

L. D. FOWLER.
BANANA GRATE.
APPLICATION FILED NOV. 10, 1905.

920,311.

Patented May 4, 1909.

Fig. 1.

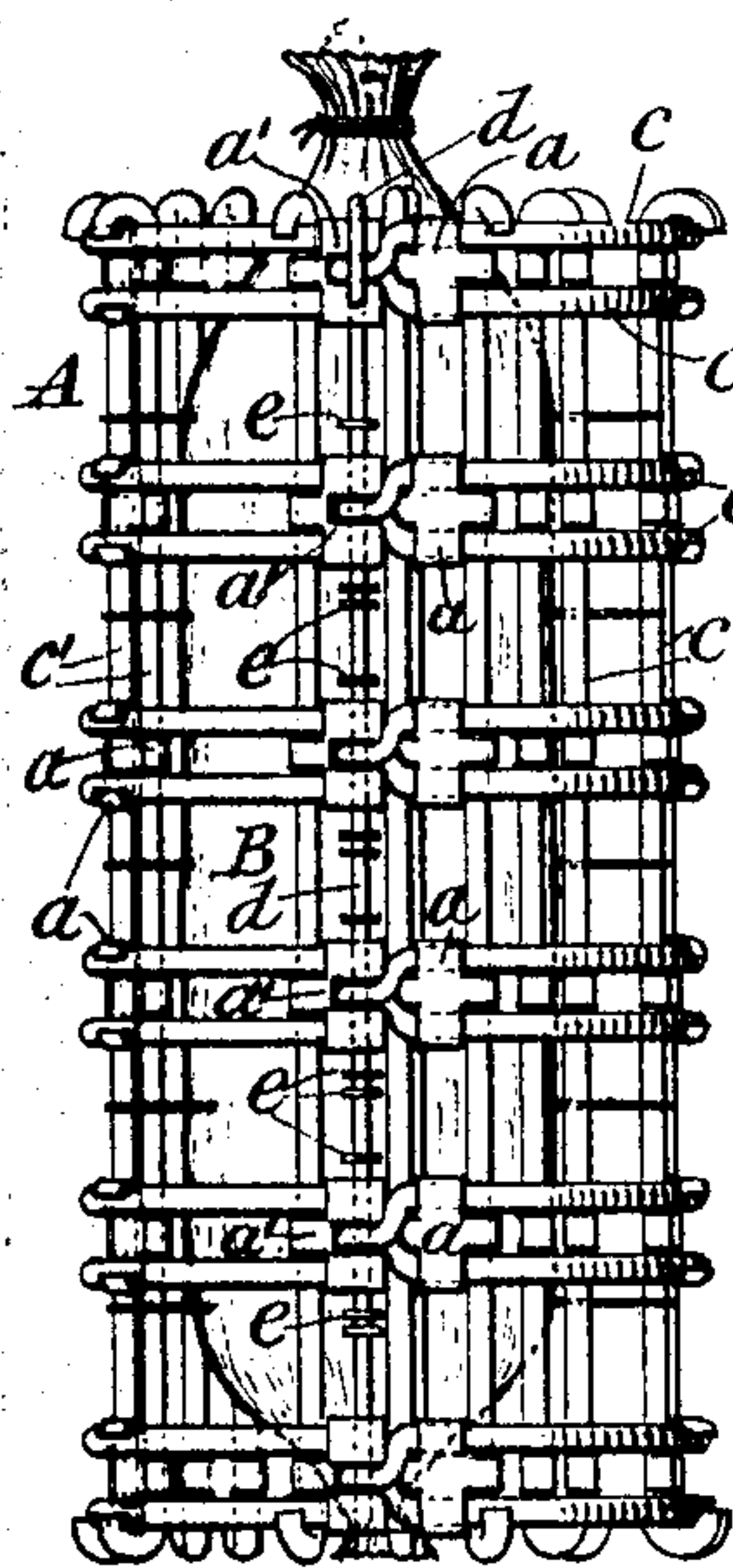


Fig. 2.

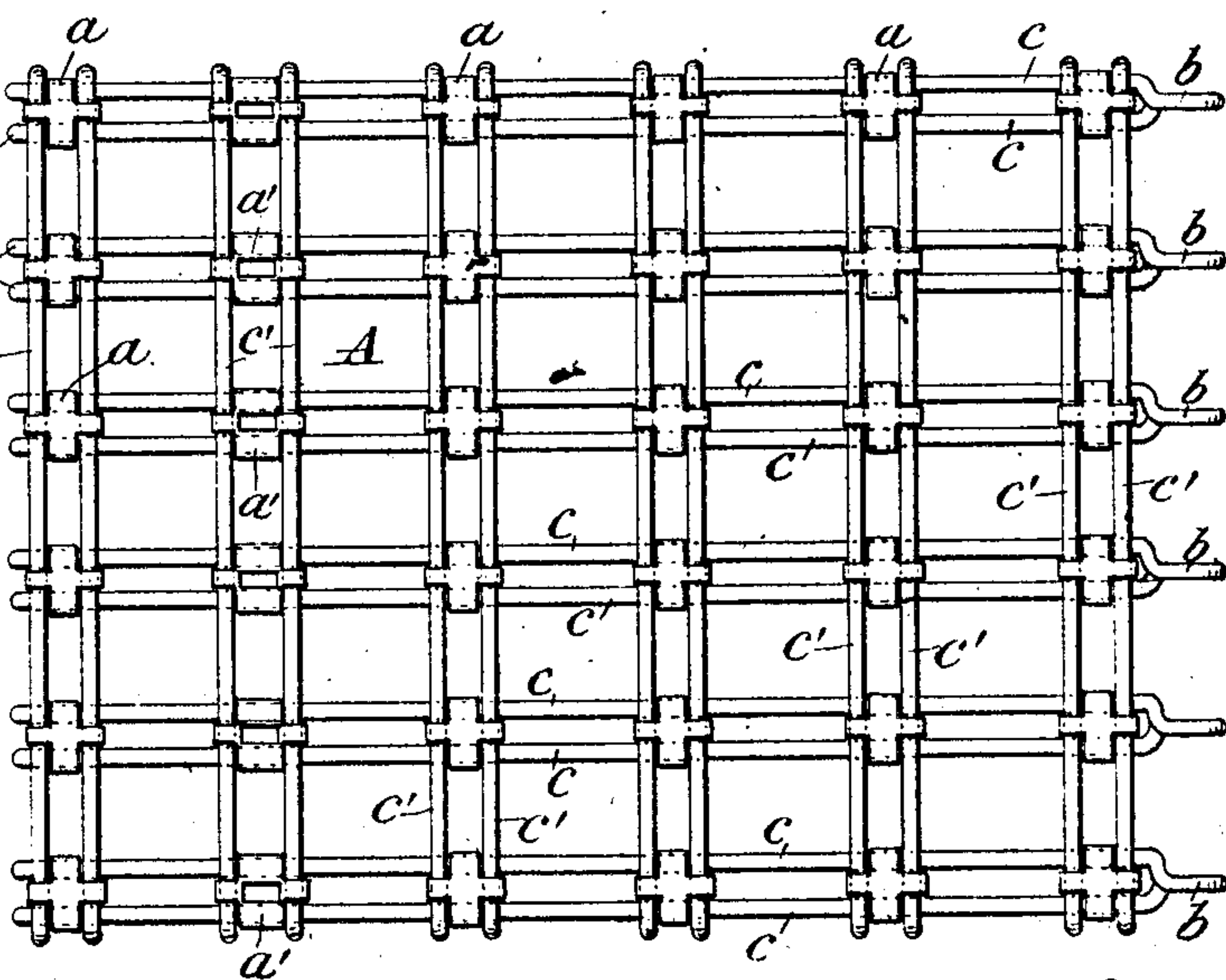


Fig. 3.

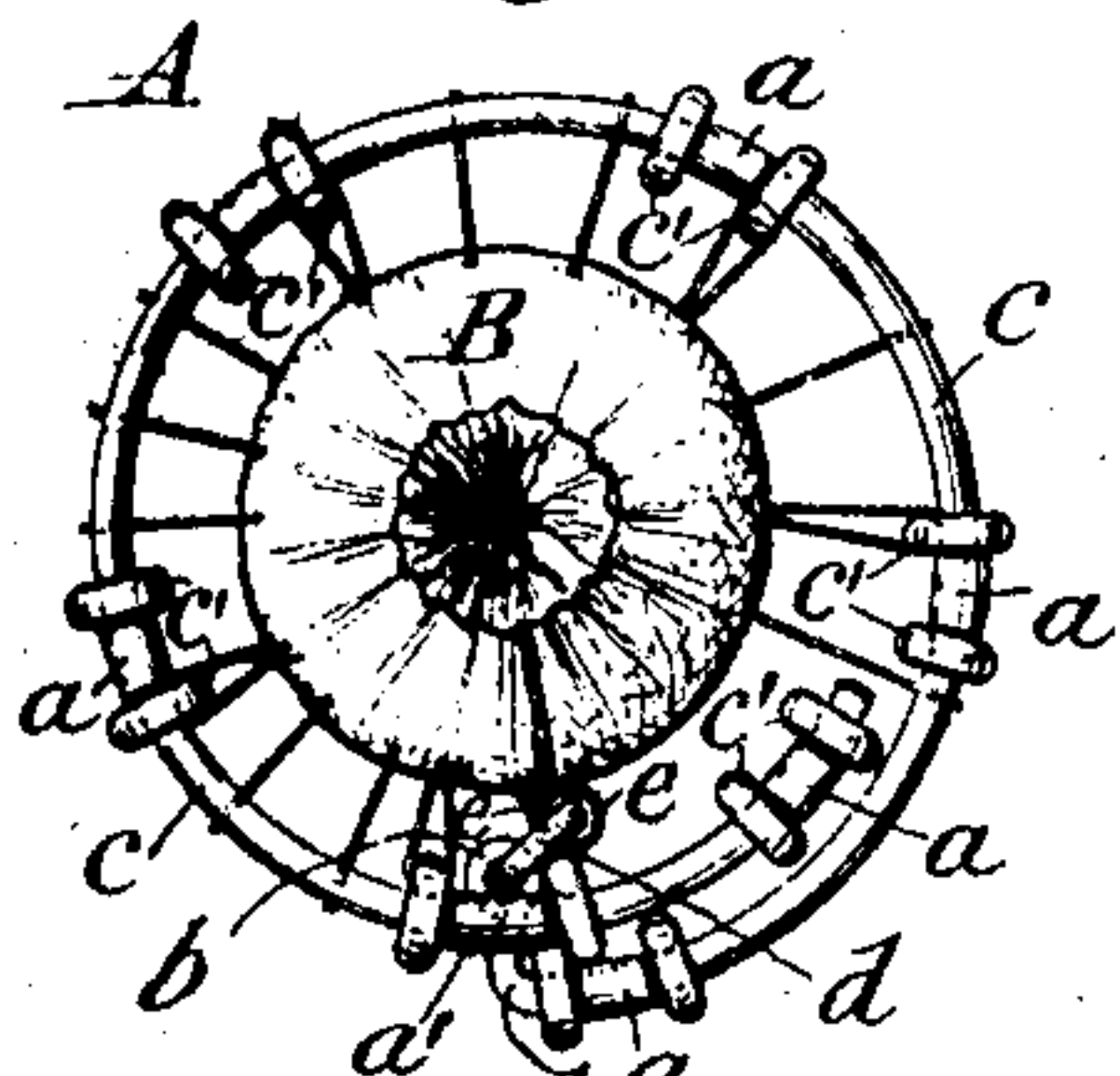
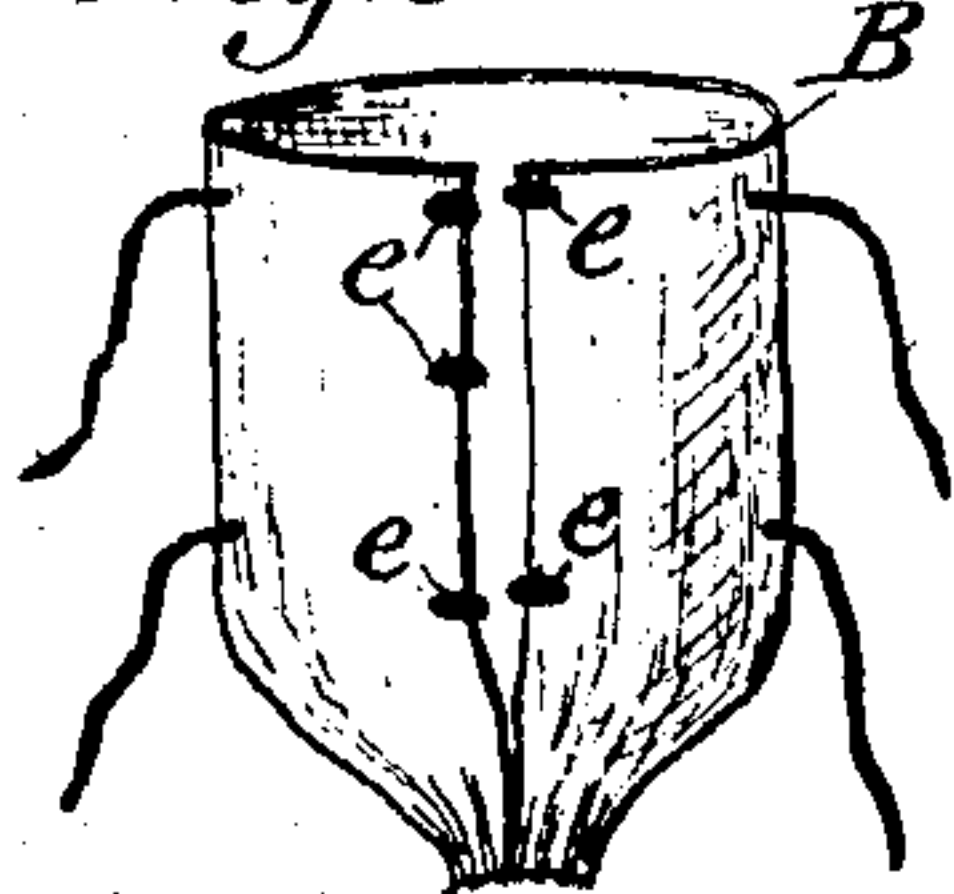


Fig. 8. b



Witnesses:

John R. Lurlog
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Fig. 7.

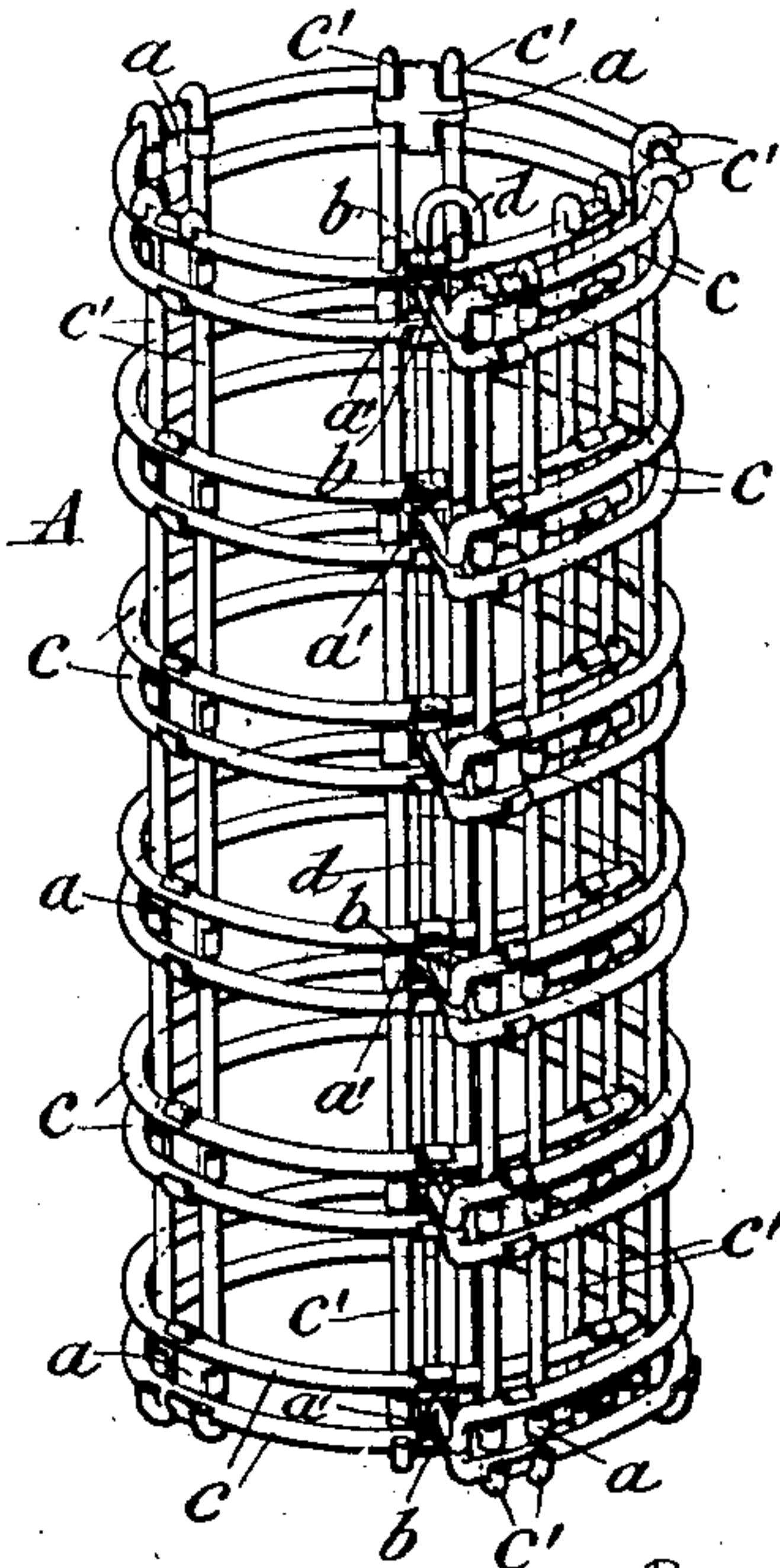


Fig. 6.

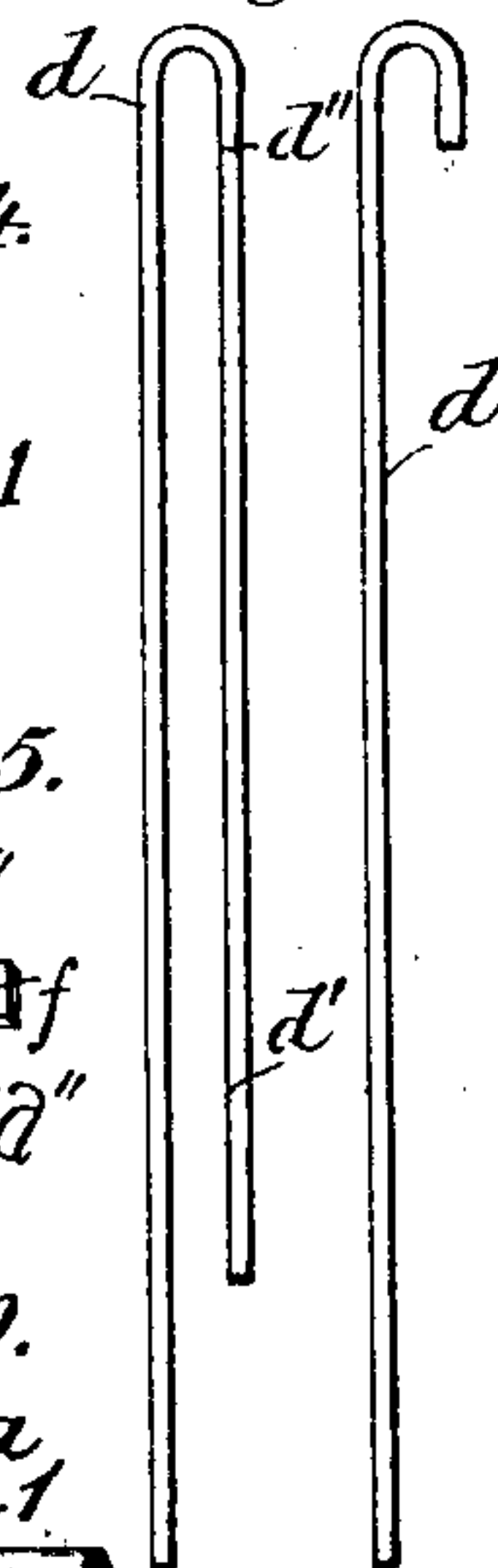


Fig. 4.

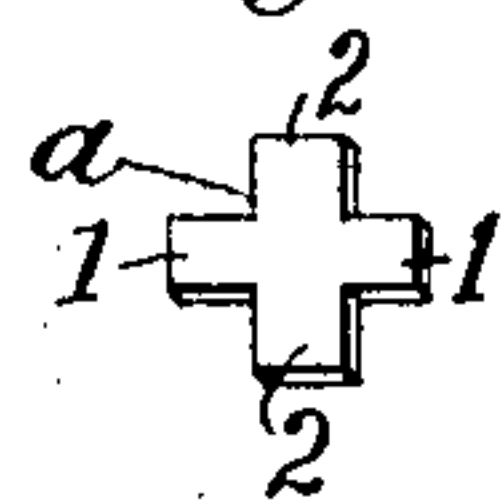


Fig. 5.

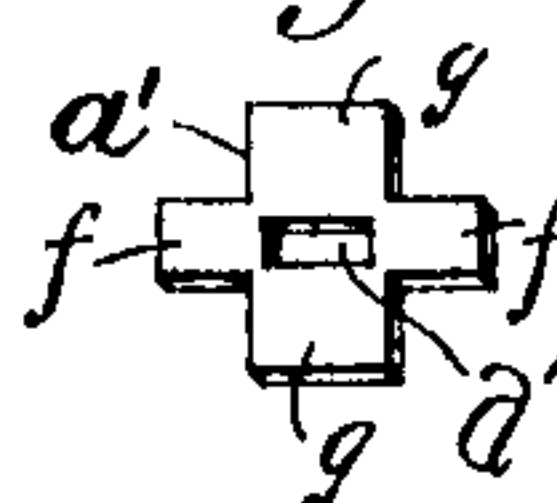
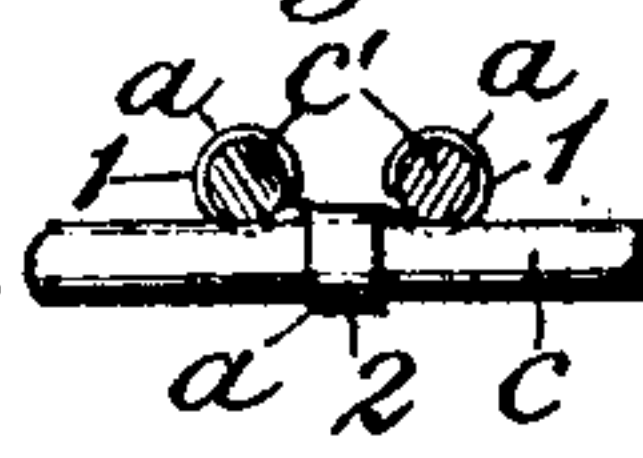


Fig. 9.



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

LEWIS D. FOWLER, OF OKLAHOMA, OKLAHOMA, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO A. D. MARBLE,
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BANANA-CRATE.

No. 920,311.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented May 4, 1909.

Application filed November 10, 1905. Serial No. 286,669.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, LEWIS D. FOWLER, a citizen of the United States, residing at Oklahoma city, in the county of Oklahoma and State of Oklahoma, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Banana-Crates, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to banana crates, of that class designed for containing and transporting individual bunches of the fruit, and consists of a series of spring wire ribs or hoops secured to longitudinal wires by means of clamps at their intersections, forming a rectangular open-work body which forms a cylinder when its contacting edges are united; it is provided with a loosely attached lining having its vertical edges adapted to be united and separated at will.

The objects of my invention are; first, to provide a durable crate for containing and transporting individual bunches of bananas; second, one which will fully protect the fruit; third, one which will occupy a minimum space when not in use and being stored by being opened out and laid one upon the other upon the floor. I attain these objects by the mechanism illustrated in the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view in elevation of one of my crates prepared for transportation; Fig. 2 is a view of the crate in position for storage being opened out and its inner portion placed upon the floor; Fig. 3 is a plan view of the crate as in use; Fig. 4 is a perspective view of one style of the clamps used in securing the ribs and the upright wires together; Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the slotted or latching clamps through which the eyes of the latching edge pass; Fig. 6 is a view of the wire latching staple which latches the crate and the lining simultaneously securing them in position during active service. Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the crate frame. Fig. 8 is a side view of portion of the bag. Fig. 9 is a view of a fragment of the frame showing the binding piece.

Similar characters refer to similar parts in the several views.

Referring to the drawings, A is the crate body composed of a series of pairs of vertical or longitudinal wires *c* rigidly secured by clamps *a* to transverse pairs of spring wires *c* at their intersections; the vertical wires *a*

have each of their ends bent around the outer member of the outside or external pair of transverse spring wires *a*. To provide means for latching the crate body into a cylindrical form the transverse wires or ribs *c* have their loop ends give a quarter-turn bringing the two members in contact, forming an eye *b* which is also bent at nearly a right angle sufficient to extend well through the opening or slot *a''* in the clamps *a'*, which style of clamps is used to secure in place the second pair of vertical wires *c'* from the left or free end of the crate body; the transverse wires or ribs have their ends opposite the said eyes bent around the left or external vertical wire *a* to add to the strength and appearance, of the crate body.

The clamp *a* consists of a body of sheet metal and has four oppositely extending members 1, 1 adapted to be pressed around and grip the vertical pairs of wires *c'* and 2, 2 the pairs of transverse wires or ribs *c* at their intersections, except where otherwise provided. The slotted clamp *a'* has a body portion provided with a slot *a''* therein and four oppositely extending members *f*, *f* and *g*, *g*, the former bending around the vertical wires *c'* and the latter bending in an opposite direction around the ribs *c* securing them rigidly in place.

The crate lining B is loosely attached to the wires thereof and has its meeting edges provided with facing rings *e* through which the short member *d'* of the latching or locking staple passes as the long member *d* passes through the eyes *b*; the said locking staple (*b''*) being a stiff wire bent U shaped, having its extended members parallel and one shorter than the other.

When the crate A is formed into a cylinder as in use the crate-lining becomes a banana sack centrally suspended within the crate an inch or more therefrom to prevent contact with the crate when filled with fruit, a cord being tied around the lower end of the sack (B) before the fruit is placed therein and the upper end after the fruit is placed therein.

In operation, take the crate from its place of storage in the form shown in Fig. 2, bring the right and left edges together, pass the left edge inside and past the right edge and press the eyes *b* into the clamp-slots *a''*; take the locking-staple *d''* and extend the long member *d* through the eyes *b* and the short member *d'* through the facing rings *e*; tie the

lower end of the sack B; place the bunch of bananas in the sack and tie the top with a cord and the crate is ready for transportation, either on end or lying down. When it is desired to prepare the crate for storage, untie the sack B, remove the locking-staple *d''* the eyes *b* from the slots *a''* and unroll the crate to the form shown in Fig. 2 or as nearly that form as the tension of the ribs *c* will force it, in which position they can be placed one upon another and thus occupy a comparatively small space.

Having thus described my invention what I claim as new and useful and desire to secure by Letters Patent is--

1. As an article of manufacture; a banana crate composed of a series of pairs of longitudinal wires or rods *e'* having secured there-to a series of pairs of transverse ribs *c* each of said ribs having a bow portion formed into an eye *b* projecting slightly beyond the border of the gate-like framework and bent inwardly for latching purposes; clamps *a'* having slots *a''* therein securing said pairs of longitudinal wires or rods to said pairs of ribs and the said slots being adapted to receive the said eyes when the said framework is rolled into a cylindrical form during active service; a crate lining B loosely attached to and suspended from said framework and having its meeting edges provided with lacing rings *e*; a latching staple *d''* having one of its members shorter and passing through the said lacing rings to form a sack the longer member being passed through the said eyes to latch the framework into a cylindrical form, the free

end of said framework passing inside and beyond the point of engagement of said eyes and slots to maintain a cylindrical form, as described.

2. In a banana crate composed of a wire framework and adapted to be latched into a cylindrical form; a crate lining being loosely attached to and suspended from said framework and having its meeting edges provided with lacing rings; a tie or lacing rod passing through said rings forming a protecting sack for the fruit.

3. In a banana crate composed of a series of pairs of longitudinal wires and a series of pairs of transverse wires; the clamps *a'* having a body portion with a slot *a''* therein and oppositely extending members *ff* bending in one direction and oppositely extending members *g g* bending in the opposite direction from the aforesaid members to secure at their intersections the penultimate pair of longitudinal wires to the pairs of transverse wires; the eyes *b* formed upon the staple ends of said pairs of transverse wires and adapted to be inserted into said slots when said framework is rolled into a cylindrical form; a latching rod passing through said eyes to retain the same within said slots during active service, substantially as described.

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

LEWIS D. FOWLER

Witnesses:

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GEO. H. BRAUER.