S. P. SPITSNAGLE.

COLLAPSIBLE AND FOLDING BARREL.

APPLICATION FILED MAY 5, 1910.

975,900.

Patented Nov. 15, 1910.

Fig. 1.

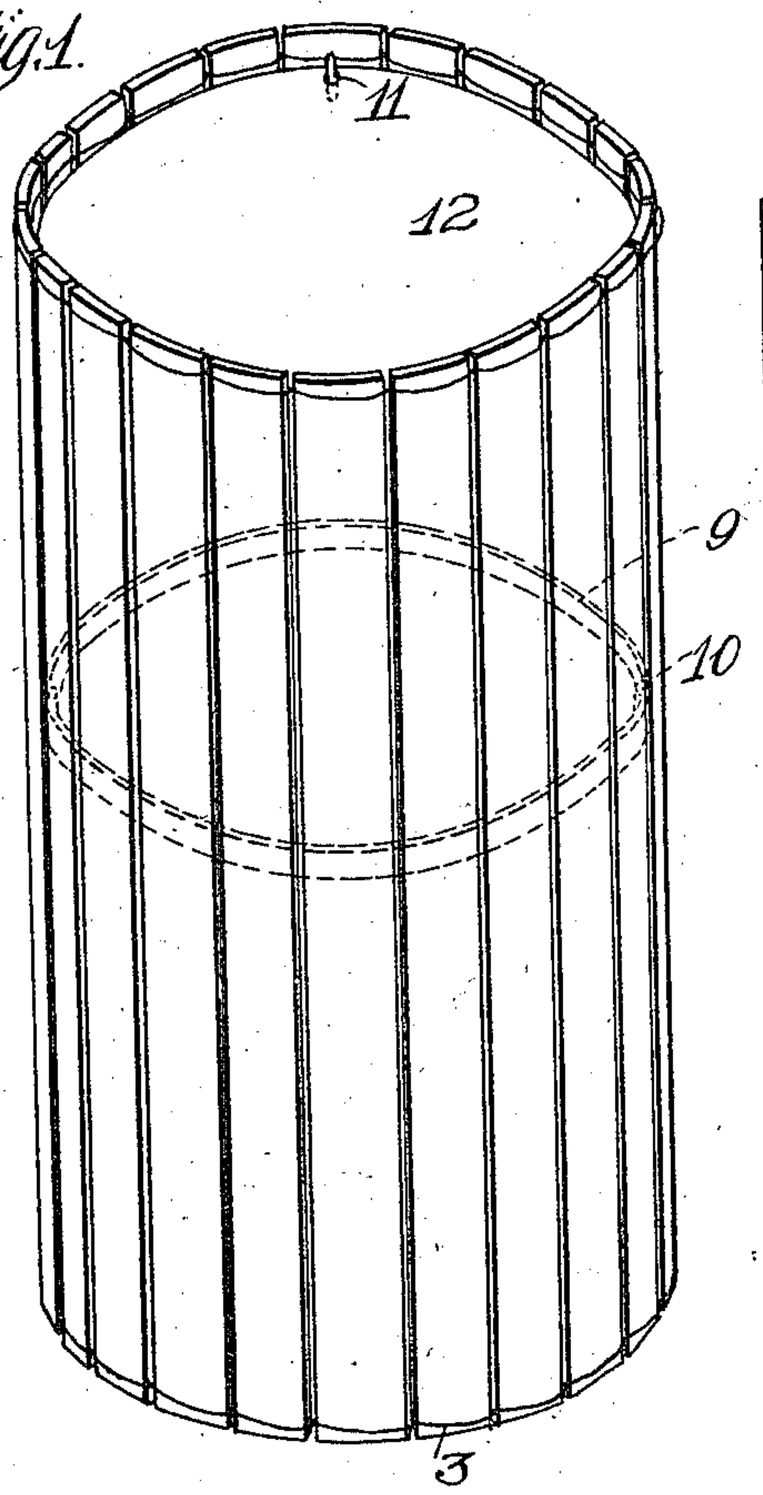


Fig. 3.

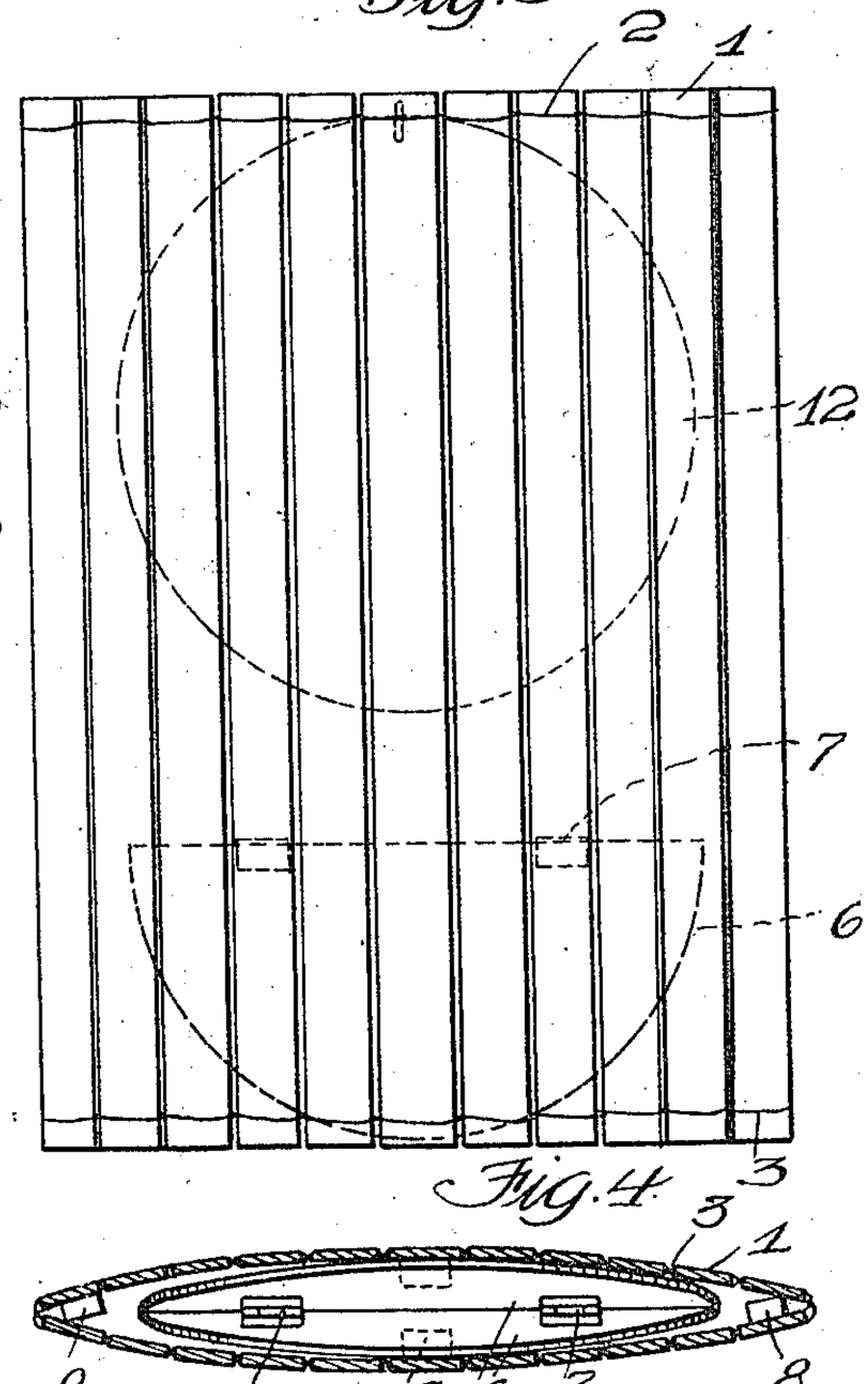


Fig. 4.

Fig. 2.

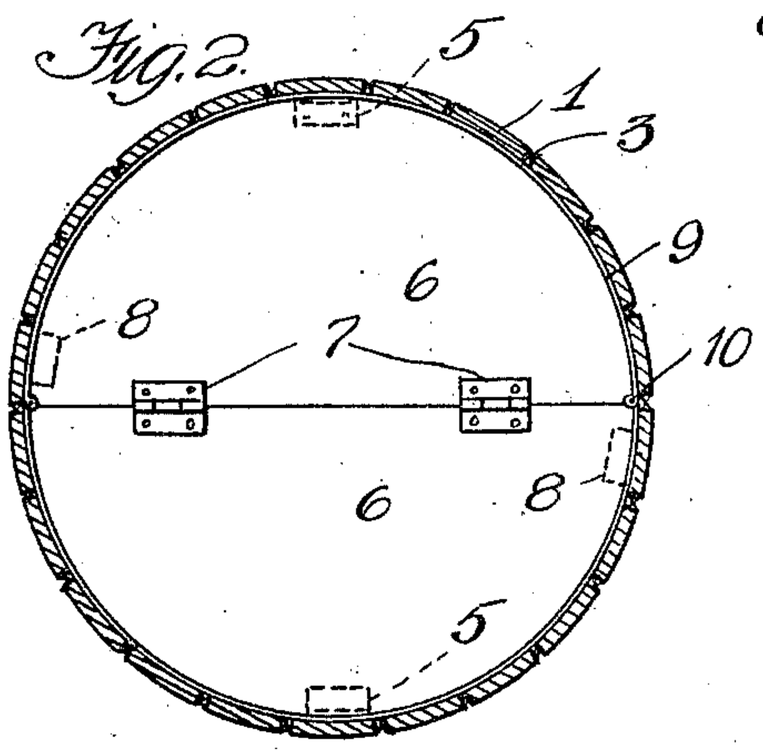
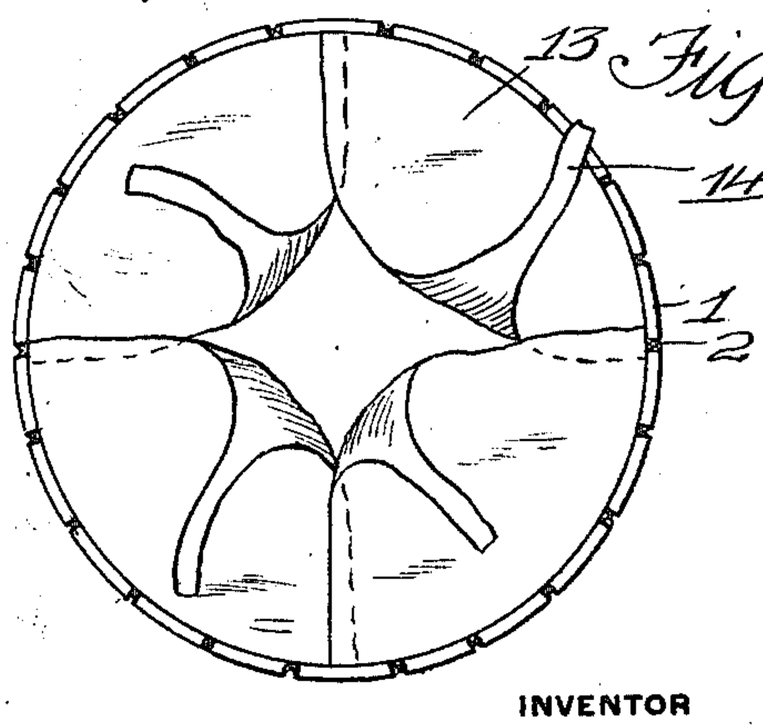


Fig. 5.



WITNESSES

Samuel Payne

R. K. Butler

INVENTOR

S. P. Spitsnagle.

by H. C. Evert & Co.

Attorneys.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

SIMON PETER SPITSNAGLE, OF GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

COLLAPSIBLE AND FOLDING BARREL.

975,900. Specification of Letters Patent. Patented Nov. 15, 1910.

Application filed May 5, 1910. Serial No. 559,457.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, SIMON PETER SPITSNAGLE, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at Greensburg, in the county of Westmoreland and State of Pennsylvania, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Collapsible and Folding Barrels, of which the following is a specification, reference being had therein to the accompanying drawing.

This invention relates to collapsible and folding barrels, and the invention has for its primary object to provide a novel barrel or crate that can be easily folded to occupy a comparatively small space for transportation and storage.

Another object of this invention is to provide a barrel or crate particularly designed for fruit, vegetables and such material not requiring a waterproof or air tight housing.

It is a well known fact that barrels, when shipped or expressed to their owners, in an empty condition, require as much space as though filled or packed. To minimize in the space heretofore required for empty barrels and to reduce the expense incurred by return shipment, I have devised my collapsible and foldable barrel.

My invention will be hereinafter described in detail and then specifically pointed out in the appended claim.

In the drawing:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of a barrel in accordance with my invention, Fig. 2 is a cross sectional view of the same, Fig. 3 is an elevation of the barrel collapsed, Fig. 4 is a cross sectional view of the same, and Fig. 5 is a plan of the barrel showing a modified form of closure or head.

To put my invention into practice, I provide a plurality of slats or staves 1 and flexibly connect these slats by wires 2 and 3, said wires extending through the slats or staves adjacent to the ends thereof. The ends of the wires 2 and 3 are suitably connected together, thereby providing two barrel sections that can be easily collapsed, as illustrated in Fig. 4 of the drawing.

Hinged, as at 5, to the slats or staves of the barrel is a sectional bottom plate or head comprising semi-circular sections 6 having the straight edges thereof hinged, as at 7, the hinges 7 being located upon the opposite side of the bottom plate or head from the hinges 5, thus permitting of the sections 6 being swung inwardly to allow the barrel to be collapsed. An outward movement of the sections 6 is limited by inwardly projecting lugs 8, carried by oppositely disposed slats or staves of the barrel.

Pivotally connected to the inner sides of two oppositely disposed slats or staves intermediate the ends thereof are two semi-circular rings or bands 9, hinged together, as at 10, and these rings or bands are adapted to be folded when the barrel is collapsed, but when extended to a circular form they are adapted to maintain the slats or staves in a circular form. In some instances the rings or bands 9 can be made detachable relatively to the barrel, whereby they can be entirely removed, while in other instances the rings or bands can be made of a greater diameter than the barrel, whereby the slats or staves will be swelled or extended outwardly intermediate the ends of the barrel.

Hinged or loosely connected to one of the slats or staves 1 at the upper end of the barrel, as at 11 is a circular top plate or head 12 adapted to close the upper end of the barrel, the top plate or head swinging inwardly when the barrel is collapsed. In lieu of the top plate or head 12, I can provide the barrel with a flexible head, as shown in Fig. 5 of the drawing, consisting of sector-shaped pieces of fabric 13, as burlap, suitably secured to the inner sides of the slats or staves, with the confronting ends thereof elongated, as at 14 whereby the ends of the pieces can be tied to close the upper end of the barrel.

From the foregoing it will be observed that I devised a collapsible barrel comprising two flexible sections, with means for retaining the sections in an extended and cylindrical form, and while in the drawing there are illustrated the preferred embodiments of the invention, it is to be understood that the structural elements thereof can be varied or changed, as to the size, shape and manner of assemblage without departing from the scope of the invention.

Having now described my invention what I claim as new, is:—

A collapsible barrel comprising a body portion formed of a plurality of staves, wires extending through the upper and lower ends of the staves whereby the staves are flexibly connected together and to provide a pair of sections, a bottom plate formed of two semi-circular sections hinged together at their opposing edges and each hinged to a section of the body portion and adapted to fold in-

wardly when the body portion of the barrel is collapsed, inwardly-projecting lugs carried by the sections of the body portion and adapted to limit the outward movement of the sectional bottom plate, a sectional rim or band arranged within and positioned intermediate the ends of said body portion, means for hinging the sections of the rim or band together, means for pivotally connecting the sections of the rim or band to the sections of the body portion, and means at the upper end of the body portion for closing the upper end thereof when said body portion is extended.

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

SIMON PETER SPITSNAGLE.

Witnesses:

NELL P. MCGRIFF,

W. W. KNABLE.