2 Sheets--Sheet 1.

J. L. STEVENS.

Egg-Carrier.

No. 163,274. Patented May 11, 1875.

Fig. 1

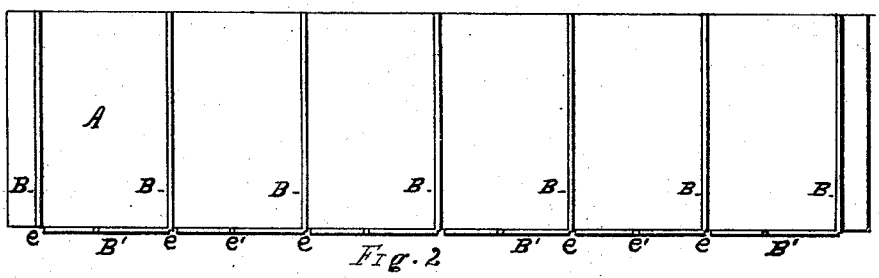


Fig. 2

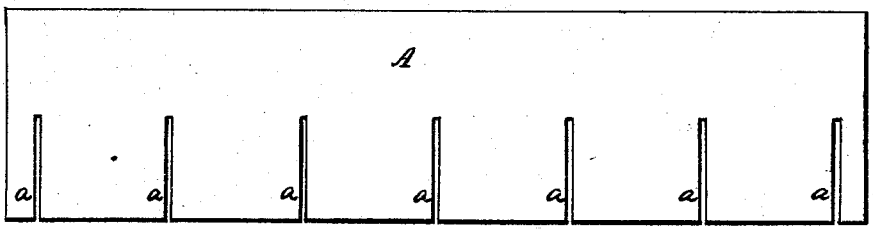


Fig. 3

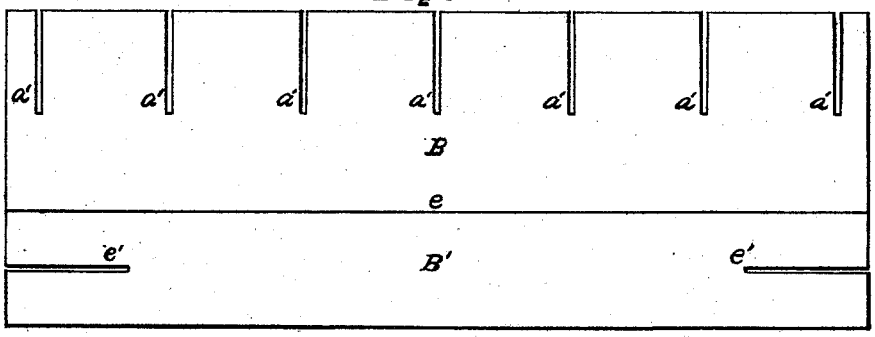
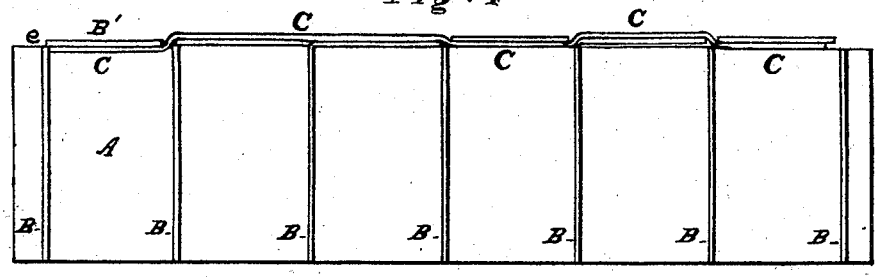


Fig. 4



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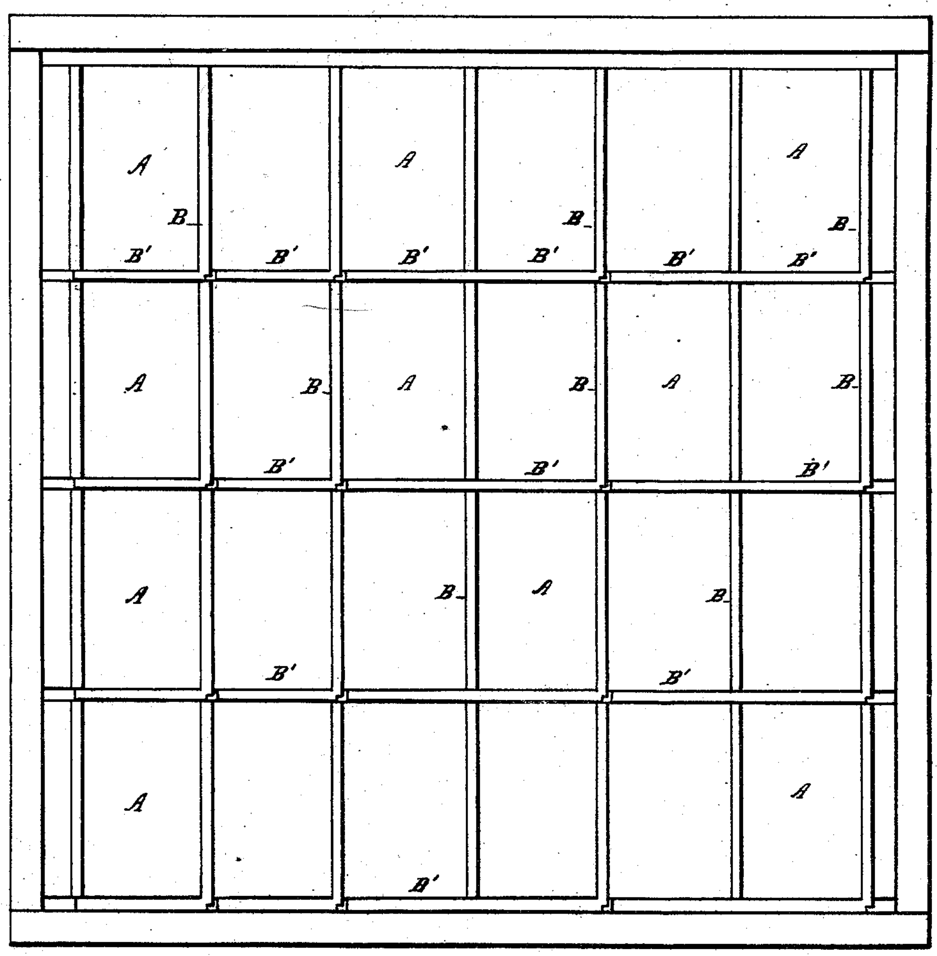
J. L. STEVENS.

Egg-Carrier.

No. 163,274.

Patented May 11, 1875.

Fig. 5



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UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

JOHN L. STEVENS, OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

IMPROVEMENT IN EGG-CARRIERS.

Specification forming part of Letters Patent No. **163,274**, dated May 11, 1875; application filed September 25, 1873.

CASE A.

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOHN L. STEVENS, of Chicago, in the county of Cook and State of Illinois, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Egg-Carriers; of which improvements the following is a full, clear, and exact description, which will enable others skilled in the art to which my invention appertains to make and use the same, reference being had to the accompanying drawing, forming a part hereof, and in which—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a series of egg-receiving compartments embodying my invention; Fig. 2, a like representation of a series of sheets or cards employed in the construction of the compartments; Fig. 3, a like representation of one of another series of sheets, also employed for the same purpose; and Fig. 4 a side elevation of the parts shown in Fig. 1 when the same are inverted and are provided with locking-strips. Fig. 5, Sheet 2, represents the trays arranged in a shipping case or carrier.

Like letters of reference indicate like parts.

My invention relates to that class of egg-carriers which are divided into compartments to receive the eggs and separate them from each other, and wherein the sides of each compartment consist of sheets which intersect each other.

The object of my invention is to provide improved means for the purpose of forming a bottom to the compartments; and, to that end, it consists in making one series of the sheets sufficiently broad to admit of their being folded horizontally across the compartments, substantially as hereinafter described.

In the drawing, A represents a sheet or card of straw-board or of other material suitable for the purpose herein set forth. This sheet is a little greater in breadth than the longer diameter of a hen's egg, and may be of any convenient length. It is also cut along one of its longitudinal edges, as shown at *a a*, each cut extending about half-way across the sheet, and the space between each cut being about equal to the shorter diameter of an egg. B is also a sheet of the same, or of a similar material to that of which the sheet A is made; and *a' a'* are cuts sunken into one of the longitudinal edges. The cuts *a* and *a'* should be of about the same depth, and about the same distance apart. The sheet B exceeds the sheet A in breadth by about the distance from one cut *a* or *a'* to the other, and is scored longitudinally along one side in a line which divides it into two parts, one of which is equal in breadth to the part A, and the remaining part B' will then be of a breadth equal to the space between the cuts *a* or *a'*, the latter being in the broadest part, as shown. The egg-receiving compartments are constructed by so arranging a series of sheets, A and B, together that each series will intersect the other at right angles, and so that the cuts *a* will mesh into the cuts *a'*. The parts B' are then folded horizontally, as shown in Fig. 1.

A series of trays thus constructed may be arranged one above the other in a suitable shipping-case, and the eggs will then be separate from each other, and supported in separate layers. The trays, when removed from the case, or when shipped separately from it to be used by shippers for the purposes herein set forth, may be compactly folded.

When the eggs are unpacked I deem it preferable, but not essential, to remove that part of the case which constituted its bottom while the eggs were being packed. The trays will then be presented in the position shown in Fig. 4, and may be removed one by one, leaving each layer of eggs on the tray next below. By this means the eggs may be more readily removed than if they were picked from each compartment, and there is less danger of breaking the eggs than by attempting to draw the trays from them while the trays occupy the position shown in Fig. 1.

Instead of providing every sheet B with a part, B', each alternate sheet B may be made to fold in the manner described, each folded part extending to, or nearly to, the other.

e e are cuts in the ends of the parts B' B'; and C is a strip of straw-board or other suitable material, one of which is woven through each set of cuts *e e* when the parts B' B' are folded; but neither the cuts *e e* nor the strips C C are essential, except for the purpose of re-

taining the parts B′ B′ in their folded position in order that the trays may be removed, together with their contents, and so that the eggs may be delivered therein to consumers desiring a comparatively small quantity.

I am aware that folding compartments have heretofore been employed in connection with detached separating sheets or diaphragms and a shipping-case for the purpose herein set forth, and I do not here claim such; but

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

An egg-carrier provided with removably-folding trays divided into folding egg-receiving compartments, the trays and their compartments consisting of the series of sheets A A, having the notches *a a* sunken into one of their longitudinal edges, and of the series of sheets B B, having the notches *a′ a′* sunken into one of their longitudinal edges, and also having the folding extensions B′ B′ projecting therefrom, each of said series being arranged together, substantially as shown and described.

JOHN L. STEVENS.

Witnesses:
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F. F. WARNER.