

No. 710,036.

Patented Sept. 30, 1902.

H. BITNER.  
BANANA SHIPPING CASE.

(Application filed Jan. 18, 1902.)

(No Model.)

FIG 1

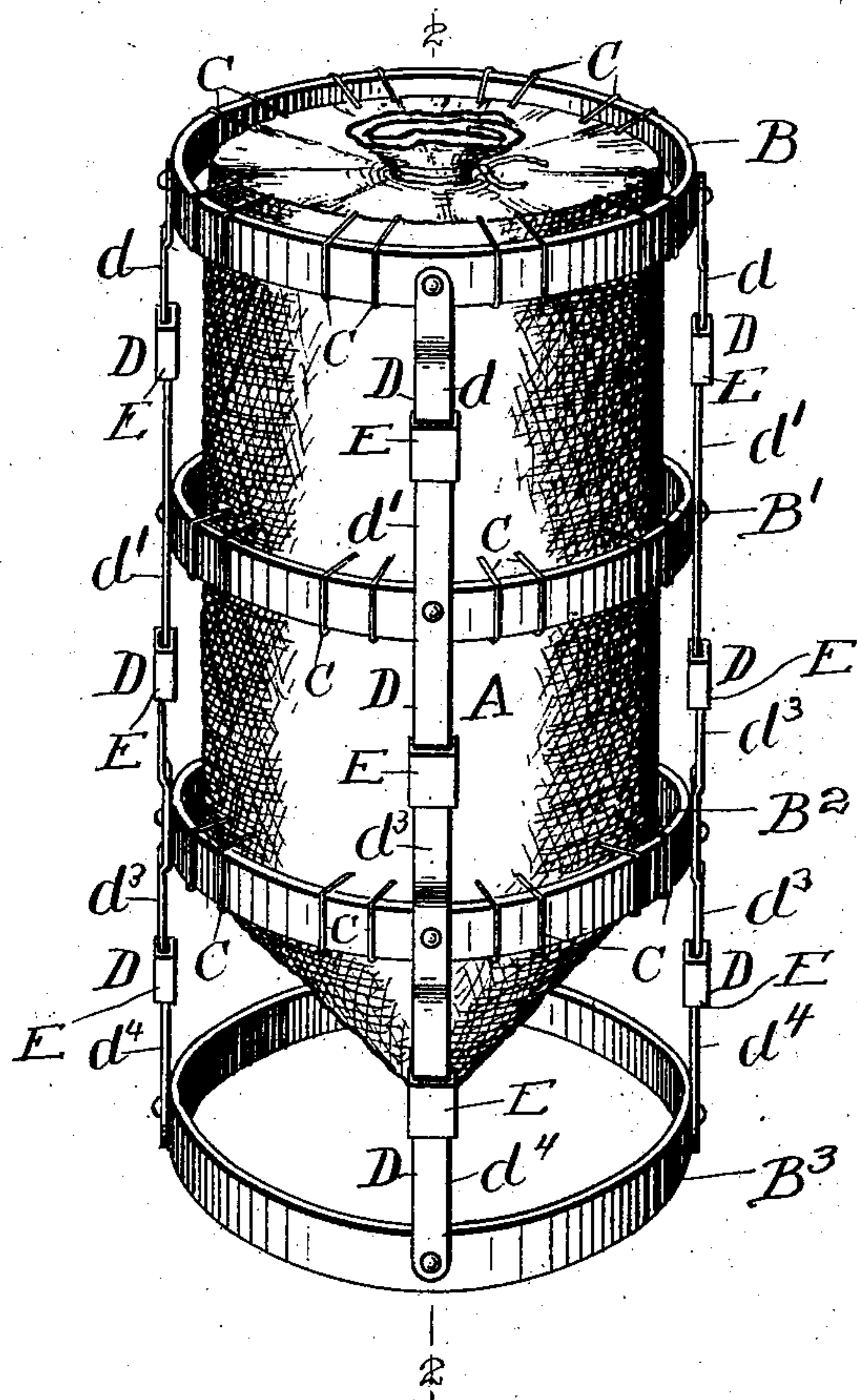


FIG 2

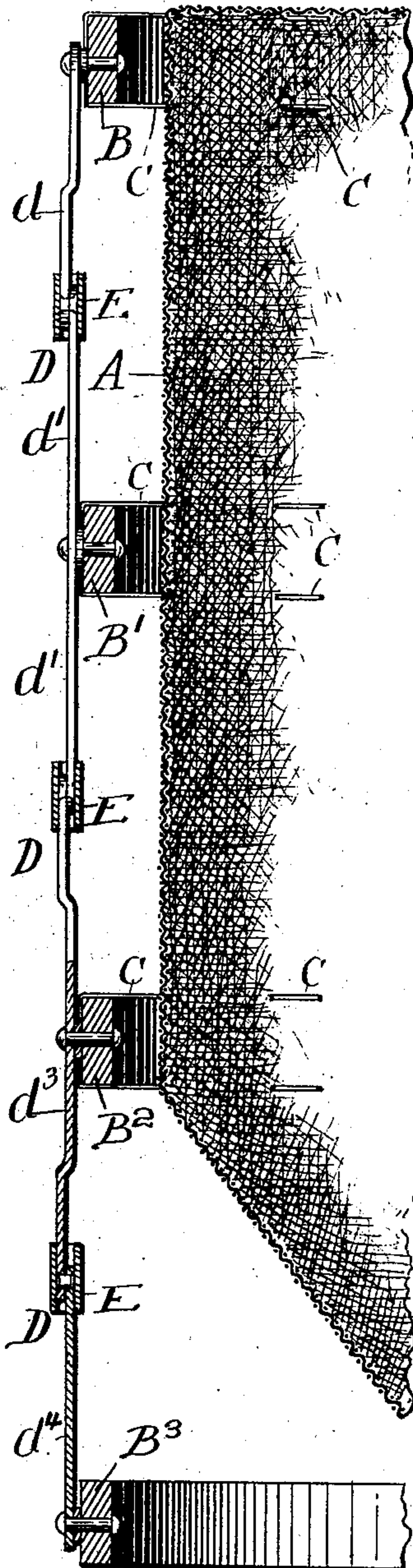
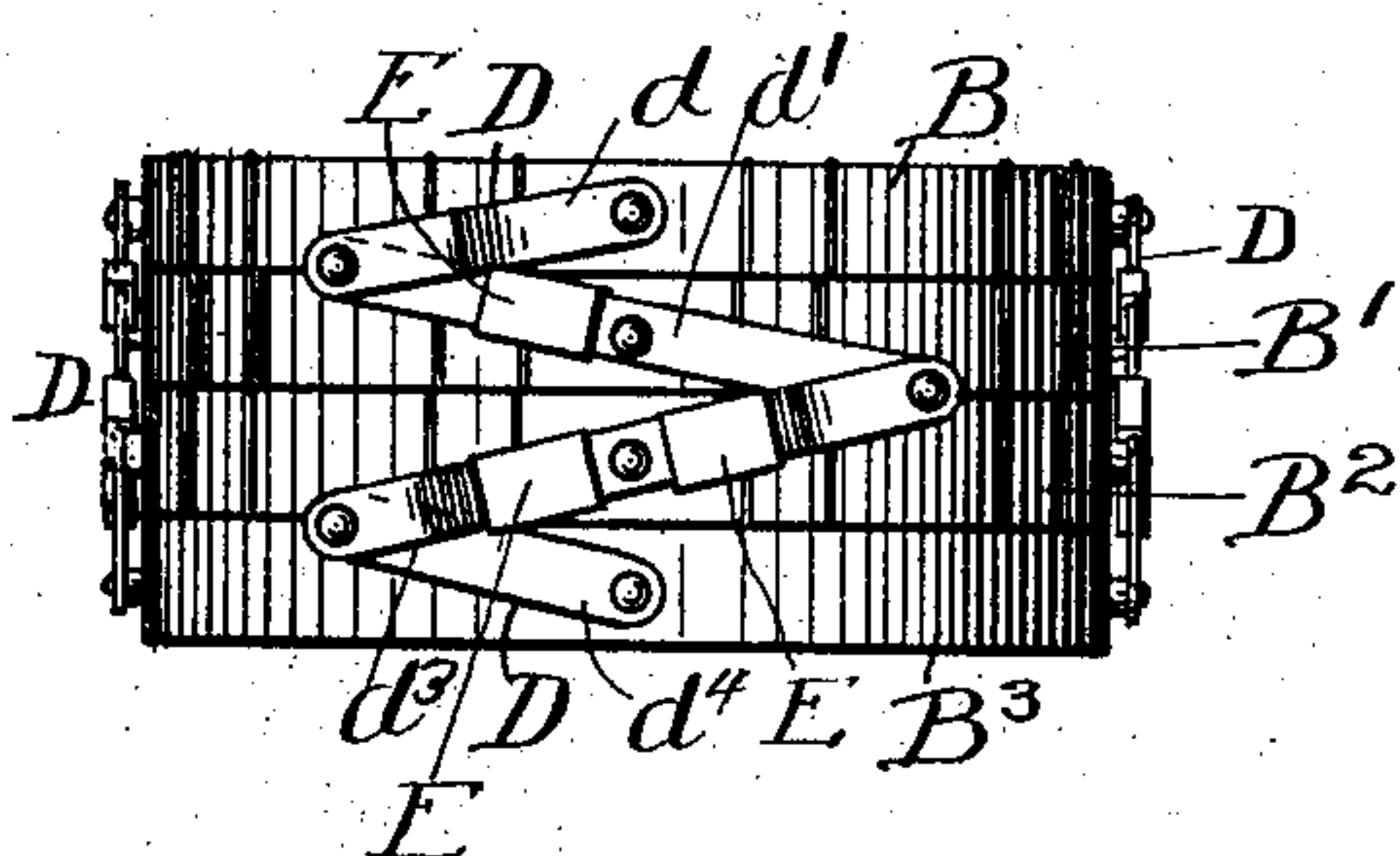


FIG 3



Witnesses:  
Chas. C. Harvey  
S. Blise.

Inventor:  
Harry Bitner



# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

HARRY BITNER, OF BERWYN, ILLINOIS, ASSIGNOR TO FRANK SCHMITZ, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

## BANANA-SHIPPING CASE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 710,036, dated September 30, 1902.

Application filed January 18, 1902. Serial No. 90,257. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HARRY BITNER, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Berwyn, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banana-Shipping Cases, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to certain improvements in banana-shipping cases designed for the purpose of combining with a flexible sack a rigid crate secured to the same and out of contact therewith and made up of portions adapted when properly adjusted to collapse and reduce the longitudinal extent of the crate.

To such end it consists in certain novel features of construction, which will be fully described and claimed below.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a perspective view of a complete crate; Fig. 2, a portion of a longitudinal diametrical section, and Fig. 3 a side elevation of the case in its collapsed condition.

Referring to the drawings, A is a flexible bag; B B' B<sup>2</sup> B<sup>3</sup>, a series of encircling hoops, to certain of which the bag is secured by cords C at a sufficient distance therefrom to afford the necessary protection, and D represents a series of longitudinal braces made up of parts  $\bar{d}$   $\bar{d}'$   $\bar{d}^3$   $\bar{d}^4$ , pivoted to each other and to the hoops, respectively. The intermediate portions  $\bar{d}'$   $\bar{d}^3$  are pivoted between their ends to the hoops B' B<sup>2</sup> and are pivoted to each other at one end, and to their opposite ends are pivoted, respectively, the end portions  $\bar{d}$   $\bar{d}^4$ , said end portions being pivoted at their other ends to the hoops B B<sup>3</sup>. Slides E, adjacent to the joints in the hoops, provide means whereby said joints may be made rigid by moving the slides over the pivoted portions.

Fig. 1 shows the extended condition of the case, in which it is adapted for the reception of a bunch of bananas; and Fig. 3 illustrates

the collapsed condition, in which it is best adapted when empty for transportation or storing.

To change the case from one to the other, it is necessary only to move the slides E sufficiently to either permit or prevent, as the case may be, the angular motion of the portions of the braces with respect to each other.

I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent—

1. In a banana-shipping case, the combination with a flexible sack, of a crate surrounding the same and secured thereto, out of contact therewith, said crate being made up of a series of encircling hoops and a series of longitudinal braces divided into portions pivoted together and to the hoops and provided with adjustable means for locking the joints against angular movement to prevent the collapse of the case; substantially as described.

2. The combination with the flexible sack, A, of an encircling supporting-crate surrounding the same and secured thereto, out of contact therewith, said crate being made up of a series of encircling hoops, B, B', B<sup>2</sup>, and the braces, D, composed of intermediate portions,  $\bar{d}'$ ,  $\bar{d}^3$ , pivoted between their ends, to the intermediate hoops and at one end to each other, and end portions,  $\bar{d}$ ,  $\bar{d}^4$ , pivoted at one end to the adjacent ends of the intermediate portions and at the other end to the end hoops, said braces being provided with the slides, E, to lock the joints against movement; substantially as described.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, at Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, this 15th day of January, A. D. 1902.

HARRY BITNER.

Witnesses:

CHAS. O. SHERVEY,  
S. BLISS.