

No. 649,660.

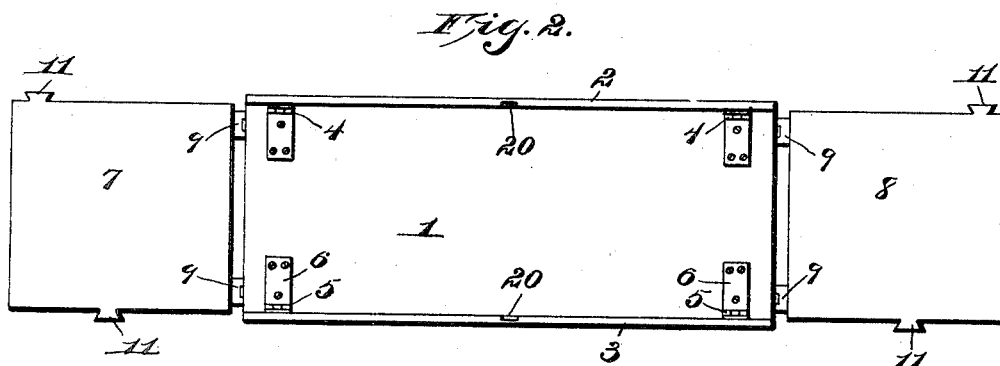
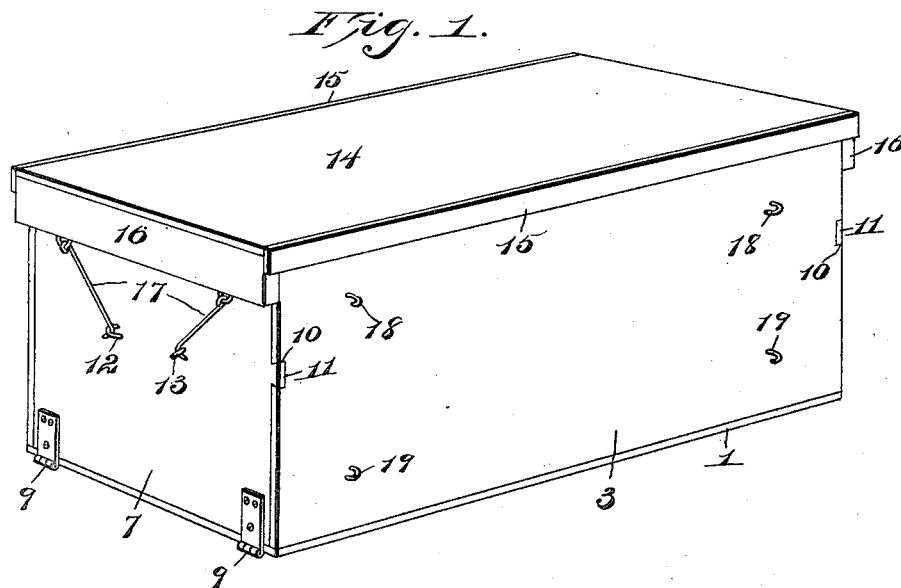
**Patented May 15, 1900.**

**J. C. ERITY.**  
**FOLDING CRATE.**

(Application filed Nov. 28, 1899.)

(No Model.)

2 Sheets—Sheet 1.



Witnesses

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2 Sheets—Sheet 2.

Fig. 3.

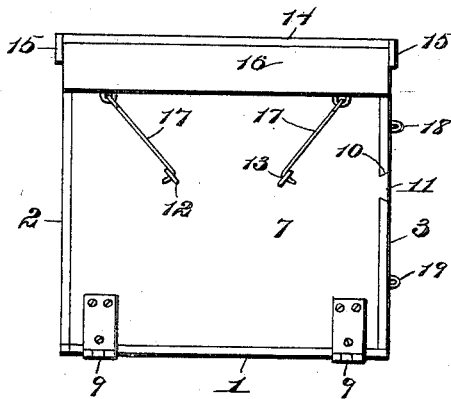


Fig. 4.

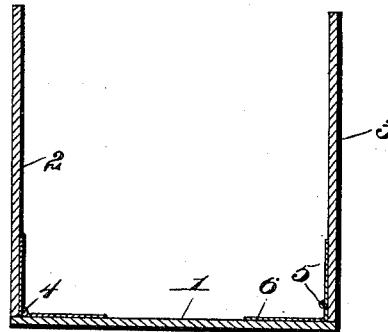
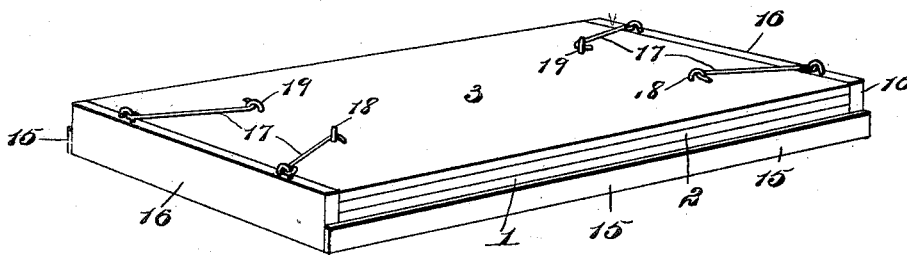


Fig. 5.



Witnesses

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## FOLDING CRATE.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 649,660, dated May 15, 1900.

Application filed November 28, 1899. Serial No. 738,578. (No model.)

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, JOHN C. ERITY, a citizen of the United States, residing at Hillman, in the county of Montmorency and State of Michigan, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Folding Crates, of which the following is a specification.

My invention relates to folding crates adapted for the shipment of merchandise and produce; and the object is to provide a simple, durable, and inexpensive crate which will be held in unfolded position firmly when in use and capable of being folded into small compass for return to the shipper.

The construction and characteristic features of the invention will be fully described hereinafter in connection with the accompanying drawings, which form a part of this specification, and defined in the appended claim.

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a view in perspective of a crate embodying the invention when in unfolded position ready for use. Fig. 2 is a plan view showing the sides and ends of the crate disconnected and in position to be folded. Fig. 3 is an end elevation illustrating the fastening devices of the cover and means for connecting the ends and sides of the crate. Fig. 4 is a detail sectional view on the line 4 4 of Fig. 2, and Fig. 5 is a perspective view of the crate in its folded position.

The reference-numeral 1 designates the bottom of the crate, and 2 and 3 the sides thereof, secured to the bottom by internal hinges 4 and 5. The joints of the hinges 4, securing the side 2, register with the junction of the side and bottom; but the joints of the hinges 5, securing the side 3, are above the lower edge of the side 3 a distance equal to the thickness of the sides to permit the sides 2 and 3 to be overlapped, as shown in Fig. 4. This is accomplished by bending the lower leaves 6 of the hinges 5 at right angles, as shown in the drawings.

The ends 7 and 8 are hinged to the ends of the bottom by hinges 9, secured externally to allow said ends to be folded under the bottom. The ends of the side pieces 2 and 3 are

each formed with dovetail recesses 10 to receive correspondingly-shaped lugs 11, projecting from opposite sides of the ends. It will be noted that these recesses and lugs are out of horizontal alinement, which serves to brace the crate transversely.

Each of the ends 7 and 8 is provided on its outside with two staples 12 and 13, arranged at opposite inclinations.

14 designates the crate-cover, provided with parallel depending side and end flanges 15 and 16, adapted to overlap the sides and ends of the crate. To the lower edge of each of the end flanges 16 are secured pivotally two hooks 17, adapted to engage the oppositely-inclined staples 12 and 13 of the end pieces.

One of the sides of the crate is provided near each of its ends with two staples 18 and 19, disposed at opposite inclinations, for a purpose which will be hereinafter described.

If desired, the side pieces 2 and 3 may be formed with vertical grooves 20 to receive a removable partition. (Not shown.) When it is desired to collapse and fold the crate, the sides 2 and 3 are folded inward upon the bottom 1, overlapping each other, the side 2 being lowermost and the construction of the hinges 5 permitting the side 3 to be folded down upon the side 2, parallel thereto. The ends 7 and 8 are then folded down on the under side of the crate-bottom 1, and the cover 14 is placed over the end pieces, the end flanges 16 being of sufficient depth to bring their lower edges flush with the side 3, so that the hooks secured thereto may be engaged by the staples 18 and 19 on said side 3. Thus the crate is firmly secured in its folded position ready for return to the shipper. If a removable partition or folding egg-cells, in case the crate is used for eggs or like merchandise, are employed, these parts may be secured beneath the cover.

The crate constructed as above described is readily manipulated to fold or unfold and may be manufactured at small expense.

I claim—

In a folding crate, the combination with a bottom, of side pieces hinged thereto by in-

ternal hinges, the leaves of the hinges of one  
of said sides being bent at right angles; end  
pieces secured by external hinges; dovetail  
connections for the sides and ends, a cover  
5 having end flanges, of a depth equal to the  
thickness of the bottom, sides, and ends when  
folded; hooks secured to said flanges; oppo-  
sately-inclined staples on the end pieces; and

oppositely-inclined staples on the outer side  
of one of the side pieces. 10

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

JOHN C. ERITY.

Witnesses:

MAY CRAWFORD,

LUCRETIA CRAWFORD.