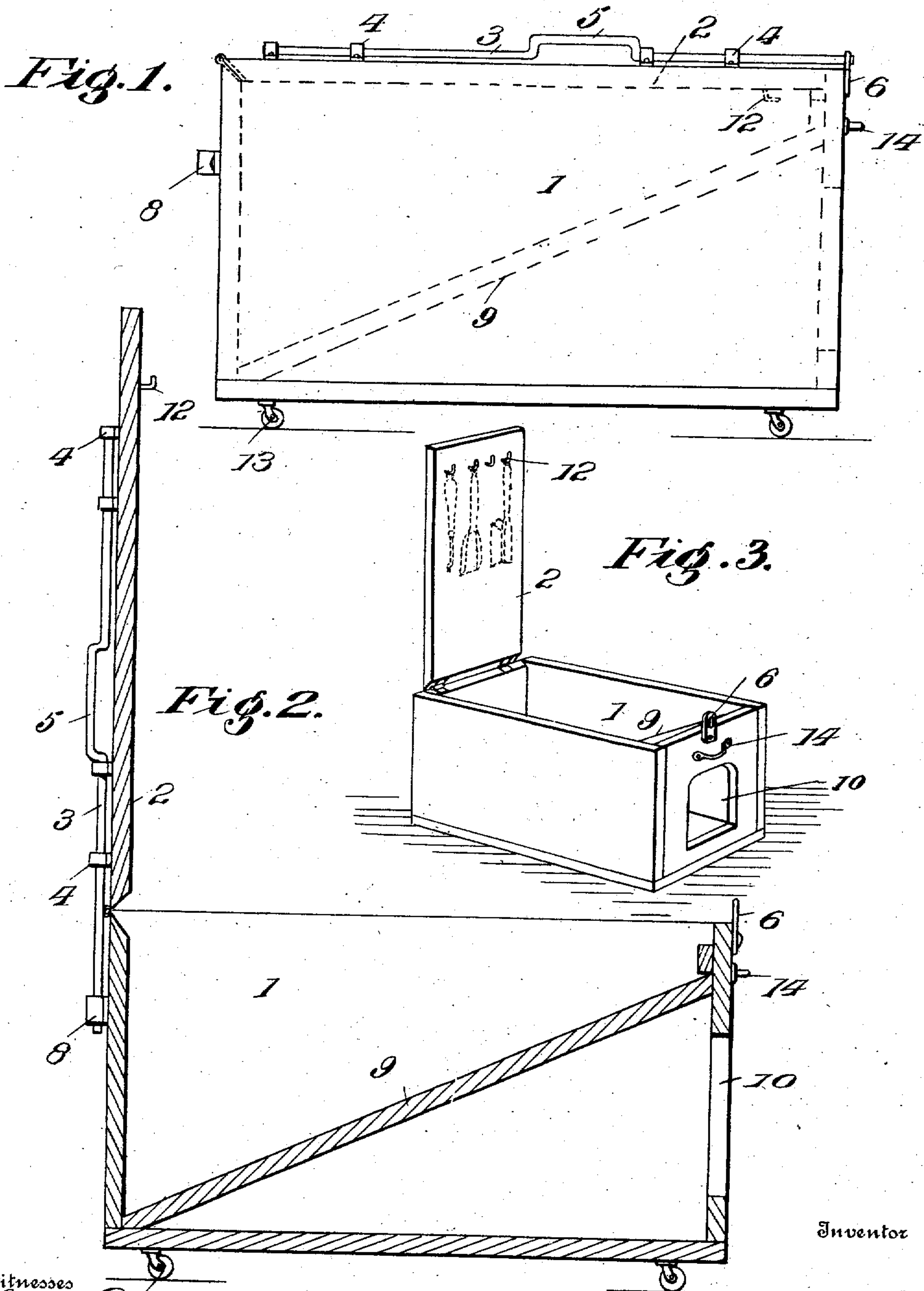


No. 884,003.

PATENTED APR. 7, 1908.

T. E. BARTON.
HANDLE AND FASTENER FOR FUEL AND OTHER BOXES.
APPLICATION FILED FEB. 15, 1906.



Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS E. BARTON, OF WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

HANDLE AND FASTENER FOR FUEL AND OTHER BOXES.

No. 884,003.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented April 7, 1908.

Application filed February 15, 1906. Serial No. 301,252.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS E. BARTON, of Washington, in the District of Columbia, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Handles and Fasteners for Fuel and other Boxes; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it appertains to make and use the same.

The object of this invention is to provide in a single device means serving both as a handle and a lock, that is to say, for locking the cover of a box or other receptacle either opened or closed.

The invention is primarily designed for a fuel box which may be readily moved from place to place, and which when in use will have its cover opened, such cover being equipped with means from which various articles, such as brushes, shovels, pokers, etc., may be suspended.

The invention will be hereinafter fully set forth and particularly pointed out in the claims.

In the accompanying drawing, Figure 1 is a side elevation showing the cover locked in its closed position. Fig. 2 is a similar view showing the cover open. Fig. 3 is a view in perspective, with the cover open.

Referring to the drawings, 1 designates a box and 2 the lid or cover therefor hinged at one end.

3 is a combined handle and lock, and is shown in the form of a rod slidably mounted in keepers 4 secured to the outer face of the cover. This rod at or about its center is bent outwardly, at 5, to form a hand grasp. When the lid is closed, as in Fig. 1, the rod is slid forward, its end entering a hole in the free end of a plate 6 pivotally secured to the front of the box. In this way the cover is locked, and the box may be readily lifted for moving from place to place, being grasped at 5. When the box is in use, the rod is slid rearwardly sufficiently to disengage plate 6, and the latter is then turned down out of the way. After the cover is placed in a perpendicular position the rod is still further moved lengthwise, its rear, or now lower, end entering a socket or keeper plate 8 secured to the rear wall of the box. Thus the rod serves, not only as a handle, but as the lock-

ing agency for retaining the cover in either position.

Primarily my invention is designed for a fuel box. For this purpose, the latter is equipped with an inclined partition 9 dividing it into two compartments, the upper one being designed to hold coal, and the lower one wood, access to the latter being had through an end opening 10. On the front or inner face of the lid are hooks 12 from which may be suspended the coal shovel, dust brush, poker, etc. I preferably mount the box on rollers 13, and equip it at one end with a handle 14 by which it may be readily moved on its rollers. But the invention is not confined in its application to a fuel box, since it may be used wherever it is desired to provide a single agency serving the three purposes herein enumerated.

I claim as my invention:—

1. A portable box or receptacle having a hinged lid or cover, a handle for said box composed of a slidable member mounted wholly on the exterior of said cover, and means for cooperating with such member for holding the cover opened.

2. A portable box or receptacle having a hinged lid or cover, a handle for said box composed of a slidable member mounted on the exterior of the lid or cover, means adjacent to the hinged end of the cover for cooperating with such member for holding the cover opened, and means adjacent to the other end of the cover for cooperating with such member for holding it closed.

3. A portable box or receptacle having a hinged lid or cover, a rod mounted on the exterior of said lid or cover and having an outwardly bent portion forming a hand grip, bearings for such rod, a plate secured to the body of the box and having an opening to receive one end of such rod for holding the cover closed, and a second plate secured to the other end of such box for receiving the other end of the rod for holding the cover open.

In testimony whereof, I have signed this specification in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

THOMAS E. BARTON.

Witnesses:

FRANCIS S. MAGUIRE,
VERNON E. WEST.