

T. T. COPELAND.
SHIPPING CASE OR BOX.
APPLICATION FILED JUNE 4, 1909.

947,886.

Patented Feb. 1, 1910.

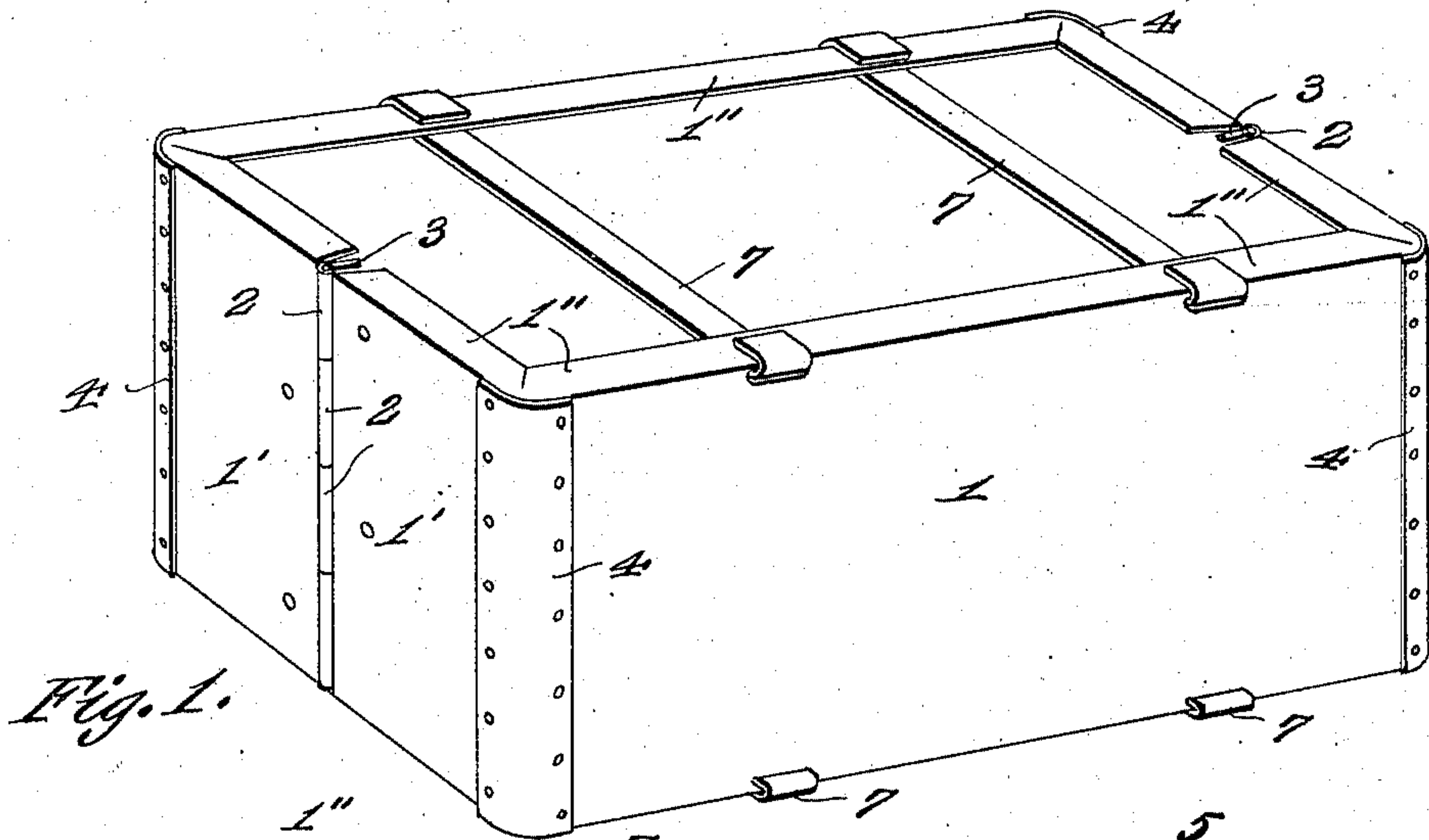


Fig. 1.

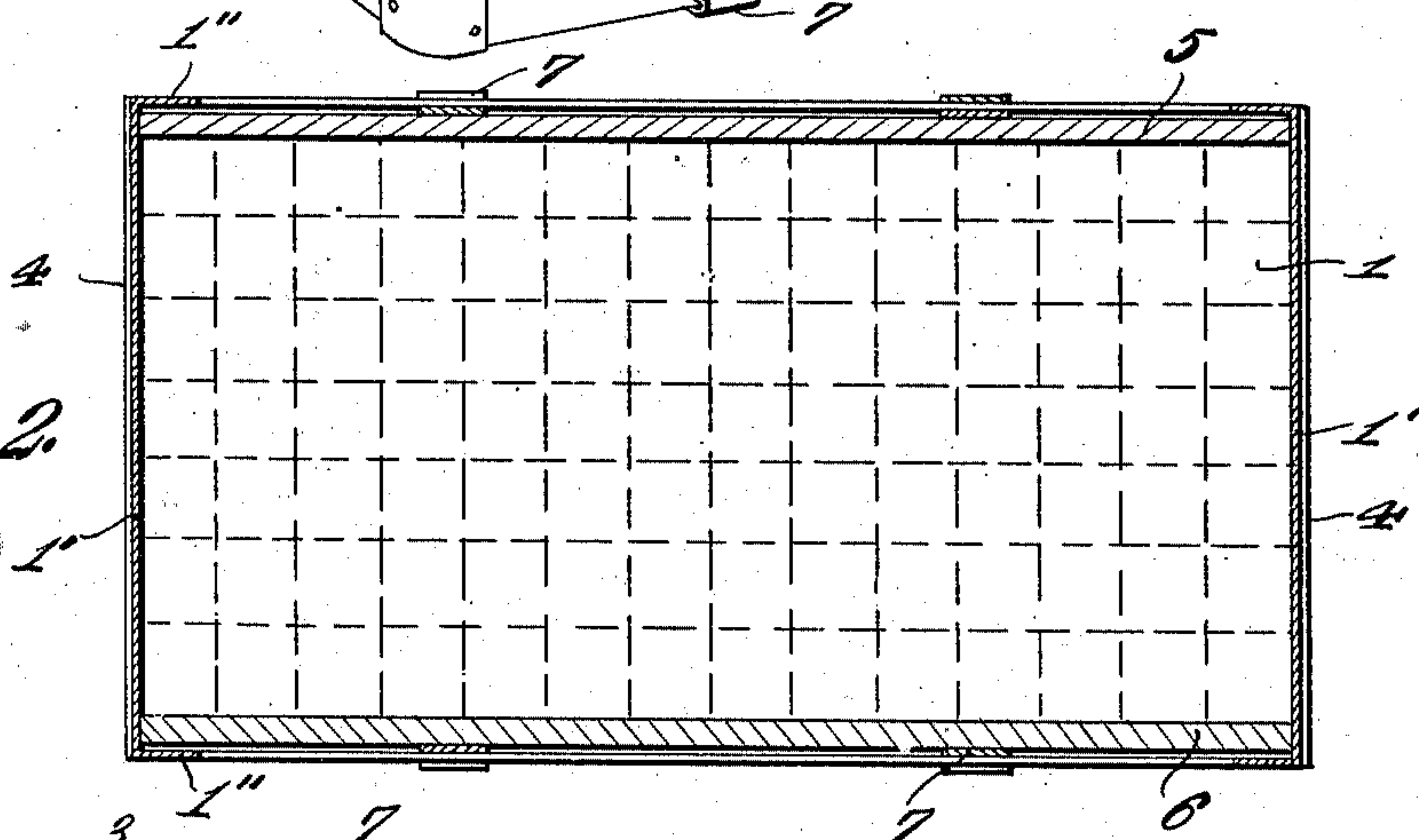


Fig. 2.

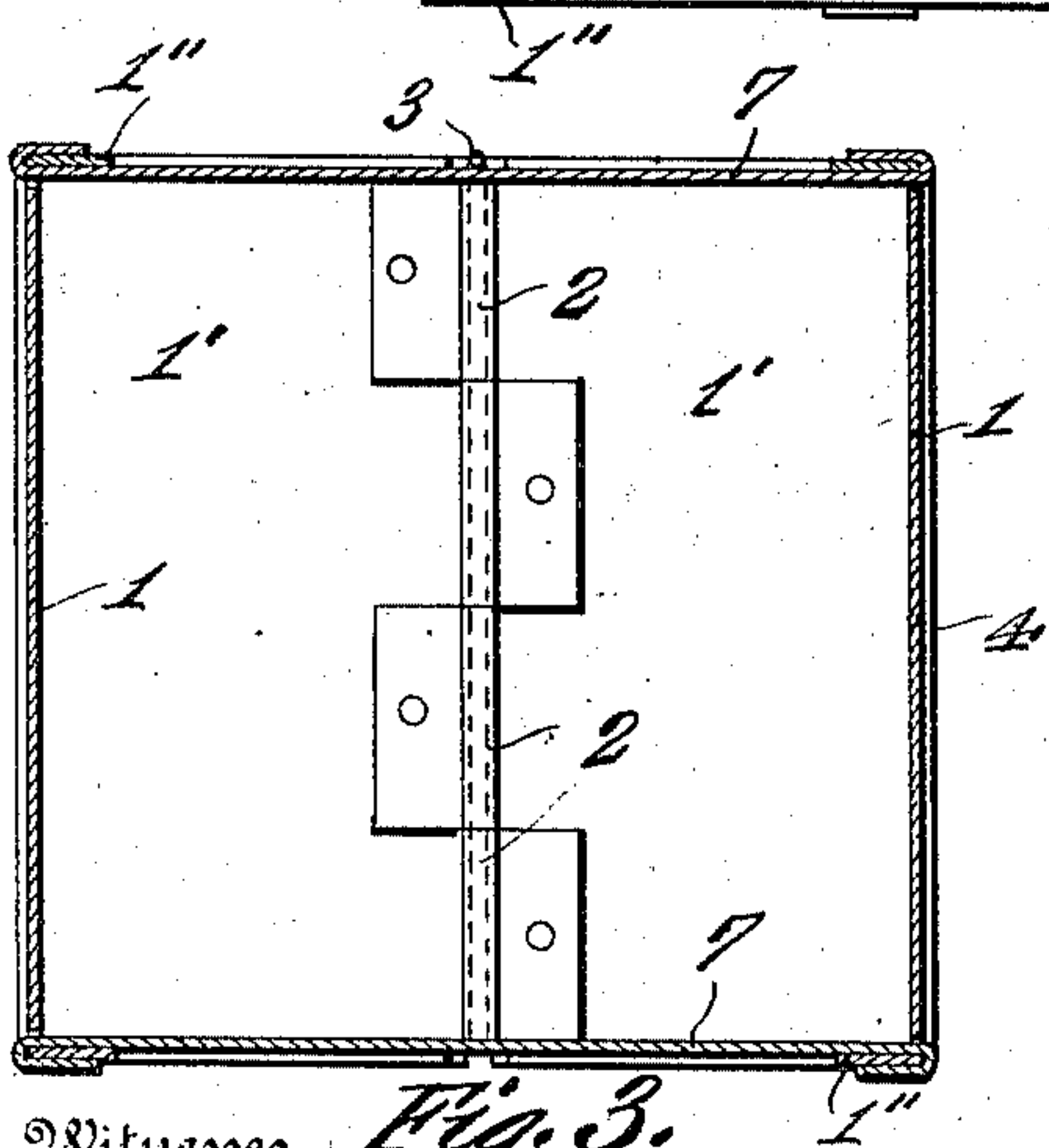


Fig. 3.

Witnesses
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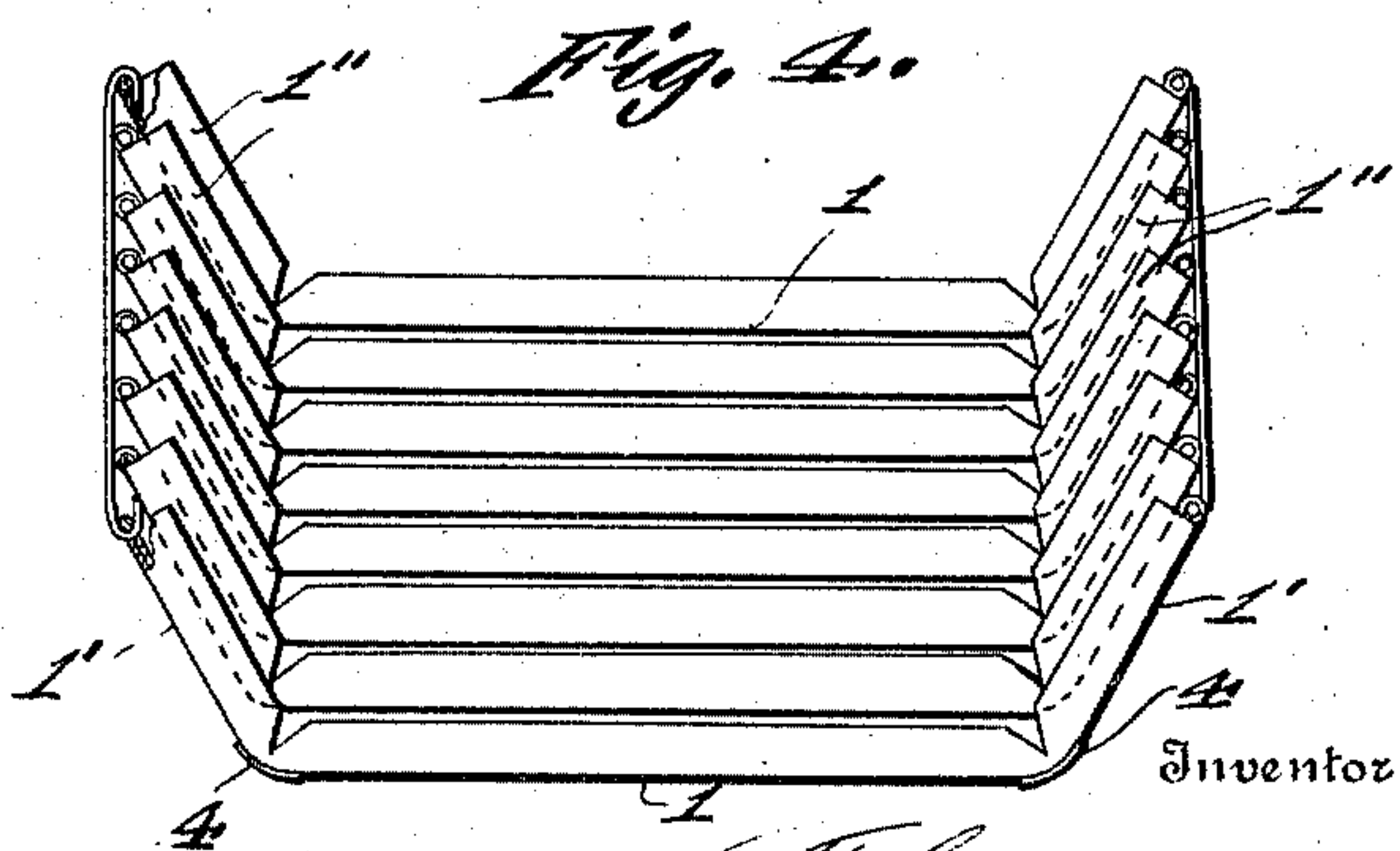


Fig. 4.

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SHIPPING CASE OR BOX.

947,886.

Specification of Letters Patent.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THADDEUS T. COPELAND, a citizen of the United States, residing at Rector, in the county of Clay and State of Arkansas, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Shipping Cases or Boxes, of which the following is a specification.

The object of this invention is to provide a novel construction of knock-down shipping case, or crate, particularly adapted for shipping eggs, canned goods, or similar merchandise.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the case or box comprising the invention is made up of metallic side members adapted to be disconnected from one another in order to collapse the receptacle after its contents have been removed, the side members being employed in connection with detachable heads which cooperate to render the case very rigid when the same is set up and goods are disposed therein for shipment purposes.

For a full comprehension of the invention, reference is to be had to the following detail description and to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the case embodying the invention; Fig. 2 is a vertical longitudinal sectional view; Fig. 3 is a transverse section; and Fig. 4 is a side view showing the side members of the case nested or in knock-down condition as when they are being shipped back to the original shipper.

Similar reference characters refer to similar parts throughout the drawings and description.

Specifically describing the invention and referring particularly to the drawings, the numeral 1 denotes the side members of the case, two of which are employed, and each of said side members is of metallic construction preferably being provided with the end extensions 1'. The side members 1 are connected together by coupling means directly applied to the end extensions 1' which project laterally from the side members and are provided at their outermost vertical edges with interlocking loops 2 through which coupling rods 3 are adapted to pass, one of said rods being located at each end of the case. It will be apparent that when the loops 2 are arranged in alinement, the rods 3 may be readily passed through said loops

and the side members 1 of the case may thus be connected positively. When used for certain purposes, it is contemplated that the angle portions of the side members 1 shall be reinforced by angle plates 4 riveted or otherwise applied thereto, the said reinforcements being preferably used on cases designed to carry heavy articles, such as canned goods.

The horizontal edge portions of the side members 1 and their extensions 1' are formed with the lateral flanges 1'' which not only increase the rigidity or strength of the side members, but said flanges cooperate with top and bottom heads 5 and 6 which close the space between the upper and lower edge portions of the side members and their end extensions, and are held against the said flanges by the contents of the receptacle. The closing heads 5 and 6 are preferably made of wood and they are preferably of rectangular form as shown in the drawings.

In the actual use of the invention, the goods to be shipped in the case are packed between the side members 1 and the end extensions of said side members are connected together by means of the coupling rods 3. The heads 5 and 6 are, of course, arranged in their proper positions to close the top and bottom of the case and this done the edge flanges 1'' of the side members 1 are connected by ties 7 of strap metal, the ends of said ties being passed through slots in the side members 1 and then bent outwardly to overlap the flanges 1'' above mentioned.

Ordinarily the extensions 1' of the side members 1 have a certain amount of spring or yieldability by reason of the fact that the end members are constructed of light sheet metal and such construction permits of drawing the end extensions 1' by force into positions substantially at a right angle to the bodies of the end members and when erecting the case for shipment purposes.

When the ties 7 are detached and the coupling rods 3 removed, the end extensions 1' spring outwardly so as to extend at an obtuse angle from the body portions of the side members 1 and this permits of nesting the side members in the manner shown clearly in Fig. 4 of the drawings, a suitable number of the nested side members being connected together by securing the ties 7 to the coupling rods 3 of the outermost members. It will thus be apparent that

considerable space is economized when the cases are collapsed and the side members nested for return to the original shipper.

It is to be understood that the specific form of the parts of the case may be modified to permit of use of the case for shipment of different goods.

Having thus described this invention, what is claimed as new is:—

10 1. A collapsible shipping case consisting of side members provided with integral end extensions projecting laterally therefrom and toward one another, detachable couplings connecting the adjacent edges of the
15 end extensions, the side members and end extensions being provided with edge flanges, and opposite heads received between the side members and seated at their edge portions against the inner sides of the flanges,
20 the heads being removable only when the side members are separated.

25 2. A collapsible shipping case consisting of side members provided with end extensions projecting laterally therefrom and toward one another, detachable couplings connecting the adjacent edges of the end extensions, the side members and end extensions being provided with edge flanges, op-

posite heads received between the side members and seated at their edge portions 30 against the inner sides of the flanges, and detachable ties connecting the side members and arranged on the outer sides of the heads.

3. A collapsible shipping case consisting of side members provided with end extensions projecting laterally therefrom and toward one another, detachable couplings connecting the adjacent edges of the end extensions, the side members and end extensions being provided with edge flanges, opposite 40 heads received between the side members and seated at their edge portions against the inner sides of the flanges, the end extensions being adapted to yield in an endwise manner when under tension, and metallic 45 ties having the ends thereof passed through the side members and bent outwardly to overlap their flanges for the purpose specified.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature 50 in presence of two witnesses.

THADDEUS T. COPELAND.

Witnesses:

W. E. LYNCH,
HOMER MCGINNIS.