

R. M. SKILES & P. H. BALDWIN.

FOLDING EGG CASE.

APPLICATION FILED MAR. 11, 1908.

929,634.

Patented July 27, 1909.

Fig. 1.

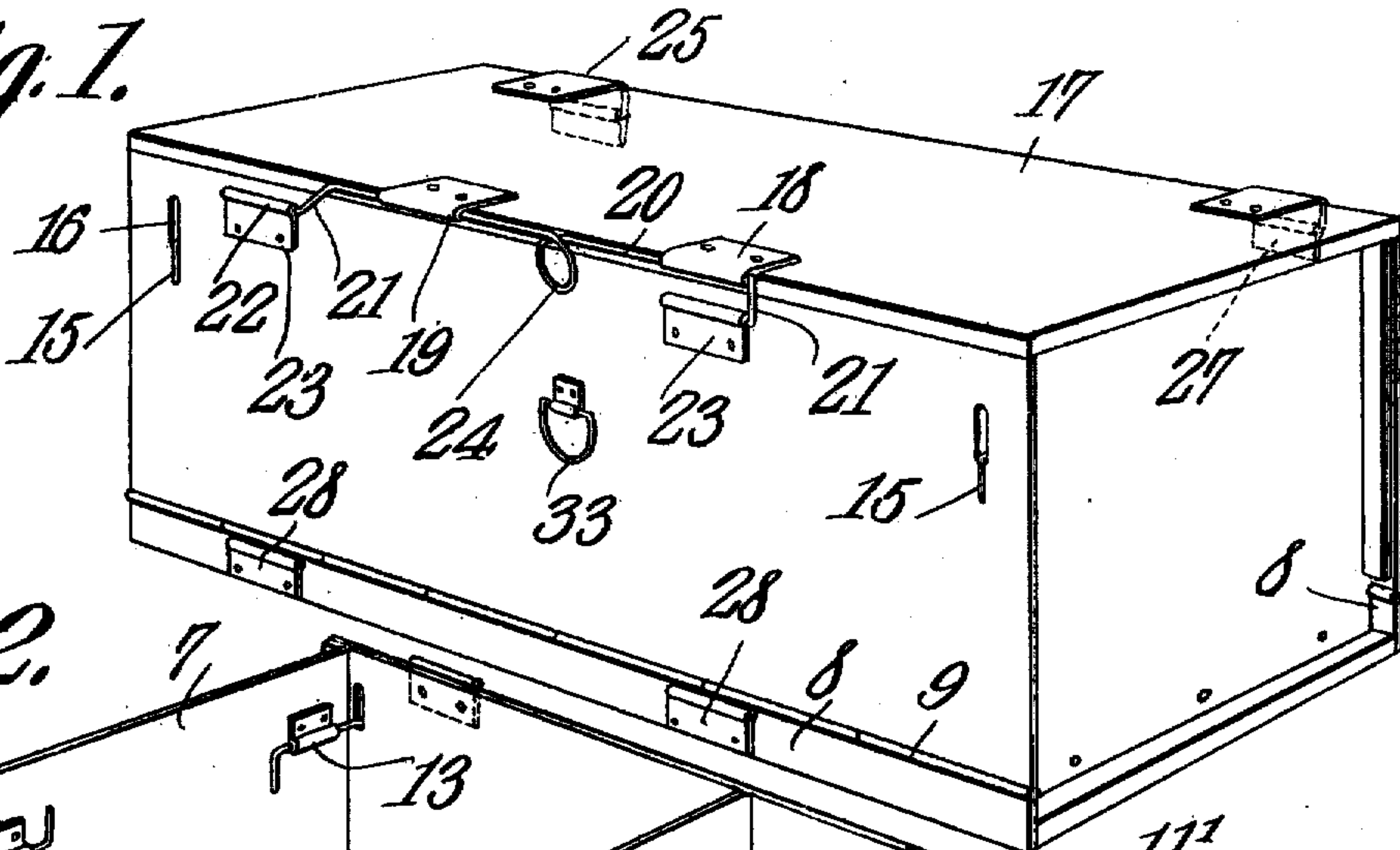


Fig. 2.

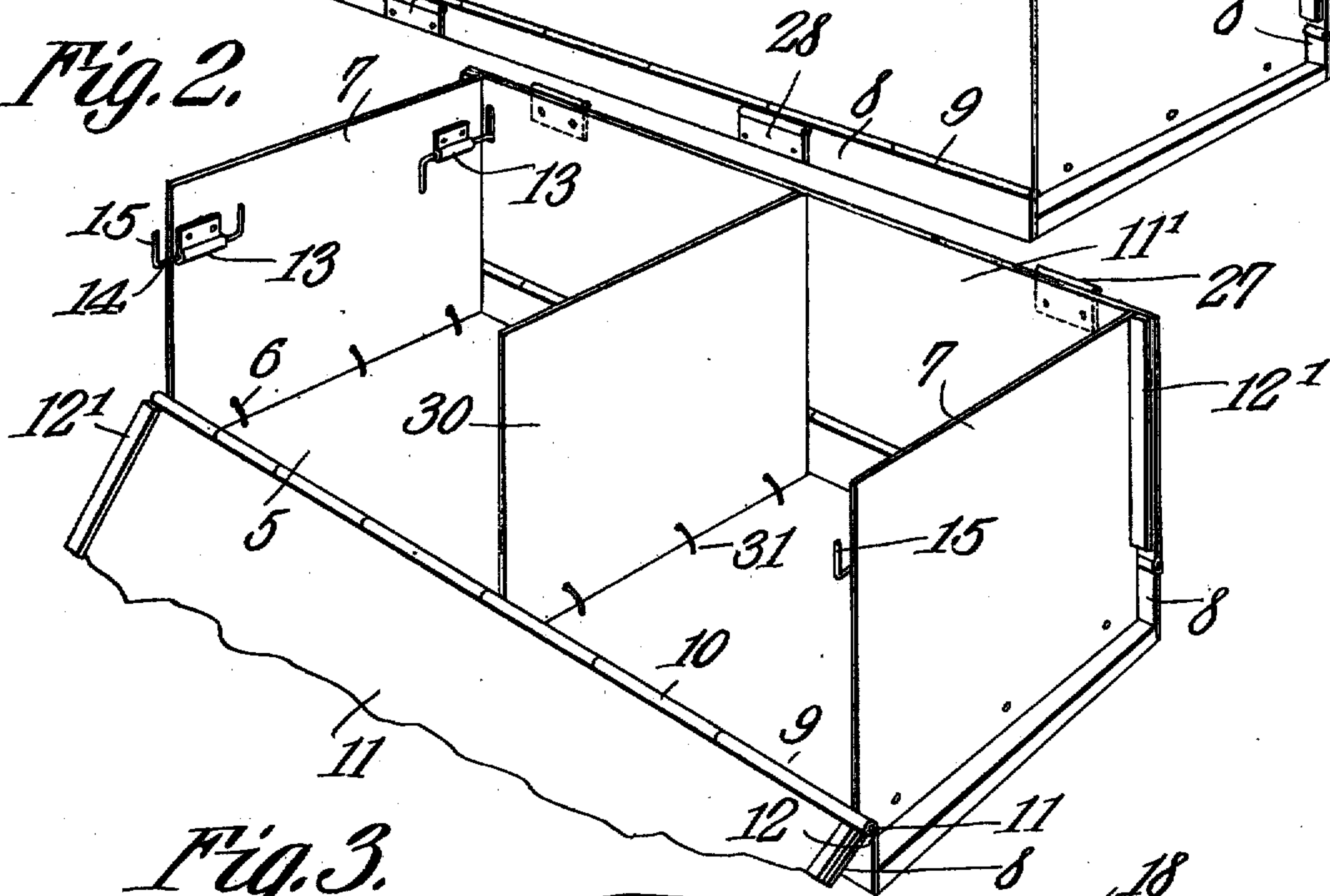


Fig. 3.

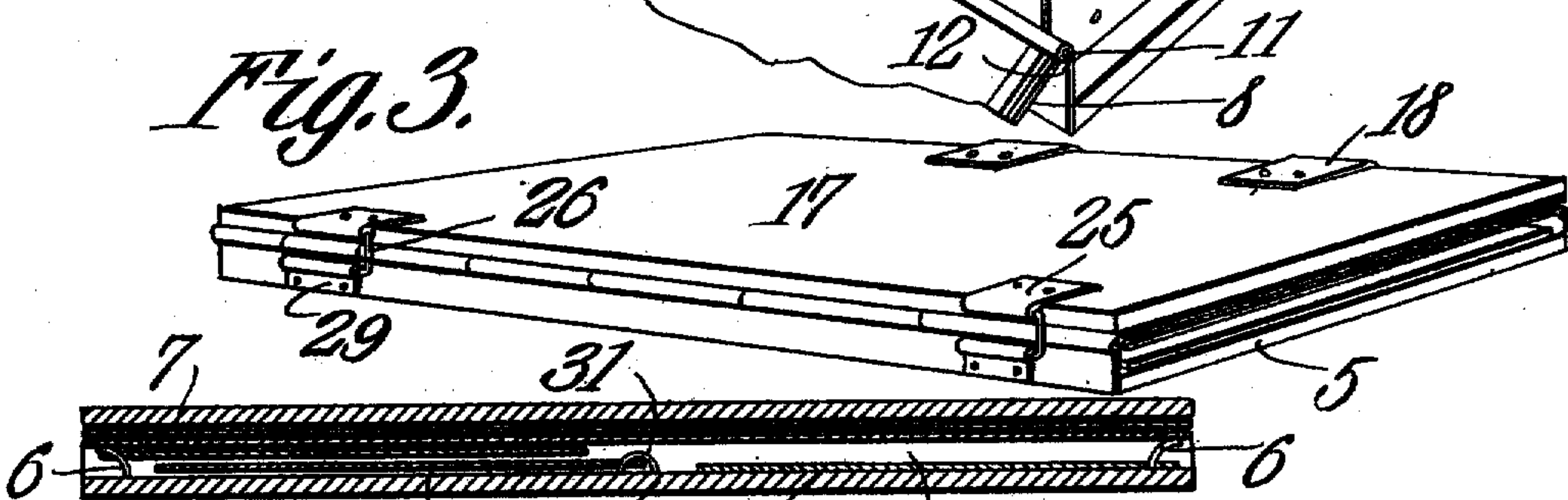


Fig. 4.

Witnesses

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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING EGG-CASE.

No. 929,634.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented July 27, 1909.

Application filed March 11, 1908. Serial No. 420,483.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that we, ROBERT M. SKILES and PATRICK H. BALDWIN, citizens of the United States, residing at Creston, in the
5 county of Union, State of Iowa, have invented a new and useful Folding Egg-Case, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to shipping crates and has for its object to provide a strong,
10 durable and thoroughly efficient crate of this character capable of being quickly set up for use and readily knocked down and compactly folded for transportation or shipment.

15 A further object of the invention is to provide an egg crate, the construction and relative disposition of the several parts of which are such that when the crate is folded for return shipment a chamber or compartment will be formed at one end of the crate
20 for the reception of the egg receiving cells or fillers.

A further object is to provide improved means for locking the side walls in engagement with the end walls of the crate, and
25 means for locking the cover in closed position.

A still further object of the invention is generally to improve this class of devices so
30 as to increase their utility, durability and efficiency.

Further objects and advantages will appear in the following description, it being understood that various changes in form,
35 proportions and minor details of construction may be resorted to within the scope of the appended claim.

In the accompanying drawings forming a part of this specification: Figure 1 is a perspective view of a knockdown crate constructed in accordance with our invention.
40 Fig. 2 is a sectional view showing the cover removed and one of the side walls in open position. Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a crate showing the same knocked-down for transportation or shipment. Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view of Fig. 3.

Similar numerals of reference indicate corresponding parts in all of the figures of
50 the drawings.

The improved crate forming the subject matter of the present invention includes a bottom section 5 preferably formed of wood

and having one or more staples 6 secured to the opposite ends thereof and on which are
55 pivotally mounted the end walls 7 of the crate.

Secured to the opposite longitudinal edges of the bottom section 5 are side strips 8 preferably formed of metal and having their
60 upper longitudinal edges bent to produce a plurality of spaced eyes 9 which register with corresponding eyes 10 on the side walls or sections 11 and 11' for the reception of a pivot rod 12. The side walls are reinforced
65 and strengthened by vertical strips 12' which also form stops for limiting the outward movement of the end walls 7.

Secured to the inner faces of the end walls or sections 7 are tubular members 13 in
70 which are mounted for rotation locking rods 14 having their opposite ends bent laterally to form terminal angularly disposed fingers 15. One of the fingers 15 of each locking rod 14 is adapted to pass through a correspond-
75 ingly shaped recess 16 formed in the adjacent side section of the crate when the latter is set up for use so that by partially rotating the rods the outer finger pieces 15 will press against the exterior walls of the side sections
80 and thus hold the latter rigidly combined with the end walls of the crate.

The crate is provided with a removable cover 17 to the front edge of which is secured one or more metallic plates 18 having their
85 forward edges bent to form tubular members 19 in which is slidably mounted a locking rod or bolt 20. The opposite ends of the rod or bolt 20 are formed with angular portions 21 adapted to engage the tubular ex-
90 tensions 22 of similar plates 23 secured to the adjacent side wall of the crate, there being a finger loop 24 formed in the intermediate portion of the rod and by means of which the latter may be moved to operative and
95 inoperative position. Secured to the rear longitudinal edge of the cover 17 are similar plates 25 in the tubular portions of which are slidably mounted relatively short rod sections or bolts 26, which latter engage
100 keepers 27 secured to the side wall 11' and similar in construction to the keepers 23.

Riveted, bolted or otherwise rigidly secured to the side strips 8 are keepers 28 and
29, the keepers 28 being adapted to receive
105 the angular portions 21 of the locking mem-

ber 20 when the crate is knocked down for shipment while the keepers 29 are adapted to receive the angular portions of the locking rods 26, as best shown in Fig. 3 of the drawings.

Extending transversely across the interior of the crate is a partition 30 having its lower edge pivotally connected with the bottom section 5 by means of loops or staples 31 so that the partition may be folded downwardly in engagement with the bottom section when it is desired to knock down the crate for transportation. The partition is preferably employed in connection with the crate when the latter is used for shipping eggs and similar commodities and in which event the fillers will be disposed within the compartments formed by said partition, in the usual manner.

The hinges of the sections on one side of the crate are preferably spaced a greater distance from the bottom section than the hinges of the section on the opposite side of the crate so that said sections may be compactly folded without danger of binding.

In order to knock down the crate for transportation or shipment the partition 30 is folded downwardly in engagement with the bottom section 5 and the end walls 7 folded inwardly and downwardly in the direction of the partition, after which the side wall 11 is folded laterally on the end walls and the side wall 11' folded downwardly on the side wall 11 of the crate. The cover 17 is then placed in position on top of the side walls of the crate and the angular extensions 21 of the locking member 20 passed through the loops of the keepers 28, the locking member 26 being subsequently inserted in the tubular members of the keepers 29 thereby to lock the several parts of the crate in assembled position.

Attention is here called to the fact that when the crate is knocked down for transportation or shipment a chamber or compartment 32 will be formed at one end of the crate for the reception of fillers and the like when the box is used as a crate for shipping eggs. It will also be observed that by having the hinges of the side members constructed in the manner shown either side member may be swung laterally to open position so as to expose the contents of the crate without the necessity of removing the cover.

Suitable handles or loops 33 are preferably secured to the side members of the

crate to assist in moving said walls to open and closed position.

When it is desired to use the crate for shipping eggs the end walls are swung upwardly to vertical position after which the side members are swung upwardly, the openings 16 in the side members permitting the latter to be moved in engagement with the end walls. One of the finger pieces 15 of each locking member is then partially rotated which causes the other finger 15 to engage the exterior walls of the side members, as best shown in Fig. 1 of the drawings. When the side and end walls are thus assembled the cover 17 is placed in position on the crate and the angular extensions of the rod 20 moved into engagement with the keepers 22 and 23 by manipulating the finger piece 24, the locking members 26 being subsequently introduced into the keepers 27, in the manner before described.

The crates may be made in different sizes and shapes and constructed of wood, metal or other suitable material.

Having thus described the invention what is claimed is:

A folding crate including a bottom section having side and end sections pivotally connected therewith, a partition pivotally mounted on the bottom section, said end sections and partition being foldable downwardly in engagement with the bottom section, and the side sections foldable downwardly on the partition and end section to produce an intermediate filler receiving compartment at one end of the crate, side strips secured to the opposite longitudinal edges of the bottom section, tubular members rigidly secured to the side strips, a cover, keepers secured to the side sections, tubular members rigidly secured to the cover and spaced from the keepers on the side sections, a locking member slidably mounted in the tubular members and adapted to engage the keepers of the side sections, said locking member being provided with an intermediate finger loop and adapted to engage the keepers on the side strips when the crate is folded.

In testimony that we claim the foregoing as our own, we have hereto affixed our signatures in the presence of two witnesses.

ROBERT M. SKILES.

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Witnesses:

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