J. T. SHERWIN.

Folding-Rack for Towels.

No. 161,560. Patented March 30, 1875.

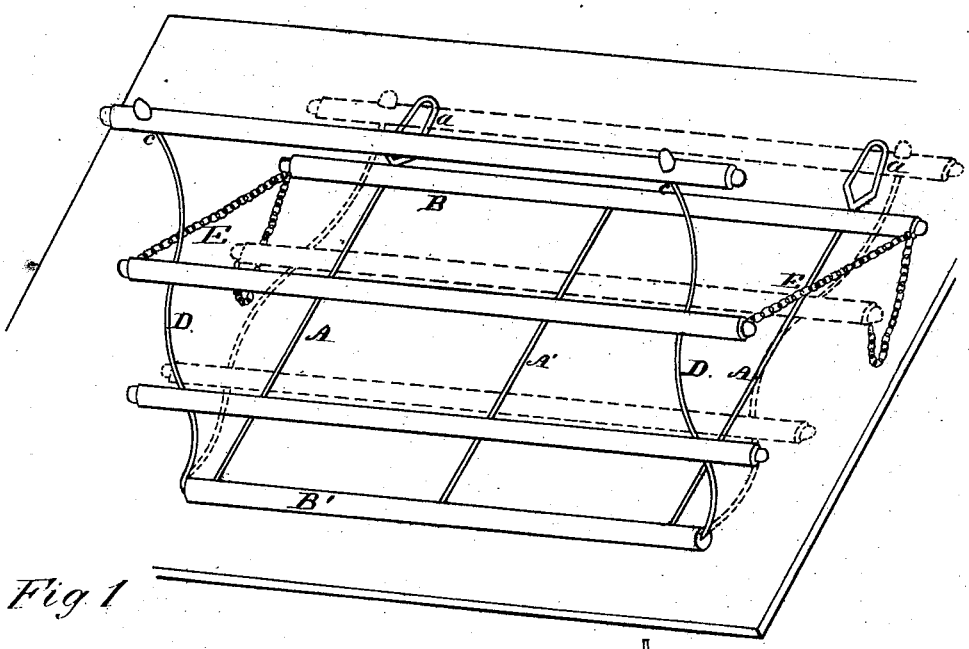

Fig 1

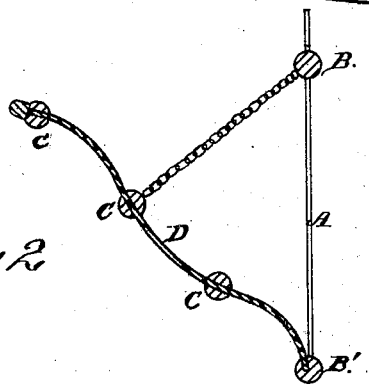

Fig 2

Witnesses
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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JAMES T. SHERWIN, OF PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA.

IMPROVEMENT IN FOLDING RACKS FOR TOWELS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **161,560**, dated March 30, 1875; application filed November 28, 1874.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JAMES T. SHERWIN, of Philadelphia, in the county of Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania, have invented a certain new and useful Folding Rack for Towels, &c.; and I do hereby declare the following to be a full, clear, and exact description of the invention, such as will enable others skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and use it, reference being had to the accompanying drawings which form a part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a perspective view. Fig. 2 is a transverse sectional view.

My invention has for its object to provide a hanging rack that may be folded into small space for transportation and other purposes.

My invention consists of a hanging rack formed of wooden rounds and wires united, as hereinafter set forth, and designed to hold towels, &c.

In the accompanying drawing, A A are two straight wires, formed with eyes *a a*, by which the rack is to be hung on hooks or nails in the wall. B B′ are two wooden rounds, to which the wires A A are attached, said wires passing completely through the round B and only partly through the round B′. A′ is an intermediate wire, added for strengthening purposes, its ends being inserted firmly in the rounds B B′. These three wires and two rounds form the back or stationary part of the rack. The front or folding part of the rack consists of one or more rounds, C C, through which pass wires D D, whose lower extremities are bent and inserted in the ends of the round B′ in such manner as to turn pivotally therein, allowing the front of the rack to be folded up against the back, as shown in dotted lines. To secure the front, when thus folded, from falling by gravity, the round B′ is made a little longer than the distance between the points *c c*. This causes the wires D D to be slightly bent outwardly or laterally between the rounds B′ and C, thus producing a spring which will serve to keep the front up when folded. To prevent the front or folding part of the rack from coming down too far, limiting-chains E E are employed.

I have shown and described this rack as to be employed for towels, but it may be used for a variety of other purposes, as for holding different-sized sheets of wrapping-paper in stores.

I am aware that racks having wooden rounds and wire sides are known. So far as I am aware, however, these racks have heretofore been made standing, and, while not secure, yet theoretically incompressible or unyielding. I believe, also, that the wires and rounds of such racks have been united by twisting or bending the former around the latter, while in my rack the wires pass into and through the rounds, as already described, producing a much firmer and more secure article than was heretofore obtained.

In some cases I may substitute willow for the wires, but in the main I consider the latter preferable, as it possesses great strength and elasticity, with a capacity for ornamental finish not found in the other.

I claim—

The improved rack, having the vertical back and pivoted outwardly-inclining front, formed of horizontal rounds and connecting-wires, the wires D D of the front being pivoted to the bar B′ of the back and bent laterally between the rounds C C, to produce springs, and the front and back being coupled by means of chains or connections E, all substantially as and for the purpose specified.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing I have hereunto set my hand this 14th day of November, 1874.

JAMES T. SHERWIN.

Witnesses:

JNO. A. BELL,

M. DANL. CONNOLLY.