

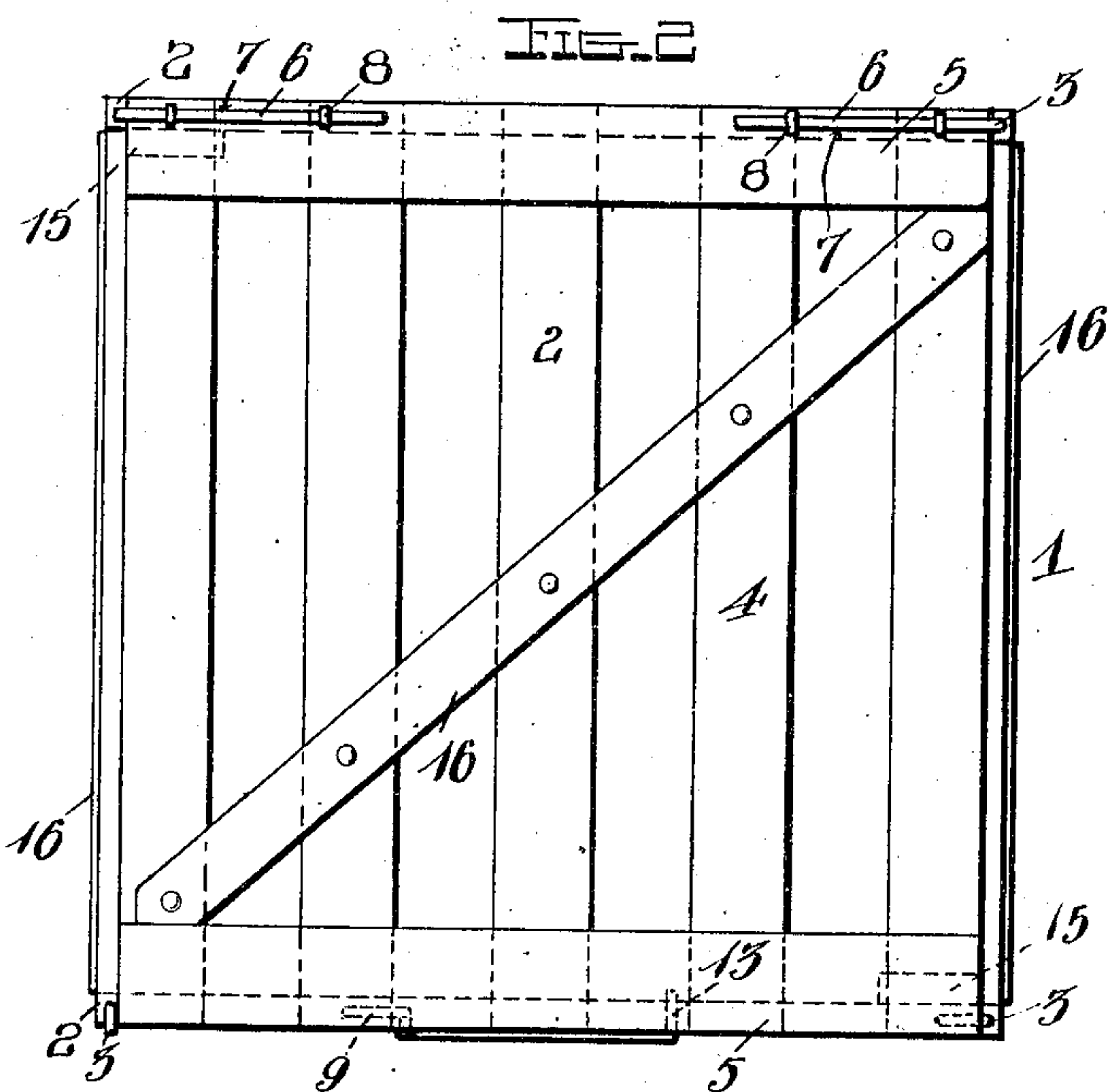
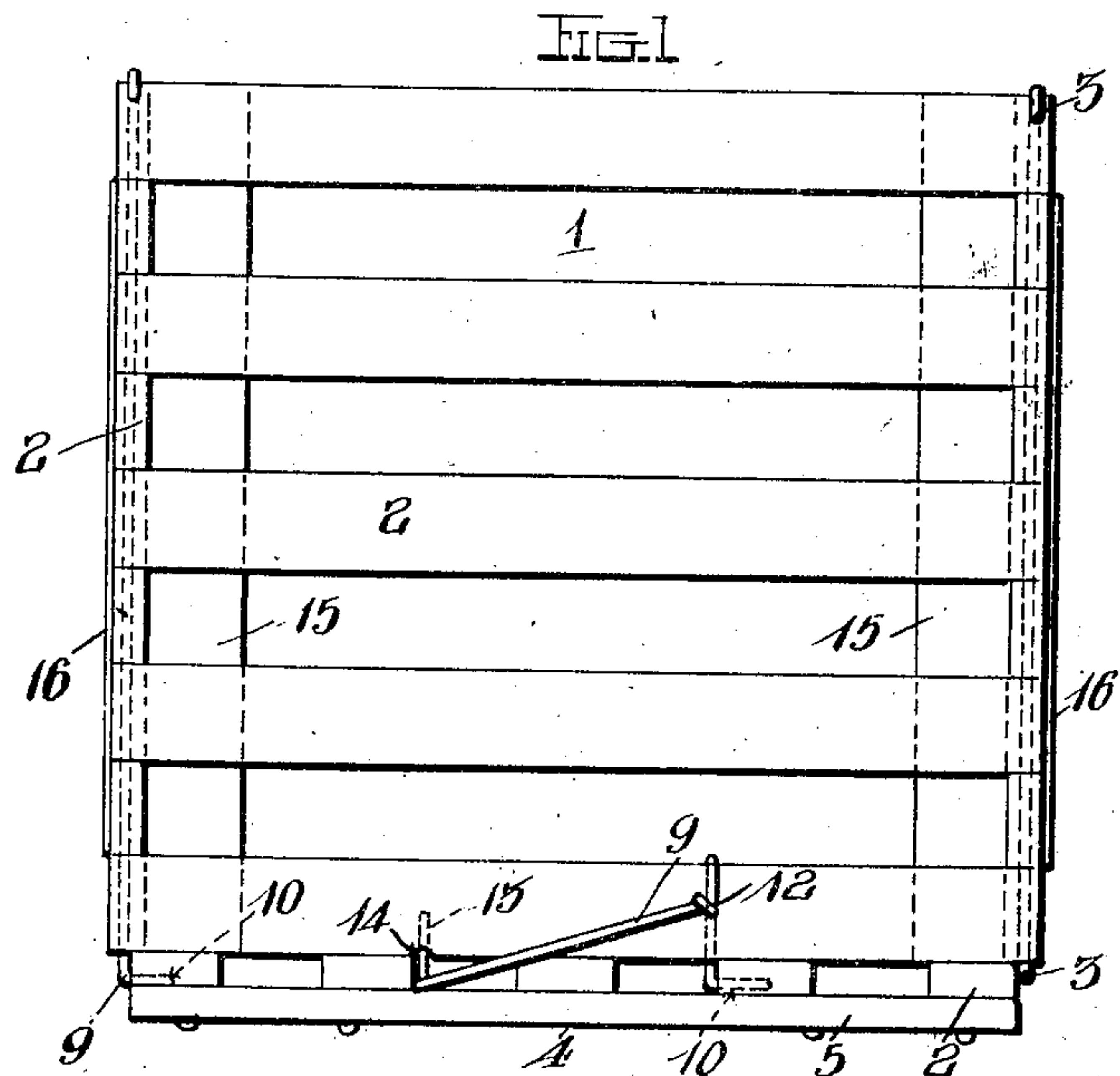
J. WOODS.
FOLDING CRATE.

APPLICATION FILED FEB. 18, 1909.

925,408.

Patented June 15, 1909.

2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



Witnesses
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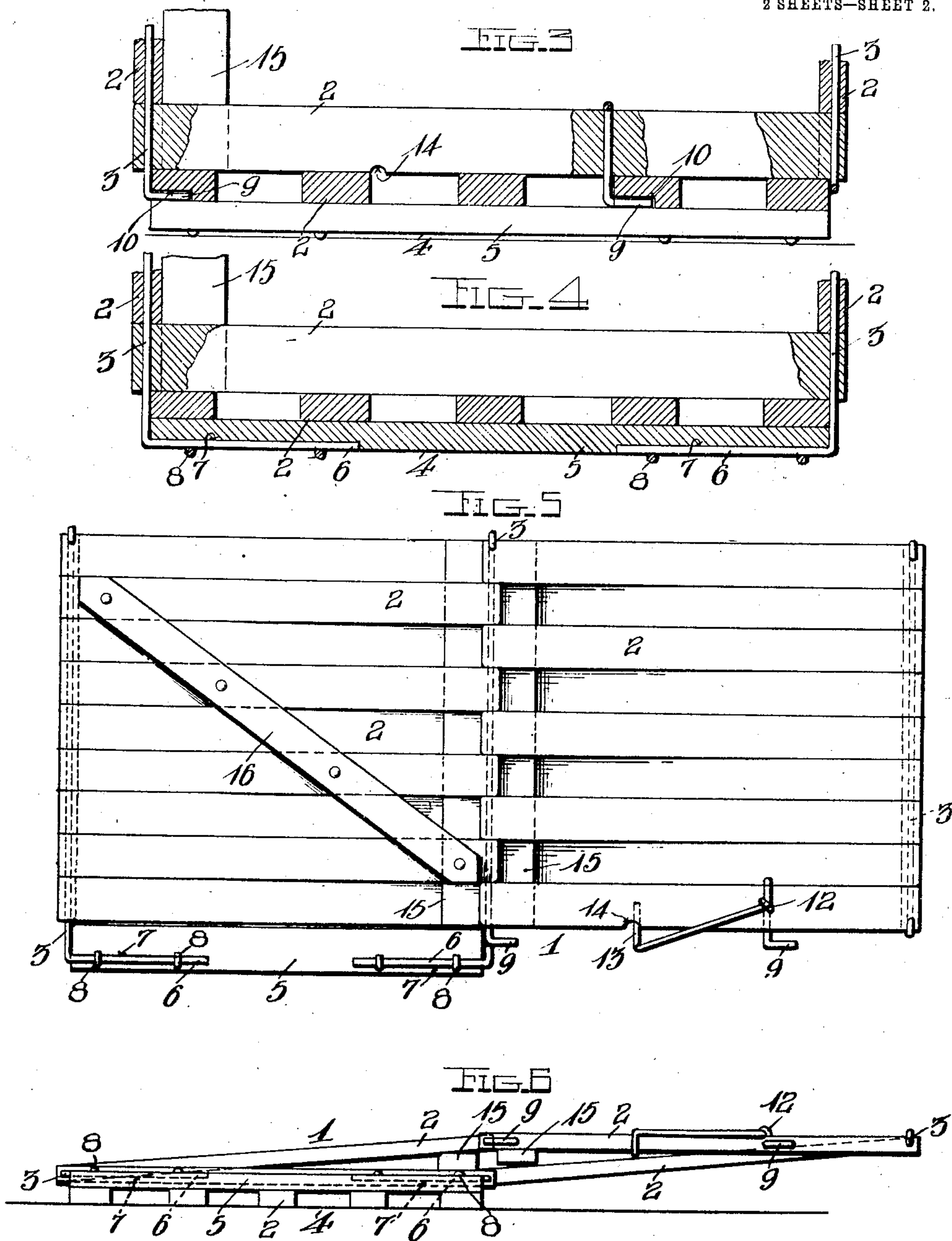
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Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN WOODS, OF UNITY, MAINE, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-THIRD TO CHARLES C. FOWLER, OF
UNITY, MAINE, AND ONE-THIRD TO EZRA A. CARPENTER, OF BROOKS, MAINE.

FOLDING CRATE.

No. 925,408.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented June 15, 1909.

Application filed February 18, 1909. Serial No. 478,634.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN WOODS, a citizen of the United States, residing at Unity, in the county of Waldo and State of Maine, have
5 invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates; and I do 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
10 appertains to make and use the same.

This invention relates to improvements in folding crates.

The object of the invention is to provide a crate which may be folded into compact form
15 when not in use, whereby the same may be closely packed and readily transported.

Another object is to provide a folding crate, the connected ends of the sides of which form hinges, whereby said sides may
20 be folded together.

A further object is to provide a crate having the bottom section hinged at one edge to fold against the side of the crate and having means to automatically lock said bottom in
25 operative position.

With these and other objects in view, the invention consists of certain novel features of construction, combination and arrangement of parts, as will be more fully described and
30 particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

In the accompanying drawings: Figure 1 is a front view of a crate constructed in accordance with the invention; Fig. 2 is a bottom
35 plan view; Fig. 3 is a detail vertical sectional view of the bottom and the lower portion of the front of the crate, showing the construction of the bottom fastening devices; Fig. 4 is a detail vertical section of the bottom and
40 lower portion of the rear side of the crate showing the arrangement of the hinged members for the bottom; Fig. 5 is a side view of the crate in folded position; and Fig. 6 is a bottom plan view of the crate folded as
45 shown in Fig. 5.

Referring more particularly to the drawings, 1 denotes the crate which may be of any suitable construction and is here shown as having its sides and bottom formed of a series
50 of slats 2. The ends of the slats forming the sides of the crate are hingedly connected together by pivot rods 3, said rods extending entirely through the sides of the crate and having their upper ends bent outwardly and
55 downwardly into engagement with the upper

slats, whereby said upper ends of the rods are secured.

The bottom 4 of the crate has its slats spaced apart and secured together at their opposite ends by cross bars 5. The bottom 60 4 is engaged with the lower slats of the front and rear sides of the crate and said bottom is hingedly secured to the rear side of the crate by hinge members 6 which are formed by the projecting right-angularly bent ends of the
65 pivot rods 3 hingedly connecting the rear and side portions of the crate. The right-angularly bent ends of the members 6 are loosely engaged with grooves 7 formed in the lower side of the rear cross bar 5 of the bottom, and
70 said ends are held in operative engagement with said cross bar by staples 8.

The front edge of the bottom 4 is secured to the front side of the crate by means of suitable fastening devices, said devices comprising downwardly-projecting, right-angularly formed hooks 9, which are adapted to be engaged with sockets or recesses 10
75 formed in two of the slats of the bottom, as is clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings. 80 One of the hooks 9 is formed by a continuation of the pivot rod 3 which hingedly connects the ends of the front and side slats at one corner of the crate. The other fastening hook 9 is formed from a wire rod which
85 is inserted through the bottom slat of the front side of the crate and projects below said slat and is bent at right-angles, as hereinbefore described. The opposite end of the rod is bent around the outer side of the slat
90 and is secured by a staple 12, as shown. The rod, after being secured by the staple 12, is extended downwardly and then bent rearwardly and upwardly to form a spring latch or detent 13, which, when the bottom is in
95 operative position and the fastening hooks 9 engaged therewith, will spring against one of the slats forming the bottom and thereby hold said bottom in locked engagement with the fastening hooks. The upwardly bent
100 end of the detent 13 engages the inner side of the bottom slat of the front of the crate and forms a guide, so that when the detent is forced upwardly into engagement with the lower edge of the bottom slat of the front
105 side, said bottom may be moved laterally to a sufficient extent to disengage the slats thereof from the fastening hooks, thus permitting the bottom to be swung back on the hinged members 6. The lower edge of the 110

bottom slat of the front side of the crate is preferably notched, as shown at 14, to receive the laterally bent end of the detent 13, when the latter is retracted, so that said end will lie flush with the lower edge of the bottom slat, and will not interfere with the lateral movement of the bottom when the latter is disengaged from the fastening hooks.

To the inner side of the front and rear sides of the crate adjacent to one end of said sides are secured vertically disposed stop bars 15 which, when the crate is in an operative position, are engaged by the slats of the opposite sides. Said stop bars serve to limit the movement of the slatted sides of the crate and to hold the same in position to form the crate. If desired, the sides and bottom of the crate may be strengthened by diagonally arranged brace-bars 16.

While I have herein shown and described the crate as being open at its top, it is obvious that I may, if desired, provide a top section and hingedly connect the same to one of the sides of the crate in the same manner as shown and described in connection with the bottom section.

A crate constructed as herein shown and described is especially designed for the purpose of gathering potatoes or fruit in the field and transporting the same in the crates to the place where they are to be stored, thus saving the time and labor of emptying each receptacle as is usually done when the potatoes or fruit are gathered in baskets.

From the foregoing description, taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, the construction and operation of the invention will be readily understood without requiring a more extended explanation.

Various changes in the form, proportion and the minor details of construction may be resorted to without departing from the principle or sacrificing any of the advantages of this invention as defined in the appended claims.

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is:—

1. A crate of the character described, comprising side members, pivot rods to hingedly connect the ends of said side members together at the corners of the crate, a bottom section, hinged members formed by the extended right-angularly bent ends of two of said pivot rods to hingedly connect said bottom with one side of the crate, fastening hooks arranged on the lower edge of the opposite side of the crate, and adapted to be engaged with the free edge of the bottom and a spring detent adapted to automatically engage said bottom and to hold the same in locked connection with said fastening hooks.

2. A crate of the character described, comprising slatted sides, pivot rods to hingedly connect the slatted sides together at the corners of the crate, a slatted bottom section, means to brace said sides and bottom, hinge members formed by right-angularly bent extensions of two of said pivot rods, means to pivotally secure the hinge members into engagement with the bottom of the crate, bottom fastening hooks arranged on the front or opposite side of the crate from said hinged members, said fastening hooks being adapted to engage the free end of the bottom when in an operative position, a detent comprising a spring-controlled rod secured to the lower edge of the front side of the crate, and adapted to spring into engagement with one of the slats of the bottom, thereby holding said bottom into locked engagement with the fastening hooks.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand in presence of two subscribing witnesses.

JOHN WOODS.

Witnesses:

LILLIAN A. DRAKE,
L. W. DRAKE.