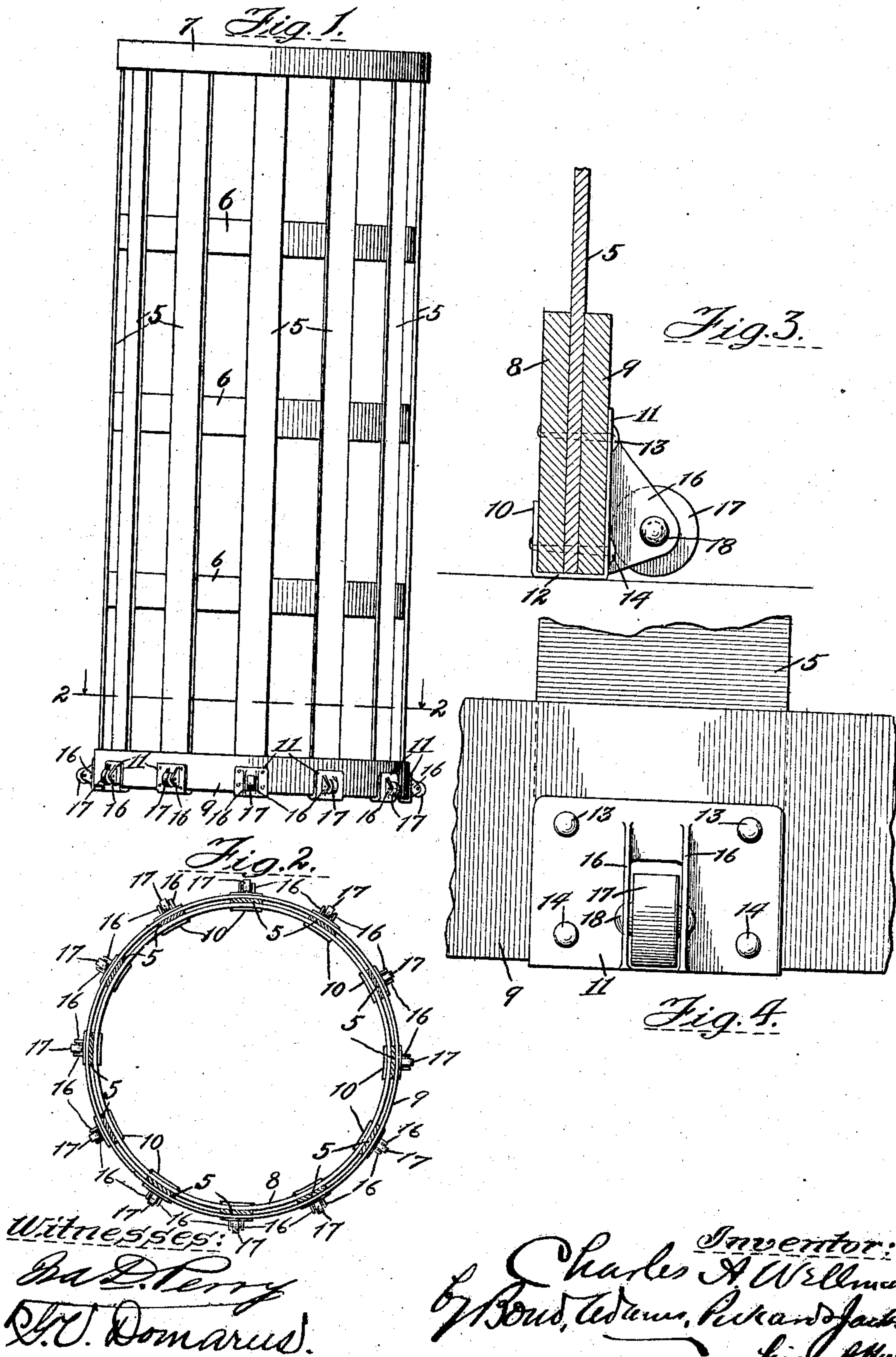


C. A. WELLMAN.
FRUIT CARRIER.
APPLICATION FILED DEC. 29, 1905.

911,634.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.



UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

CHARLES A. WELLMAN, OF OTTUMWA, IOWA.

FRUIT-CARRIER.

No. 911,634.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 9, 1909.

Application filed December 29, 1905. Serial No. 293,832.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, CHARLES A. WELLMAN, a citizen of the United States, residing at Ottumwa, county of Wapello, State of Iowa, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Fruit-Carriers, of which the following is a full and complete specification, reference being had to the accompanying drawings.

10 This invention relates to shipping cases or crates for carrying fruit and other articles, and particularly to crates adapted to carry a bunch of bananas, such crates being known in the trade as "banana-traps". My two ap-
15 plications No. 252,359, filed March 27, 1905 and allowed July 11, 1905, and No. 278,921, filed September 18, 1905 and now pending in the Patent Office, describe and claim this class of crate supported on rollers and
20 adapted to be moved from place to place without excessive wear on the lower end of the crate, thus securing greater ease in handling and very materially lengthening the period of usefulness of the crate. It is desir-
25 able in some instances, however, to have traps or crates rest solidly upon the floor or ground, and yet be provided with suitable roller supports when tilted into position to be dragged from place to place, and it is the ob-
30 ject of my present invention to provide a construction adapted to attain these ends. I accomplish this object by means of the devices shown in the drawings and hereinafter described.

35 That which I believe to be new will be pointed out in the claims.

In the drawings:—Figure 1 is a side elevation of a crate provided with my improved devices. Fig. 2 is a horizontal section at
40 line 2—2 of Fig. 1. Fig. 3 is an enlarged side view of one of my improved brackets and rollers, showing in section the part of the crate to which the bracket is attached. Fig. 4 is an enlarged front view of the parts shown
45 in Fig. 3.

Referring to the drawings:—5 indicates the staves of an ordinary crate, and 6 the intermediate hoops to which the staves 5 are attached in any suitable manner.

50 7 is an upper outside hoop, nailed or otherwise secured to the staves at the top of the crate.

8—9 indicate inner and outer hoops respectively, secured to the staves at the bot-
55 tom of the crate in any suitable manner, or in the manner hereinafter specifically described.

A channel-iron, composed of inner and outer flanges 10 and 11 respectively, and web 12, partially incloses the hoops 8 and 9 and the lower ends of the staves 5. The flange 60 11 is provided with holes through which pass nails 13 which are clenched on the inside of the hoop 8, and the flanges 10 and 11 are provided with suitable holes in register through which pass nails 14, which are clenched on 65 the inside of the flange 10. The channel-iron may, however, be secured to the crate in any other suitable manner. The flange 11 is provided with two outwardly-projecting ears 16, preferably made integral with the 70 flange portion 11. These parts 10, 11, 12 and 16 form a bracket adapted to support a wheel or roller 17 which is mounted loosely on an axle 18 which passes through suitable holes in register in the two ears 16, said axle 75 being secured in any suitable manner. The holes in the ears 16 are so located, and the size of the roller 17 is such that the lowest point of the bearing surface of roller 17 is a short distance above the floor on which the 80 device as a whole rests. The crate is to be provided with a plurality of brackets and rollers arranged at intervals around the crate so that in whichever direction the crate may be tilted when it is to be moved from place 85 to place one or more of the rollers will come in contact with the floor.

The means for holding the fruit securely in the crate forms no part of this invention, and is therefore not shown. 90

In use, when it is desired to move the crate containing fruit or other article or articles, the crate is grasped at the top in any suitable manner, tilted at an angle, and dragged 95 along over the floor or sidewalk. Immediately on tilting the crate to any considerable extent, the weight of the crate is transferred from the outer faces of the webs 12 to one, or possibly two, of the rollers upon the side toward which the crate is tilted, the 100 ears 16 being so shaped, as shown in the drawings, as to permit the roller to bear on the floor over which the crate is being dragged. When the operation of moving the crate is completed, the crate is allowed 105 to assume its normal position, the weight coming again on the outer faces of the webs 12.

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

1. A shipping case having a bottom rim or 110 hoop, and a series of brackets attached thereto, said brackets provided with por-

tions upon which the case is adapted to rest when in an upright position, and a roller journaled in each bracket a short distance above the floor, upon one or more of which
5 rollers the case is adapted to bear when it is tilted.

2. The combination with a shipping case, of a series of brackets arranged around the perimeter thereof upon which the case is
10 adapted to rest when in an upright position, a pair of outstanding ears formed integral with each bracket, and a roller journaled between the ears of each bracket and positioned so that its periphery will be elevated
15 above the floor, substantially as described.

3. A shipping case comprising a bottom rim or hoop having staves attached thereto, a series of brackets arranged around the perimeter of the rim or hoop, fastening
20 devices passing through brackets and through the rim or hoop and staves, said brackets

having portions upon which the case may rest when in an upright position, and a roller carried by each bracket a short distance above the floor, upon one or more of which
25 rollers the case is adapted to bear when tilted.

4. A shipping case comprising a bottom rim having staves attached thereto, a series of brackets arranged around the perimeter
30 of the rim and embracing the bottom and inner and outer faces thereof, fastening means passing through the brackets, rim and staves, and a roller carried by each bracket a short distance above the bottom of each
35 rim upon one or more of which rollers the case is adapted to bear when tilted.

CHARLES A. WELLMAN.

Witnesses:

Mrs. WM. HAVEN,
GRACE G. ENNIS.