

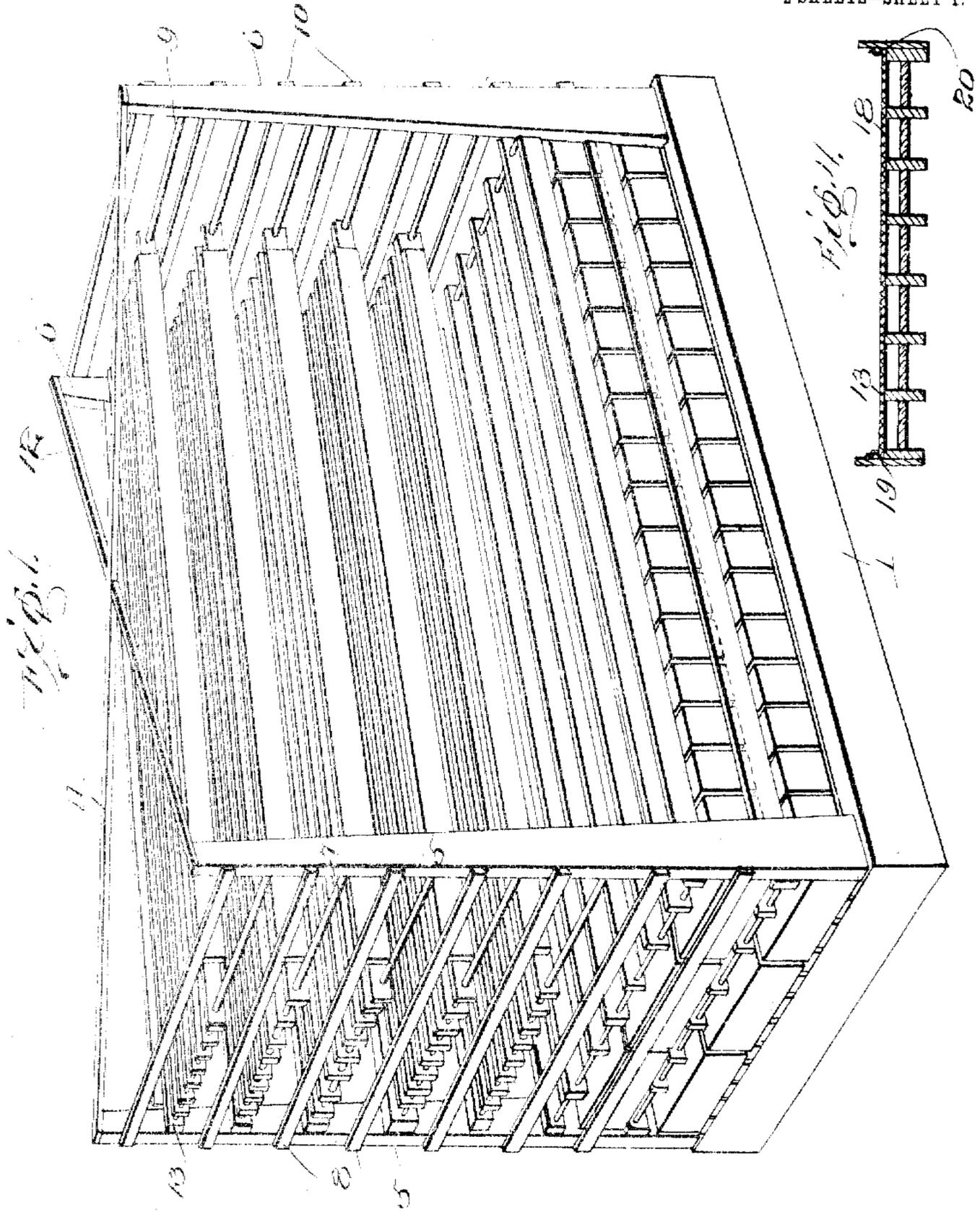
R. A. WILSON.  
COLLAPSIBLE RACK.

APPLICATION FILED JUNE 13, 1908.

916,241.

Patented Mar. 23, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Inventor

Witnesses

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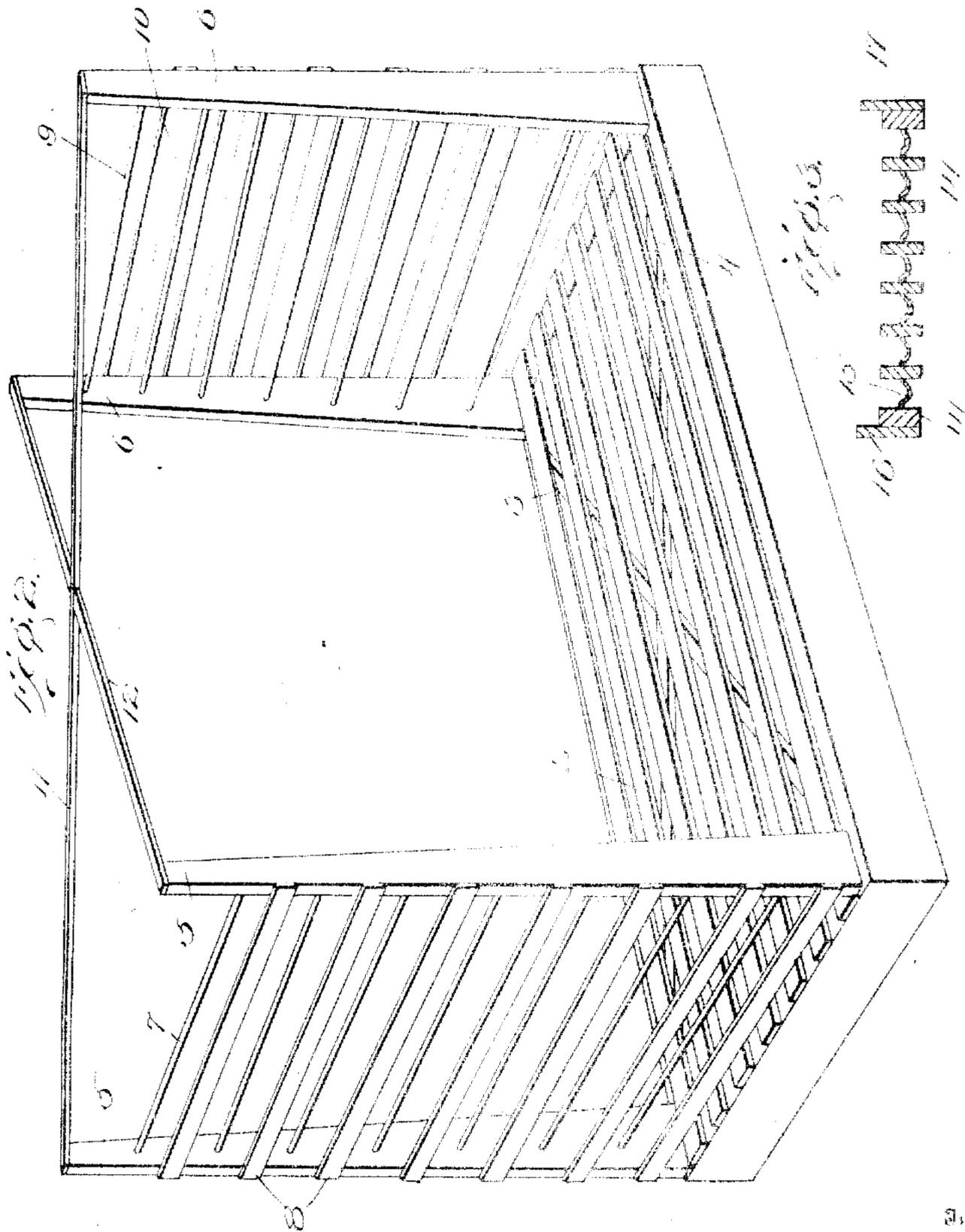
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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

ROLAND A. WILSON, OF TAMPA, FLORIDA.

## COLLAPSIBLE RACK.

No. 916,241.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented March 23, 1909.

Application filed June 13, 1908. Serial No. 438,404.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, ROLAND A. WILSON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Tampa, in the county of Hillsboro and State of Florida, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible Racks; 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.

This invention relates to improvements in racks and trucks, and particularly to racks and trucks having collapsible shelving.

The object in view is the provision of a rack either in the form of a stationary rack or a truck having collapsible shelves arranged so that the same may be successively filled and emptied, and during the filling and emptying of the shelves the shelves not being operated upon being out of the way.

Another object in view is the provision of a rack having collapsible shelves arranged with a plurality of slats and flexible means for causing said slats to be spaced a specified distance apart when the shelf is expanded.

A further object of the invention is the provision of a rack formed with collapsible shelves arranged to slide upon bars held by the frame of the rack and provided with stops or guards upon each side for preventing accidental removal of an article upon the shelving.

A still further object in view is the provision of a collapsible shelf arranged with a flexible covering that collapses with the shelf and expands with the same whereby a small article may be placed upon the shelving without any danger of the same falling there-through.

With these and other objects in view the invention comprises certain novel constructions, combinations, and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more fully described and claimed.

In the accompanying drawing: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rack embodying the features of the present invention, and showing certain of the shelves collapsed and others expanded. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a framework forming part of the present invention. Fig. 3 is a cross section through one of the collapsible shelves, the same being shown partially expanded or extended. Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view through a collapsible shelf similar to Fig. 3, but extended for

its full distance, and having secured thereto a flexible covering.

Referring to the drawing by numerals, 1 indicates a base provided with a slotted bottom 2 which has the slats comprising the bottom spaced apart, as clearly seen in Fig. 2. A pair of cross bracing rods 3 and 4 are provided for base 1 for preventing any twisting thereof. Projecting from base 1 is a plurality of uprights 5--5 and 6--6. The uprights 5--5 are connected by rods 7 and bars or stops 8, while uprights 6--6 are connected by rods 9 and bars 10. Connecting the respective uprights 5--5 and 6--6 are braces or cross rods 11 and 12. The braces 11 and 12 firmly hold the upper end of uprights 5--5 and 6--6 in correct position, and prevent any undue sagging thereof. Rods 7 and 9 are adapted to support a plurality of collapsible shelves 13 and bars or guards 8 and 10 are used to prevent the articles supported by the respective shelves from falling off the ends thereof. The respective shelves 13 are provided with a plurality of slats 14 connected by a flexible member 15 as, for instance, a cord or small flexible cable in order to properly space the respective bars 14 when the shelving has been expanded. Secured to the side slats 14 are fenders or guards 16 and 17 that project above slats 14 and prevent the accidental removal of anything placed upon the shelf. These guards, together with guards 8 and 10 will effectually prevent any accidental removal from the shelf in either direction. Each of the slats or bars 14 is provided with an aperture in each end through which the respective rods 7 and 9 pass, as clearly seen in Fig. 1, for supporting the shelf in position. The guards 16 and 17 preferably fall short of the ends of slats 14 so as to fit in between the respective uprights 5--5 and 6--6.

Positioned upon each of the shelves 13 is a flexible covering 18 that may be made from canvas, wire netting, or other flexible material. The covering 18 is preferably secured to the side of the shelving as at 19 and 20 though if desired the same may be simply placed loosely upon the shelves. It will also be evident that the covering may be removed as shown in Fig. 1 and the shelves used to advantage when the articles placed thereon are of considerable size, as for instance cigar boxes.

The rack is adapted to be used as a stationary holder or rack or may be mounted

upon wheels and be used as a truck, the rack feature being the important part. Whether used as a stationary rack or as a truck the operation is the same. When it is desired to fill the rack with any desired article, as for instance, tobacco boxes that have just been pasted for drying all of the shelves are pushed back or collapsed and the boxes placed upon the slats or bottom 2 until the same is covered. The first shelf from the bottom is then pulled out until the same is properly expanded and then is filled with boxes. After the second shelf has been filled the third shelf is pulled out and filled, and so on until the entire rack has been filled. In removing the boxes or other articles placed upon the shelves the procedure is reversed, and the boxes are first taken off the top shelf and that shelf collapsed, and then the boxes removed from the second shelf and that is collapsed. The boxes of the succeeding shelves are removed and the respective shelves collapsed in succession until all the boxes have been removed from the entire rack. This is very convenient as it is no necessary to stoop down and place the boxes beneath the shelf, but the same may always be placed upon the top of the shelf and there are no shelves on top of the shelf that is pulled out or expanded. By this arrangement of collapsible shelving the rack has the appearance of being loaded from the top shelf at all times. Another advantage secured is that the shelves may be placed close together and yet the boxes inserted and removed freely without any inconvenience, which would not be true if the shelving was stationary and the operator was compelled

to slide the boxes in to their respective places.

What I claim is:

1. In a rack, a framework, a plurality of collapsible shelves arranged in tiers, bars secured to said framework for supporting said shelves, guards arranged on the end of said shelves, and movable means mounted on each of said shelves for preventing the accidental removal of articles therefrom.

2. In a rack, a framework, a plurality of independent contractible shelves arranged in tiers in said framework, means for supporting said shelves, a movable guard arranged on each side of each of said shelves, and a stationary guard secured to said framework at each end of each shelf.

3. In a rack for supporting packages, a framework, and a plurality of collapsible shelves, each of said shelves being formed with a plurality of bars, means for connecting the same, and means for preventing an article placed thereon from being accidentally removed.

4. In a rack for supporting articles, a frame, and a collapsible shelf, said collapsible shelf comprising a plurality of supporting bars, a flexible member connecting each of said bars, and permitting the same to be spaced apart, and means mounted on each side of said shelf for preventing the accidental removal of articles placed thereon.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

ROLAND A. WILSON.

Witnesses:

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