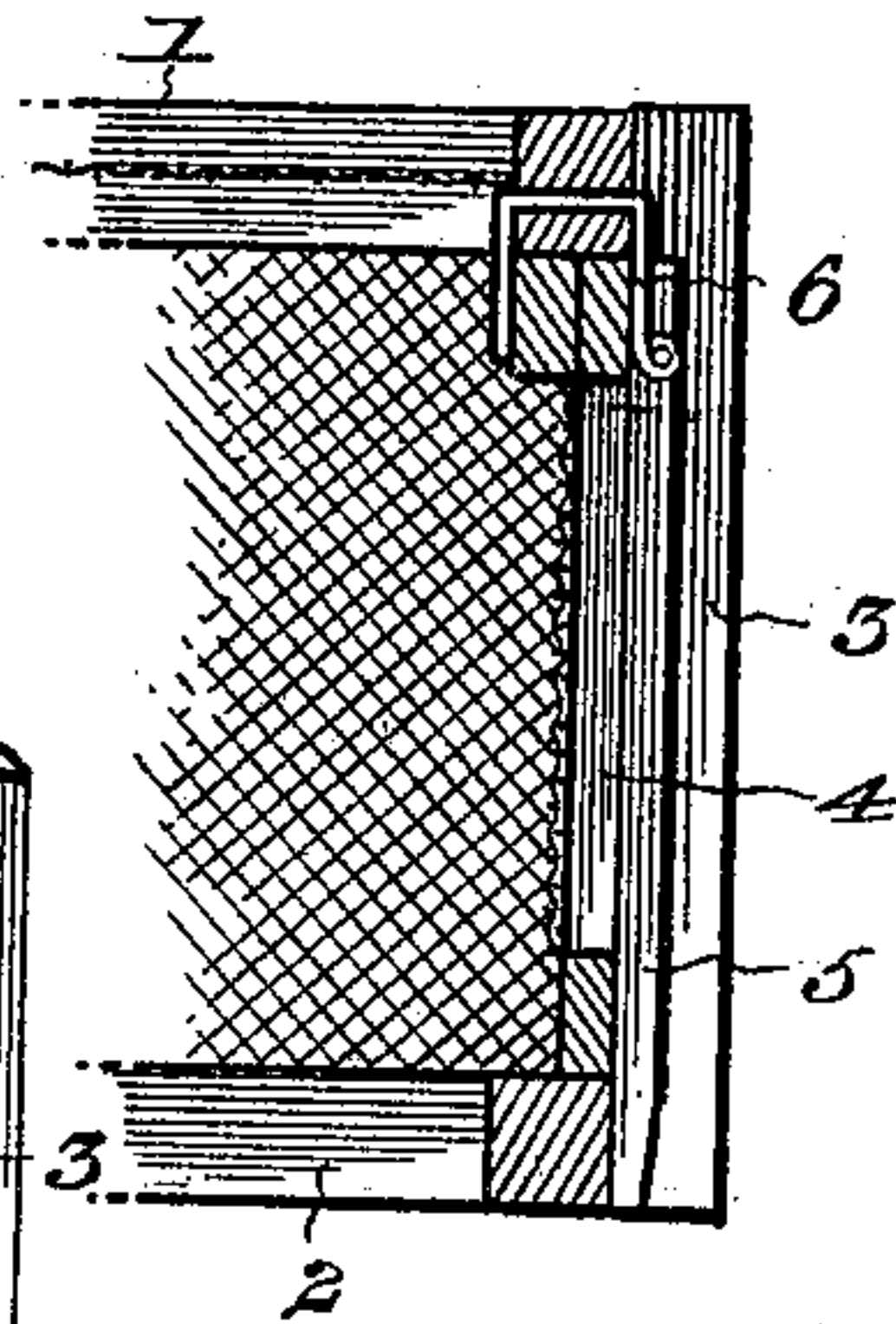


Fig. 3.

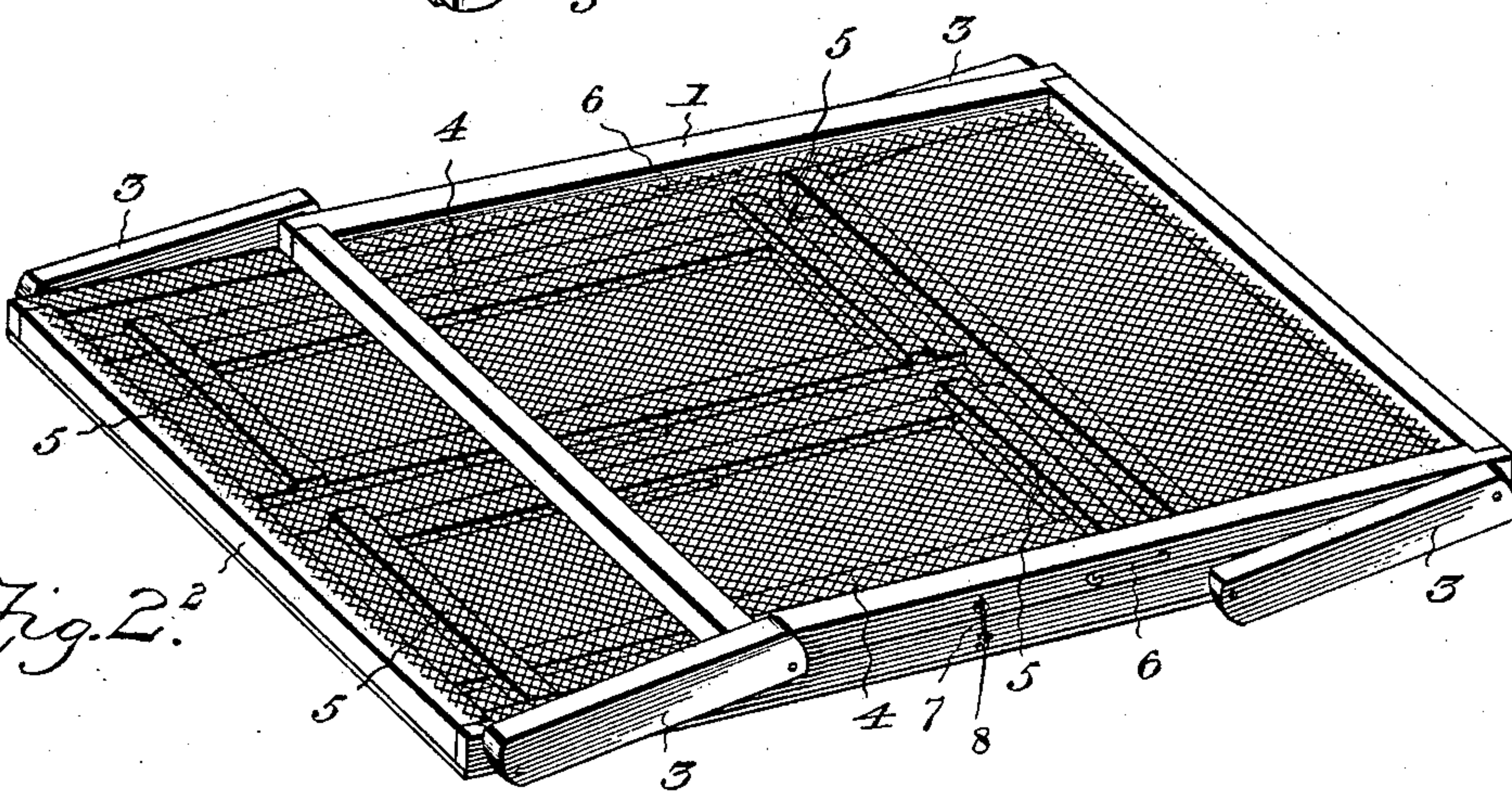


Fig. 2.

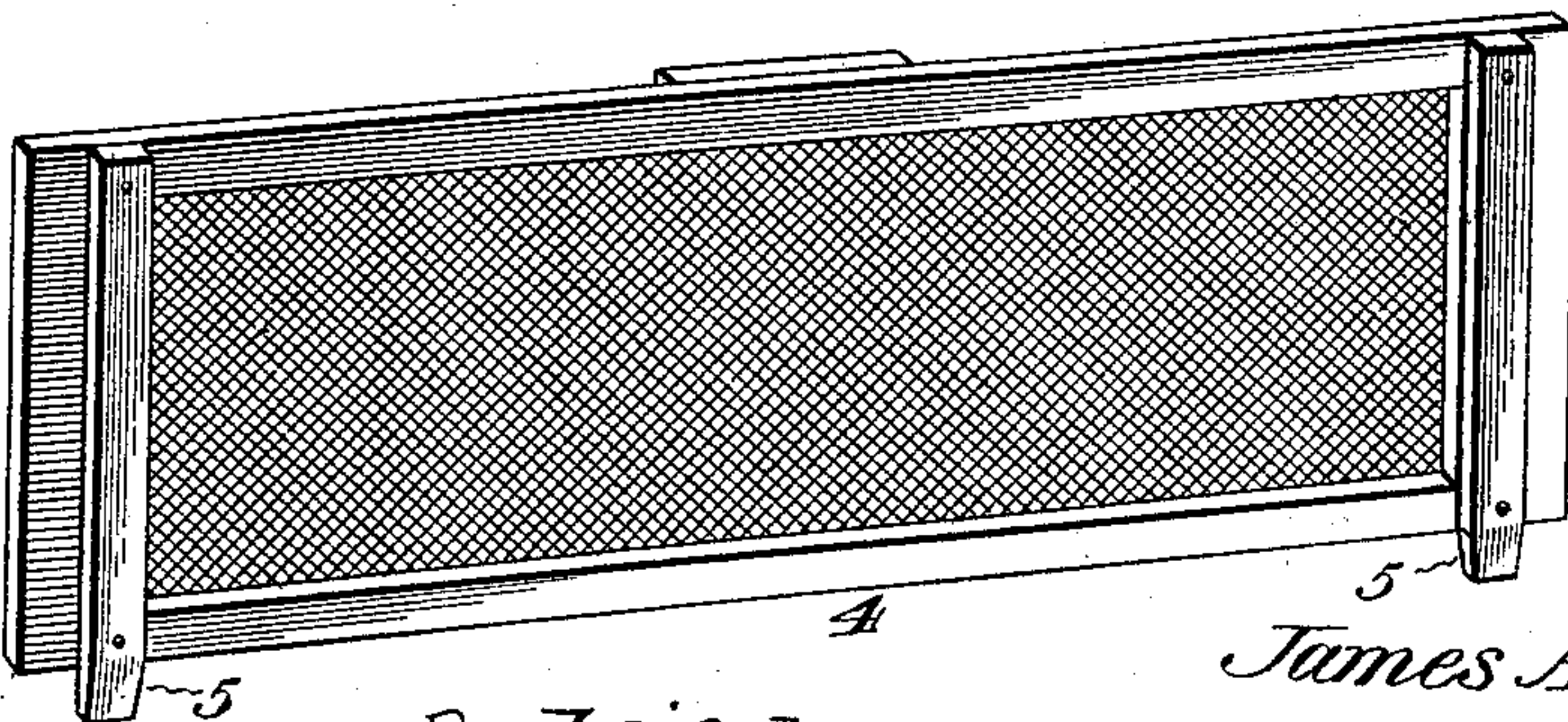


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES ASA REEDER, OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

## SHIPPING-CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 607,574, dated July 19, 1898.

Application filed August 30, 1897. Serial No. 649,990. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JAMES ASA REEDER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Memphis, in the county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, have invented a new and useful Shipping-Crate, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to shipping-crates, and particularly to that class designed especially for shipping poultry; and the object in view is to provide a collapsible or folding crate comprising the minimum number of detachable parts and adapted to be folded into compact form for return shipment.

Further objects and advantages of this invention will appear in the following description, and the novel features thereof will be particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a crate constructed in accordance with my invention. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the crate folded. Fig. 3 is a detail sectional view of one side of the crate to show the means for securing the removable sides in place. Fig. 4 is a detail view in perspective of the frame of one of the removable sides.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all the figures of the drawings.

The crate comprises top and bottom rectangular walls 1 and 2, provided with any suitable interstitial filling, such as wire-cloth or the equivalent thereof, connected by pivotal uprights 3, which also carry interstitial webs to form opposite pivotal side walls of the crate, and opposite removable side walls 4, also provided with filling of interstitial construction. The uprights or standards 3, which form the connection between the frames of the top and bottom walls, are pivotally mounted upon the exterior edges of said frames, whereby they fold into contact, as will be seen by reference to Fig. 2. The removable side walls are provided with transverse vertical cleats 5, which extend below the lower edges of the walls to form studs to engage the outer sides of the bottom frame when the lower bars of said removable sides are arranged in operative position upon the upper surfaces of the side bars

of the bottom frame, and the side bars of the top frame are provided with catches 6 to engage the upper bars of the removable side frames. In the construction illustrated these catches consist of stirrup-shaped buttons having their parallel arms arranged contiguous to the inner and outer surfaces, respectively, of the side bars of the top frame and having their connecting transverse portions mounted in suitable bearings in said bars, whereby when the stirrup-arms are turned downwardly they pass upon opposite sides of the top bars of the removable side frames and hold said frames from displacement. Hence in order to fold the crate embodying my invention it is simply necessary to disengage the catches 6 from the removable side frames by swinging the arms thereof upwardly into the plane of the top wall and then displace said removable sides inwardly to lie within the frame of the bottom wall, the thickness of the frame of each removable side wall being less than that of the bottom frame, whereby it is adapted to lie within the latter without projecting beyond the upper and lower surfaces of the bottom frame. The top frame may then be swung downwardly into contact with the bottom frame to cause the uprights or standards 3 to occupy inclined approximately horizontal positions. To set up the crate for use, the above-described operation is reversed.

From the above description it will be seen that the crate is provided with two detachable parts—namely, the removable side walls, which when the crate is folded occupy positions between the top and bottom walls, which are so constructed as to fold compactly without being interfered with by said removable side walls. The length of the removable side walls is less than the distance between the opposite side bars of the bottom frame, for the reason that the width of each upright or standard is greater than the bars comprising the top and bottom frames.

When the crate is folded, it is adapted to be secured against spreading by means of suitable hooks and eyes 7 and 8, as shown in Fig. 2, or any equivalent holding device.

Various changes in the form, proportion, and the minor details of construction may be



resorted to without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention.

Having described my invention, what I claim is—

1. A crate having top and bottom walls, uprights or standards pivotally mounted at their extremities upon the side edges of the top and bottom walls, and arranged exteriorly thereof, said uprights or standards being connected by interstitial webs to form pivotal side walls, removable side walls fitted in the intervals between, and arranged in the planes of, the side bars of the top and bottom wall frames, and bearing terminally against the inner surfaces of the uprights or standards, said removable side walls having vertical outside cleats bearing against the facing surfaces of said uprights and extended beyond one edge of each side wall to bear against the outer edge of the bottom wall, substantially as specified.

2. A crate having top and bottom walls, each including a frame and an interstitial filling-web, pivotal side walls connecting the top and bottom frames at opposite sides, opposite removable side walls fitted between

the contiguous side bars of the top and bottom frames and provided at one edge with projecting cleats or studs to engage the contiguous frame-bar, and a catch for securing the opposite edge of each removable side wall to the contiguous frame-bar, substantially as specified.

3. A crate having top and bottom walls each consisting of a frame provided with an interstitial filling-web, opposite pivotal side walls connecting the frames of the top and bottom walls, opposite removable walls fitting between the contiguous side bars of the top and bottom frames and provided at their lower edges with projections or cleats to engage the contiguous frame-bars, and pivotal stirrup-shaped catches mounted upon the frame-bars contiguous to the opposite edges of the removable walls, to engage and secure the latter in place, substantially as specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

JAMES ASA REEDER.

Witnesses:

J. T. MEE,

GEO. W. WINFORD.