

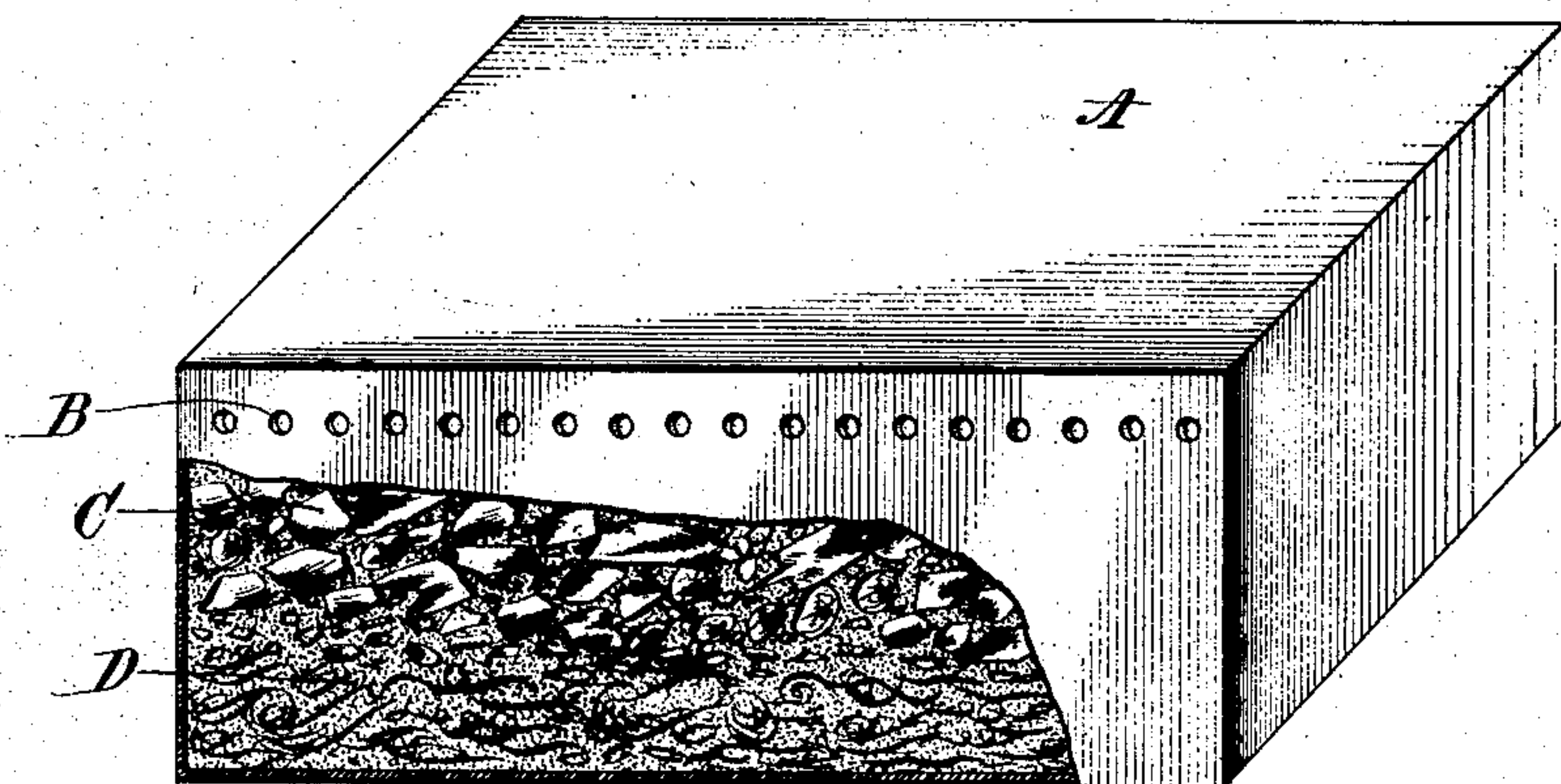
No. 849,915.

PATENTED APR. 9, 1907.

J. H. McDONOUGH.

FIRE KINDLER.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 31, 1906.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES H. McDONOUGH, OF WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS.

FIRE-KINDLER.

No. 849,915.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 9, 1907.

Application filed March 31, 1906. Serial No. 309,173.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES H. McDONOUGH, a citizen of the United States, and a resident of Watertown, in the county of Middlesex and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Improvement in Fire-Kindlers, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to fire-kindlers; and the object of my invention is to produce a fire-kindler which shall be more efficient and economical than those heretofore suggested.

In the drawing which accompanies and forms a part of this specification the figure shows a perspective view of one of the many possible embodiments of my invention, although it is to be understood that I do not limit myself to the particular form shown, inasmuch as many modifications may be made therein without departing from the spirit of my invention.

In the figure, A represents a box or carton of any suitable material, such as paper, and, as shown, said box may be, and preferably is, provided with a series of ventilating holes or perforations B near the top of one or more of the sides thereof. The box A may be filled with pieces of charcoal or coke C of suitable size or with a mixture of charcoal and coke, or a layer of wood-shavings, excelsior, small pieces of wood, or other suitable easily-ignitable material D may be placed upon the bottom of the box and charcoal, coke, or a mixture of the two superimposed upon the material D.

The box A preferably is made substantially rectangular in shape and of a size to conform to the general shape of the usual cooking-stove grate.

In using the fire-kindler above described a quantity of paper or other inflammable material may first be placed on the grate and ignited, and then the fire-kindler may be placed on such burning material. If the fire-kindler is constructed by employing the above-described layer D of wood-shavings, &c., the latter is quickly ignited by the aforesaid burning material in the grate and causes the combustion of the charcoal or coke superimposed upon the same in the box A. However, it is possible to omit the aforesaid layer D of kindling material, and in such case the combustion of the inflammable material in the grate readily causes the combustion of the charcoal or coke in the box A. In any event when the charcoal or coke is ignited the grate may be filled with coal or other

fuel and ignited by the burning charcoal or coke of the fire-kindler.

The object of the ventilating-apertures B is to produce a draft through the fire-kindler, and thereby permit more rapid combustion of the material therein than would otherwise be possible and also to afford a vent for the gases of combustion, which, if confined, would burst the carton A and scatter the contents thereof.

By employing a receptacle the walls of which are solid except near the top thereof, where they are provided with a series of ventilating-apertures, so that thereby the receptacle is ventilated only near the top thereof, I am enabled to retain within the receptacle a mass of kindling material of such size and quality as could not be retained therein if the walls of the receptacle were perforated throughout their entire extent. This is especially true when charcoal is employed as a kindling material, because in such case I am enabled by the construction herein described to use as a kindling material that quality of charcoal which always accompanies large masses of charcoal and which is in such a finely-divided state as to be worthless for other purposes.

By means of the device above described it will be seen that I produce a clean, efficient, and very economical fire-kindler which by reason of being ventilated does not require the use of inflammable oils or resins and which therefore does not emit the disagreeable odors emitted by fire-kindlers which require the use of such oils, which therefore will hold fire longer on account of the material employed than those which require such aids to combustion and by means of which a quality of charcoal which generally is regraded as a waste material may successfully be employed.

I claim—

1. A fire-kindler consisting of a substantially rectangular receptacle conforming generally to the shape of the usual cooking-stove grate and ventilated only near the top thereof and filled with pieces of charcoal.

2. A fire-kindler consisting of a receptacle ventilated only near the top thereof and filled with pieces of kindling material.

3. A fire-kindler consisting of a carton ventilated only near the top thereof and having a layer of ignitable material on the bottom thereof, and a mass of charcoal superimposed upon said ignitable material.

4. A fire-kindler consisting of a receptacle
the walls of which are solid except near the
top thereof where they are provided with a
series of ventilating-apertures, a layer of ig-
5 nitible material on the bottom thereof, and a
mass of charcoal superimposed upon said ig-
nitible material.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto
subscribed my name this 17th day of March,
1906.

JAMES H. McDONOUGH.

Witnesses:

CHARLES C. KURTZ,
GEO. K. WOODWORTH.