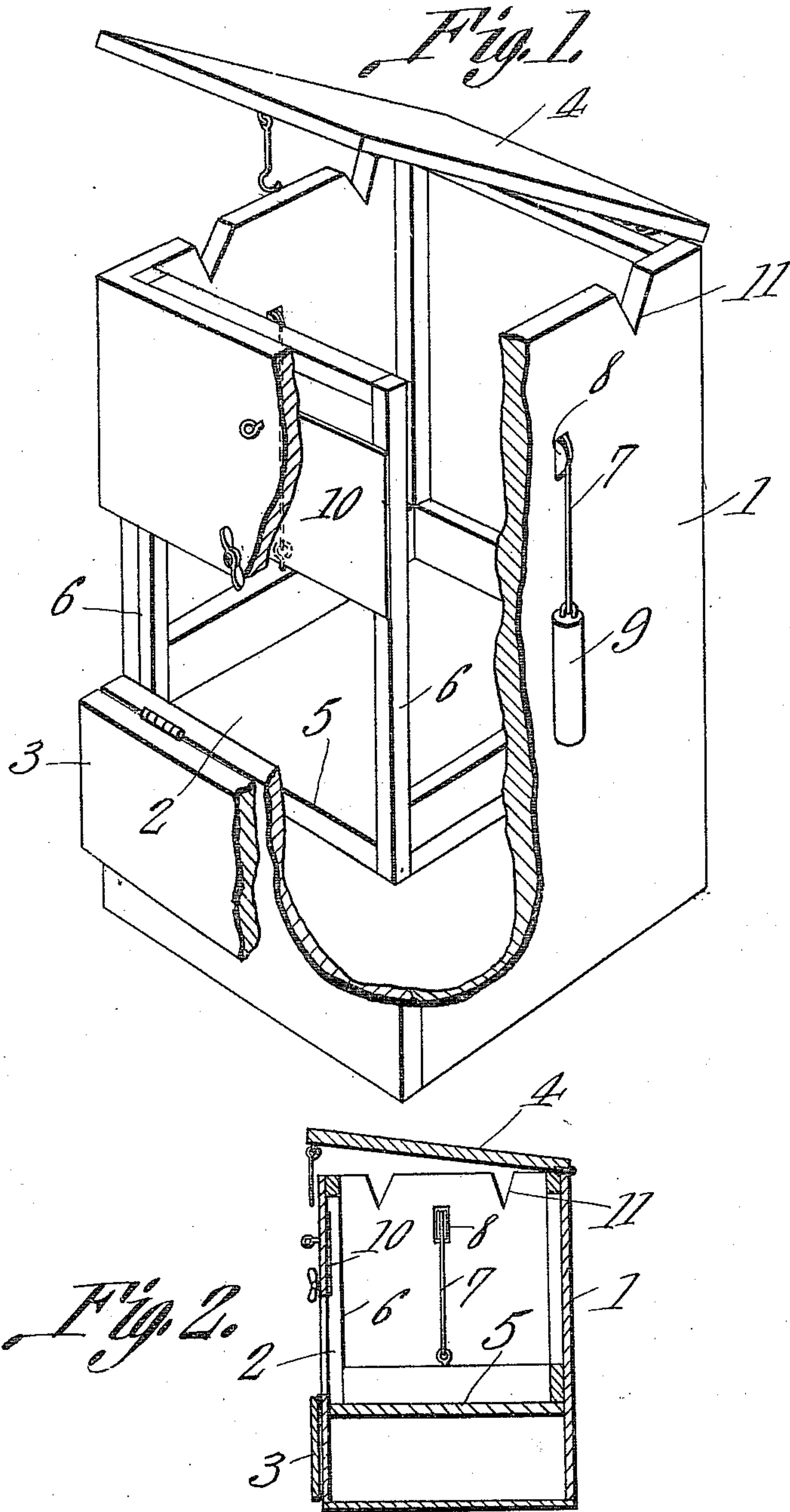


T. J. ELSTON.
CHICKEN COOP.
APPLICATION FILED MAY 23, 1910.

985,333.

Patented Feb. 28, 1911.



Witnesses

J. C. Conley
Herbert B. Lawson

Thomas J. Elston,
Inventor

by

C. A. Snow & Co.
Attorneys

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS J. ELSTON, OF BEDFORD, INDIANA.

CHICKEN-COOP.

985,333.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 28, 1911.

Application filed May 23, 1910. Serial No. 563,006.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS J. ELSTON, a citizen of the United States, residing at Bedford, in the county of Lawrence and State of Indiana, have invented a new and useful Chicken-Coop, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to coops and more particularly to means whereby overcrowding of the poultry is prevented. This result is attained by utilizing a structure the door of which is adapted to automatically close when poultry aggregating a predetermined weight, have entered the structure.

A further object is to provide a structure of this character which will keep the poultry housed until the exit has been opened manually.

A further object is to provide a closure which will not injure the chickens should it come into contact with them while the coop is being closed.

With these and other objects in view the invention consists of certain novel details of construction and combinations of parts hereinafter more fully described and pointed out in the claim.

In the accompanying drawings the preferred form of the invention has been shown.

In said drawing:—Figure 1 is a perspective view of the device, parts thereof being broken away. Fig. 2 is a central vertical section therethrough on a reduced scale.

Referring to the figures by characters of reference 1 designates the walls of the structure and the front wall has an opening 2 therein adapted to be closed by a door 3 which is preferably hingedly mounted at the lower edge of the opening. A hinged top 4 may be employed for closing the top of the compartment formed by the walls and any suitable means being utilized for securing this top in closed position.

A floor 5 is mounted to slide vertically between the walls of the structure and has corner standards or guides 6 extending therefrom and mounted to work within the angles formed by the walls.

Cords 7 are secured to the sides of the floor, preferably at the centers thereof and extend upwardly over supporting sheaves 8,

there being weights 9 attached to these cords and suspended thereby outside of the structure. Said weights serve to hold the floor normally above the bottom of the structure and close to the lower edge of the opening 2. The front standards 6 are connected near their upper ends by a closure strip 10 of fabric, this strip being normally located above the opening 2 so that poultry can pass freely to and from the compartment through the openings 2. When a sufficient number of chickens have assembled upon the floor 5 to overbalance the weights 9, said floor will move downwardly between the walls 1 and the closure strip 10 will be brought into position across the opening 2 and therefore prevent them from escaping. It will be apparent, therefore, that by providing a series of structures such as have been described, the poultry using the same will be separated into colonies and all danger of loss through suffocation, which often occurs where large numbers of chickens are permitted to crowd together, is eliminated. As shown in the drawings, ventilating openings 11 may be formed in the walls at any points desired.

By extending the cords 7 outside of the structure they can be conveniently grasped for the purpose of elevating the floor 5 to allow the chickens to leave the coop by way of the opening 2.

As the closure strip 10 is formed of a fabric, it will not injure any chickens should it descend upon them during the lowering of the floor 5.

Various changes can of course be made in the construction and arrangement of the parts without departing from the spirit or sacrificing any of the advantages of the invention as defined in the appended claim.

What is claimed is:—

A device of the class described including a structure having a door opening, a door for closing the opening from the outside, a floor movably mounted within the structure, a flexible supplemental door movable with the floor for closing the opening when said floor is shifted downwardly to a predetermined position, a counter-balance outside of the structure, a flexible connection between

the counter-balance and the floor for maintaining the floor normally elevated, said connection constituting means whereby the floor may be raised to its normal position while
5 carrying a load, and a door constituting the top of the structure.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as

my own, I have hereto affixed my signature in the presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS J. ELSTON.

Witnesses:

JAMES D. MARTIN,
CHARLES S. JACKSON.

Copies of this patent may be obtained for five cents each, by addressing the "Commissioner of Patents,
Washington, D. C."
